

# SIMON RIPPON

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Austria

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**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION** Metaethics, Applied Ethics, Moral and Political Philosophy

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE** Epistemology, Philosophy of Language

## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

**Associate Professor**, Department of Philosophy, and School of Public Policy,  
(since Dec 2016) Central European University

**Assistant Professor**  
(Dec 2012 – Dec 2016)

## **PREVIOUS**

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics,  
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, 2009-2012

**College Lecturer in Philosophy**, Oriel College, University of Oxford, 2010-2012

## **EDUCATION**

Harvard University

**PhD in Philosophy**, 2010

Dissertation: *An Epistemological Argument for Moral Response-Dependence*  
(Committee: Prof. Christine Korsgaard, Prof. T.M. Scanlon, Mr Derek Parfit)

**AM in Philosophy**, 2003

Thesis: *On the Role of the Nominal in Complex Demonstratives*

Oriel College, University of Oxford

**BA (Hons) in Philosophy and Theology**, 1997

Abstract for *An Epistemological Argument for Moral Response-Dependence*

How can we best account for the objectivity and normativity of moral reasons and requirements? A common answer is non-naturalistic moral realism, which posits irreducibly normative properties, facts, or truths as features of the mind-independent world. I develop a novel epistemological objection to this view, showing that we could never rationally decide to accept our ordinary moral beliefs if we took them to be about such things. I then examine how we might come to have reasons and requirements of non-moral kinds, including those related to game playing. I show how these reasons and requirements arise as constitutive parts of normative practices that we construct. This model is broadened to account for instrumental, epistemic, and moral normative truths.

## **AWARDS**

Emily and Charles Carrier Prize [awarded for best dissertation or thesis in social, political or moral philosophy], Harvard University, 2010

Exhibitioner, Oriel College, Oxford, 1995 and 1996

## **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS**

EU Horizon 2020 project: “ETHOS: An empirically informed European theory of justice and fairness”. Researcher, member of Executive Board, and co-coordinator of Work Package 2 (“Justice and Fairness - Philosophical foundations”), Jan 2017- Dec 2019. <https://ethos-europe.eu>

Fulford Junior Research Fellow, Somerville College, University of Oxford, 2010–2012.

Oxford/Harvard Uehiro Postdoctoral Fellow at the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics. Funded by the Uehiro Foundation, 2009–2011.

Brocher Foundation Scholarship for Brocher Summer Academy, Geneva, 2010

Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Graduate Fellowship in Ethics, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 2004–2005

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

Rippon, S. “Organ Markets and Disrespectful Demands.” *International Journal of Applied Philosophy* 31, no 2 (2017): 119-136

Rippon, S. “On the Rational Impotence of Urges.” *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy* 10, no. 1 (2014): 70–75.

Rippon, S. “Were Kant’s Hypothetical Imperatives Wide-Scope Oughts?” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 92, no. 4 (2014): 783–88. doi:10.1080/00048402.2014.915576.

Rippon, S. “Imposing Options on People in Poverty: The Harm of a Live Donor Organ Market.” *Journal of Medical Ethics* 40, no. 3 (2014): 145–150. doi:10.1136/medethics-2011-100318. (Published Online First: 28 June, 2012). [feature article]

Rippon, S. “Organ Markets and Harms: A Reply to Dworkin, Radcliffe Richards and Walsh.” *Journal of Medical Ethics* 40, no. 3 (2014): 155–156. doi:10.1136/medethics-2012-101083. (Published Online First: 5 November, 2012).

Rippon, S. “How to Reverse the Organ Shortage.” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 29, no. 4 (November 2012): 344–358. doi:10.1111/j.1468-5930.2012.00576.x.

Rippon, S. “In Defense of the Wide-Scope Instrumental Principle.” *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy* 5, no. 2 (Feb 2011): 1–21.

Douglas, T., Powell, R., Devolder, K., Stafforini, P., and Rippon, S. “Resisting Sparrow’s Sexy Reductio: Selection Principles and the Social Good.” *The American Journal of Bioethics* 10, no. 7 (2010): 16–18.

## **OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

Rippon, S, M Zala, T Theuns, S de Maagt, and B van den Brink. “Thinking About Justice: A Traditional Philosophical Framework”. In T Knijn and D Lepianka (eds.) *Justice and Vulnerability in Europe: An Interdisciplinary Approach* (Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd, 2020). <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781839108488>.

