

Kurt L. Sylvan

- CONTACT INFORMATION Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities
University of Southampton
Avenue Campus
Southampton
SO17 1BF
- k.l.sylvan@soton.ac.uk
www.kurtlsylvan.com
(+44) 07922 773365
- AOS Epistemology, Moral Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind
- AOC Metaethics, Metaphysics, Political Philosophy (esp. Egalitarianism and the Normative Foundations of Social Democracy)
- POSITIONS **University of Southampton**, permanent lecturer since March 2015
- University of Southampton**, postdoctoral lecturer in the *Normativity: Epistemic and Practical* AHRC project, 2014-2015
- EDUCATION **Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, NJ
- Ph.D., Philosophy, Awarded May 2014
Dissertation: *On the Normativity of Epistemic Rationality*
Committee: Ernest Sosa (chair), Alvin Goldman, Ruth Chang, Susanna Schellenberg, and Jonathan Dancy (external)
- University of Iowa**, Iowa City, IA
- B.A., Philosophy, May 2008
Summa cum laude and with distinction in the major
Honors Thesis: *Laws of Nature and the Traditional Problem of Induction*
- PUBLICATIONS/
FORTHCOMING
- Books*
- The Routledge Handbook of Practical Reason*, co-edited with Ruth Chang. (Under contract.)
- Published and Forthcoming Papers*
- Forthcoming. “Reliabilism without Epistemic Consequentialism.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.
- Forthcoming. “Reasons: Right, Wrong, Normative, Fundamental” (with Errol Lord). *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*.
- Forthcoming. “Believing for Normative Reasons: Prime, Not Composite” (with Errol Lord) in Bondy, P. and Carter, J. A. (eds.) *Well-Founded Belief: New Essays on the Epistemic Basing Relation*. London: Routledge.
- Forthcoming. “Responsibilism within Reason” for Greco, J. and Kelp, C. (eds.) *Virtue-Theoretic Epistemology: New Methods and Approaches*. Cambridge University Press.
2018. “Veritism Unswamped.” *Mind* 127: 381–435
2018. “Knowledge as a Non-Normative Relation.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 97: 190–222.
2018. “The Place of Reasons in Epistemology” in Star, D. (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Reasons and Normativity* (with Ernest Sosa).

2017. “Can Performance Epistemology Explain Higher Epistemic Value?” *Synthese* (Online First). DOI: 10.1007/s11229-017-1577-7.
2017. “Responsibilism out of Character” in Alfano, M. and Fairweather, A. (eds.) *Epistemic Situationism*. Oxford University Press.
2017. “Contextualism about Epistemic Reasons” in Ichikawa, J. (ed.) *The Routledge Handbook of Epistemic Contextualism* (with Daniel Fogal).
2016. “Skorupski on Spontaneity, Apriority, and Normative Truth.” *Philosophical Quarterly* 66: 617–628.
2016. “The Illusion of Discretion.” *Synthese* 193: 1635–1665.
2016. “Epistemic Reasons I: Normativity.” *Philosophy Compass* 11: 364–376.
2016. “Epistemic Reasons II: Basing.” *Philosophy Compass* 11: 377–389.
2015. “What Apparent Reasons Appear to Be.” *Philosophical Studies* 172: 587–606.
2012. “How to Be a Redundant Realist.” *Episteme* 9: 271–282.
2012. “Truth Monism without Teleology.” *Thought* 1: 161–169.

Work Under Contract or Recently Commissioned

“Subjective Reasons and their Normativity” in Chang, R. and Sylvan, K. (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Practical Reason*.

“Evidence and Virtue (and Beyond)” for Lasonen-Aarnio, M. and Littlejohn, C. (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Evidence*.

“Reasons to Withhold, Higher-Order Evidence, and Defeat” (with Errol Lord) for Brown, J. and Simion, M. (eds.) *Reasons, Justification, and Defeat*. Oxford University Press.

Entry on Foundationalism for *Oxford Bibliographies Online*.

Review of *Believable Evidence* by Veli Mitova. *Philosophical Review*.

Review of *Epistemic Consequentialism* eds. Ahlstrom-Vij, K. and Dunn, J. *Analysis*.

Bibliographies

“Reasons in Epistemology” in *Oxford Bibliographies Online*. First version published online in early 2014. The entry is in the process of being updated in light of the large amount of new literature that emerged since early 2014.

Reviews

Forthcoming. *Knowing Better* by Daniel Star. *The Journal of Moral Philosophy*.

2018. *The Logic of Commitment* by Gary Chartier. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.

2017. *Naturalizing Epistemic Virtue* eds. Fairweather, A. and Flanagan, O. *Analysis* 77: 663–667.

2016. *The Oxford Handbook of Value Theory* eds. Hirose, I. and J. Olson. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (with Errol Lord).

R&Rs

“An Epistemic Non-Consequentialism” (Conditionally Accepted)

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------|
| | “Non-Epistemic Perception as Mere Technology” | |
| OTHER WORK IN PROGRESS | “Knowledge and the Presentation of Reality” “Knowing through the Forms” “Respect for Truth and the Normativity of Epistemic Rationality” “Respect and the Reality of Apparent Reasons” | |
| SELECTED TALKS | “Knowing through the Forms” <i>University of Zurich</i> | March 2019 |
| | “Respect and the Reality of Apparent Reasons” <i>Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop</i> | March 2019 |
| | “Respect for the Truth and the Normativity of Epistemic Rationality” <i>University of St. Andrews</i> | November 2018 |
| | “Evidence and Virtue (and Beyond)” <i>New Directions in Virtue Epistemology, Glasgow</i> | September 2018 |
| | “Knowledge and the Presentation of Reality” <i>Freiburg Normative Epistemology Workshop</i> | July 2018 |
| | <i>Bloomsbury Epistemology Group</i> | March 2018 |
| | <i>University of Stirling (Speaker Series)</i> | February 2018 |
| | “An Epistemic Non-Consequentialism” <i>UNC Chapel Hill (Normativity Reading Group)</i> | September 2017 |
| | “Can Performance Epistemology Explain Reflective Epistemic Value?” <i>Bled 2017: Epistemic Virtues and Epistemic Skills</i> | June 2017 |
| | “The Theaetetus Thesis” <i>Second Southampton-Leuven Epistemology Conference</i> | April 2017 |
| | “Respect for the Truth and the Normativity of Epistemic Rationality” <i>Sole Keynote Speaker, Second Cologne-Leuven Epistemology Workshop</i> | May 2016 |
| | “Reasons: Right, Wrong, Normative, Fundamental” (with Errol Lord) <i>The Language and Metaphysics of Normativity, Uppsala</i> | May 2016 |
| | “Knowledge as a Non-Normative Relation” <i>The Normativity of Attitudes, Saarbrücken</i> | December 2015 |
| | <i>2015 European Normativity Network Conference, Berlin</i> | November 2015 |
| | <i>Bled 2015: The Intersection of Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind</i> | June 2015 |
| | “Against Full Aptness” <i>Symposium on Sosa’s Judgment and Agency, KU Leuven</i> | September 2015 |
| | “The Achievements of Reason: A Rationalist Virtue Epistemology” <i>Virtue Epistemology Conference, KU Leuven</i> | September 2015