Zala, M, S Rippon, T Theuns, S de Maagt, and B van den Brink. “From Political Philosophy to Messy Empirical Reality”. In T Knijn and D Lepianka (eds.) *Justice and Vulnerability in Europe: An Interdisciplinary Approach* (Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd, 2020). <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781839108488>.

de Maagt, S, S Rippon, T Theuns and M Zala, *Report on a Second Workshop on “Justice and Beliefs about Justice in Europe”: Democracy, Stability, And Reflective Equilibrium* (2019) <https://ethos-europe.eu/publications>

van den Brink, B, S Rippon, T Theuns and M Zala, *Report on the workshop 'Ideal and Non-Ideal Theories of Justice': Towards a Non-Ideal Theory of Justice in Europe* (2018) <https://ethos-europe.eu/publications>

Rippon, S, T Theuns, S de Maagt, M Zala, and B van den Brink, *Report on the European Heritage of Philosophical Theorizing about Justice* (2018) <https://ethos-europe.eu/publications>

Rippon, S. “Should Conservative Christians be Allowed to Care for Our Children?”, “Is Half an Abortion Worse than a Whole One?”, and “My Client’s Brain is to Blame”; blog-length chapters in David Edmonds, ed., *Philosophers Take on the World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016).

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY**

### **(GRADUATE LEVEL EXCEPT WHERE NOTED BA)**

- 2020-21: UGST 4020 – *Critical Reasoning* (BA PPE mandatory; 2 credit)  
SOPP 5072 – *Ethics, Politics and Policy* (elective; 2 credit)  
PHIL 5650 – *Ethics* (MA core; 2 credit)  
PHIL 6086 – *The Epistemology of Democracy* (elective; 2 credit)
- 2019-20: SOPP 5097 – *Critical Reasoning* (elective; 2 credit)  
PHIL 5650 – *Ethics* (MA core; 2 credit)  
PHIL 6086 – *The Epistemology of Democracy* (elective; 2 credit)  
PHIL 5010 – *MA Thesis Seminar* (mandatory; 2 credit)
- 2018-19: SOPP 5097 – *Critical Reasoning* (elective; 2 credit)  
PHIL 6029 – *Contemporary Metaethics* (with David Enoch; elective; 4 credit).  
UWC 5004 – *Justice, Democracy and Social Movements* (with Tamara Steger, Marie-Pierre Granger, Michael Dorsch; elective; 4 credit)  
PHIL 5010 – *MA Thesis Seminar* (mandatory; 2 credit)
- 2017-18: PHIL 5055 – *Hume’s Moral Theory* (elective; 2 credit)  
SOPP 5097 – *Critical Reasoning* (elective; 2 credit)  
UWC 5004 – *Social Justice Frameworks in Action* (with Tamara Steger, Marie-Pierre Granger, Michael Dorsch; elective; 4 credit)  
PHIL 5010 – *MA Thesis Seminar* (mandatory; 2 credit)
- 2016-17: PHIL 6029 – *Contemporary Metaethics* (with Philip Goff and Bart Streumer; elective; 4 credit).  
SOPP 5106 – *Ethics and Public Policy* (with Agnes Batory; elective; 2 credit)  
SOPP 5072 – *Ethics, Politics and Policy* (elective; 2 credit)

- PHIL 5010 – *MA Thesis Seminar* (mandatory; 2 credit)
- 2015-16: SOPP 5121 – *The Ethics of Government Propaganda* (elective; 2 credit)  
PHIL 6005 – *Issues in Applied Ethics* (elective; 4 credit)
- 2014-15: PHIL 5650 – *Ethics* (MA core; 2 credit)  
PHIL 5008 – *Moral Epistemology* (elective; 2 credit)  
PHIL 5019 – *The Ethics of Government Propaganda* (elective; 2 credit)  
SOPP 5072 – *Ethics, Politics and Policy* (MPA core; 2 credit; 2 sections)
- 2013-14: PHIL 6005 – *Issues in Applied Ethics* (PhD; 4 credit)  
DPP 5131 – *Ethics and Public Policy* (with Agnes Batory; MAPP core; 2 credit; 2 sections)  
PHIL 5233 – *Philosophy of Social Science* (with Katalin Farkas and 3 others; elective; 2 credit)  
PHIL 5650 – *Ethics* (MA core; 2 credit)  
PHIL 6007 – *Hume's Moral Theory* (PhD; 2 credit)  
SOPP 5012 – *Ethics: Politics and Policy as a Moral Problem* (MPA core; 2 credit)
- 2012-13: PHIL 6039 – *Normativity* (PhD; 4 credits)  
PHIL 5650 – *Ethics* (MA core; 2 credit)

**CEU SUMMER UNIVERSITY (SUN)**

- 2018 *Moral Epistemology* (Course Director, with Chrys Margaritidis)  
2014 *Moral Epistemology* (Course Director)  
2014 *Applied Philosophy* (Course Faculty)

**PHD SUPERVISIONS**

Current:

- Maarten van Doorn, *Why Absolutism about Reasons Can't Explain Normativity*  
Marko Konjovic, *The Ethics and Politics of Care*

**PHD 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR ADVISING**

- Nevim Borçin. *Right Action and Action Guidance in Virtue Ethics* (2019)  
Damian Aleksiev. *Cosmopsychism and Divine Command Theory* (2017)

**MASTER'S THESIS SUPERVISIONS**

- Justin Leuba. *An Argument for Prison Abolition and a Relational Theory of Rectification* (2020)  
Tertia Davis. *Extended Minds, Collective Minds, and Group Agents* (2020)  
Daniel Cohen. *In Machines We Trust: Political Legitimacy and the Case of Automated Decision-Making* (2020)  
Borys Jastrzębski. *The Value of the Valuer: Towards an adequate environmental ethic* (2018)  
Andrew Pearson. *Child-focused Arguments against Procreation* (2017)  
Anders Yuk Pui Lam. *Evolutionary Debunking: Can Moral Realism Resist the Epistemological Challenge?* (2017)  
Abdulahakim Legamo. *Government Propaganda and Autonomy* (2016)

Anthony Skoviak. *Decision Theory and Virtue Ethics: The Benefits of Formalization* (2016)

Daniel Corsano. *The Voluntaristic State: An Actual Consent Account of Legitimate Authority* (2015)

Adina Covaci. *Is Morality for the Chosen Few? The Problem of Moral Deference* (2015)

Dylan Manson. *Are Associative Political Obligations Possible?* (2014)

Isabel Patkowski. *Does McDowell's Sensibility Theory Lead to an Unacceptable Relativism?* (2014)

Dimitrios Vasileiou. *An Investigation on the Moral Value of Life* (2013)

### **PRIOR TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**College Lecturer in Philosophy**, Oriel College, University of Oxford, 2010–12  
(Tutoring, and running seminars and revision classes)

*Ethics* for Final Honour Schools

*Mill's Utilitarianism* for Preliminary Examinations and Honour Moderations

**Philosophy Writing Tutor**, Harvard University, 2008

(Tutoring, and running seminars on philosophical writing. Also wrote pamphlet, "A Brief Guide to Writing the Philosophy Paper", Harvard Writing Center, 2008.)

**Teaching Fellow**, Harvard University, 2001-07

(Course assistant with responsibility for running discussion seminars, holding office hours, and grading) [# = Head Teaching Fellow]

*Moral Reasoning about Social Protest* (Moral Reasoning 66) #

Professor Susanna Siegel, Spring 2007 and Fall 2001

*Introduction to the Philosophy of Law* (Philosophy 12)

Professor Douglas Lavin, Spring 2006

*History of Modern Moral Philosophy* (Philosophy 172)

Professor Christine M. Korsgaard, Fall 2005

*Objectivity and Subjectivity in Ethics* (Philosophy 16)

Professor Niko Kolodny, Spring 2004

*Issues in Ethics* (Moral Reasoning 33) #

Professor Thomas M. Scanlon, Fall 2003

*The Ethical Thought of Hume* (Philosophy 121)

Professor Christine M. Korsgaard, Spring 2003

*Contemporary Political Philosophy* (Philosophy 171)

Mr Andrew Williams, Fall 2002

*Reason and Morality* (Moral Reasoning 60)

Professor Melissa Barry, Spring 2002

**Course Instructor**, Harvard University, Spring 2003

(Sole responsibility for development, instruction, and examination)

*Undergraduate Seminar: Ethics and the Fact/Value Distinction*

### **ACADEMIC RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

"Public Opinions and Political Philosophy" with Miklos Zala

Bechtel Workshop in Moral and Political Philosophy, University of Zurich,  
November 2019

Bled Philosophical Conference: Social Epistemology and the Politics of Knowing,  
June 2019

Moral and Political Philosophy Research Seminar, University of Helsinki, April  
2019

Workshop on Justice and Beliefs about Justice, CEU, January 2019

“What is Healthy Functioning? Reflections on Synthetic Biology”  
Keynote at CEU In-House Graduate Conference, October 2018

Commentary on Stephanie Collins’ *Group Duties*.  
CEU POLEMO book symposium, June 2018

“The Importance of Ideal and Non-Ideal Theory” with Miklos Zala  
Workshop on Ideal and Non-Ideal Theories of Justice, University of Coimbra,  
February 2018

“Organ Markets and Disrespectful Demands”  
Justice and Markets, Aarhus University, January 2018  
Bechtel Workshop in Moral and Political Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania,  
May 2017  
University of Zurich, December 2016

“Knowledge need not be the product of virtue”  
Bled Conference “Epistemic Virtues and Epistemic Skills”, June 2017

“An empirically grounded European theory of justice: philosophical prospects and  
problems”  
Europe on distributive justice, Aarhus University, June 2017

“Government Manipulation of Public Discourse: The Case of Hungary and the Refugees”  
Workshop on Pathologies of Public Discourse, University of Copenhagen, Dec 2016

“Is There an Ability Intuition about Knowledge?”  
Thought Experiments in Epistemology, University of Maribor, April 2015  
European Congress on Analytic Philosophy, Bucharest, September 2014

“Is 'Human Enhancement' a Useful Moral Category?”  
European Congress on Analytic Philosophy, Bucharest, September 2014  
Human Enhancement, RIP Workshop, Birmingham, May 2013

“Reflective Equilibrium in Bioethics”  
Analytic Bioethics in Europe, University of Ghent, May 2014

“Moral Non-Naturalism, Disagreement and Skepticism”  
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, September 2013

“Rational Decisions about Moral Beliefs”  
CRNAP moral epistemology workshop, Princeton, March 2013

“Making them Healthy and Making them Sick: How the Possibilities of Synthetic Biology  
Shed Light on the Concepts of Mental and Physical Health”  
Medical Humanities Seminar, Kings College, London, Nov 2012  
Synthetic Biology for Human Health (SYBHEL) Workshop, The Hague, Feb 2012

“Trolley Problems, Moral Expertise, and Moral Vagueness”  
CEU Graduate Philosophy Conference Keynote Address, Oct 2012

“Can Aetiological Accounts of Biological Function Ground Normativity?”  
Teleological Organisation Workshop, Carlsberg Akademi, Copenhagen, August 2012

“Dispositions and Valuing the Good”

Special Lecture, University of Oxford, May 2012  
Central European University, Budapest, May 2012

“Imposing Options on People in Poverty: The Harm of a Live Donor Organ Market”

MCR/SCR Symposium, Somerville College, University of Oxford, May 2012  
Oxford-Melbourne Conference in Human Tissue Storage and Ownership, University of Oxford, Nov 2011  
Philosophy Society, University of Reading, Nov 2010

“Evolution and Moral Theory”

Ian Ramsey Centre Conference on “The Evolution of Morality and the Morality of Evolution”, University of Oxford, July 2011

“Chess as a Normative Practice”

Moral Philosophy Seminar, University of Oxford, Jan 2011

“How to Reverse the Organ Shortage”

James Martin Advanced Research Seminar, University of Oxford, June 2010

“Straight Normativity”

Centre for Ethics and Metaethics, University of Leeds, Nov 2009

“How to Have a Motive of Duty: A Reply to Zangwill in Defense of Response-dependence”

Ohio State University Philosophy Graduate Conference, May 2008

“In Defense of the Wide-Scope Instrumental Principle”

APA Central Division, Chicago, April 2008  
Friends and Eminees, MIT, Dec 2007

“In Defense of *Roper*: Why International Consensus should play a role in US Law”

Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Seminar, Harvard University, 2005

“An Objection to Disjunctive Accounts of Demonstratives”

Friends and Eminees, MIT, 2002

**PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

**TALKS TO GENERAL AUDIENCES**

“Popper, the Open Society and CEU's Founding Vision”

Contribution to “Celebrating CEU’s Founding Vision” event, June 2016.

“The Closing of Civil Society and the Failure of Public Philosophy”

Responding to Chris Stone (Director of Open Society Foundations), CEU Faculty Seminar, Oct 2015.

“Propaganda and Migration”

Contribution to the panel discussion: “Philosophy, the refugee crisis, and how to help in Hungary”, CEU, Sept 2015.

“The Value of Free Expression (and Speech not Worth Protecting)”

Contribution to panel discussion: “L'après Charlie – Reflecting on Freedom(s), Religion, and Security”, *Frontiers of Democracy* series, CEU, May 2015.

“Status Quo Bias and the Appeal to Nature Fallacy”

Contribution to panel discussion on the film “Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement”, CEU, Nov 2014.

“The Ethics of Climate Change”

Joint Academic Forum on Climate Change and Responsibility, Oriel College, University of Oxford, Feb 2012

“Ethical Doubts about a Market in Live Donor Organs”

South Place Ethical Society, Conway Hall, London, Nov 2011

“The Three R’s: Rules, Requirements and Reasons”

Oriel College Philosophy Alumni Day, University of Oxford, June 2010

Panellist for Sale of Human Organs debate

UCLU Debating Society, London, Dec 2010

### **WRITING IN THE MEDIA**

“Mit diesen Tricks manipuliert Orbán die eigene Bevölkerung”

*Cicero*, Oct 2015. <http://www.cicero.de/weltbuehne/fremdenfeindliche-propaganda-mit-diesen-tricks-staerkt-orban-den-auslaenderhass-im-volk>

“Viewpoint: Should Organ Donors Get Free Funerals?”

*BBC News Magazine*, Oct 2011. <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-15253928>

“Should pets have a £15m hospital?”

*BBC News Magazine*, Sept 2009.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/magazine/8246995.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/8246995.stm)

### **OTHER**

“Thinking about Justice” interview with Maarten van Doorn for the podcast *The Understanding Project*. (Dec 2018)

<https://podcasts.ceu.edu/series/understanding-project>

Contributor at the *ETHOS* blog <https://ethosjustice.wordpress.com/> (2016-2018)

Contributor at *Practical Ethics: Ethics in the News* blog (2010-2013)

See <http://blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/author/simon-rippon/>

Briefed the UK’s Committee on Standards in Public Life, contributing to their report, *Standards matter: a review of best practice in promoting good behaviour in public life*, London, June 2012.

Contributor to the multi-disciplinary European SYBHEL (Synthetic Biology for Human Health) project and its policy recommendation workshop, London, June 2012.

### **CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

Workshop on *Justice and Beliefs about Justice in Europe* (at the *ETHOS* annual conference), CEU, January 2019

Workshop on *Ideal and Non-Ideal Theories of Justice* (at the *ETHOS* annual conference), University of Coimbra, February 2018

Undergraduate Conference in Moral and Political Philosophy, CEU, September 2016



**OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

CEU Senate member, since 2016

CEU Ethical Research Committee Chair, since 2020 (member since 2013)

CEU Philosophy Department MA Admissions Committee member, 2014-2021

CEU Philosophy Department MA Director, 2016-2020

CEU Intellectual Themes Initiative selection committee member, 2016-2018

Member of the Ethics and Integrity team for the MSCHE self-study at CEU (2017-18)

Served on hiring committees in CEU departments of Philosophy, Political Science (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)

PhD Examiner:

Anton Markoc. *It's not the thought that counts* (2016)

Anna Réz. *Responsibility as Attributability: Control, Blame, Fairness.* (2013)

MA Examiner:

Yangsen Yu. *Conditional Analysis and Reason Explanation* (2018)

Kei Takahashi. *Complex equality as an approach to relational equality* (2016)

Tamás Paár. *Rescuing Ethical Intuitionism from Disagreements* (2014)

Examiner on the comprehensive exam committee for Political Theory track of the Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations (since 2015)

Assessor for Monash University BMedSci oral presentations in practical ethics (On three occasions), University of Oxford, 2010–2012.

Admissions Interviewer for undergraduate admissions in PPE

Oriel College, University of Oxford, 2011

Somerville College, University of Oxford, 2010

Journal Refereeing for the following journals (since 2011): *Mind*, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, *Organon F*, *Philosophical Explorations*, *Dialectica*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Acta Analytica*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Moral Philosophy and Politics*, *Ethics*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Diametros*, *Inquiry*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Philosophia*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *International Theory*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*

Refereeing of books/chapters:

*Oxford University Press*, *Routledge*

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

German (intermediate), French (basic)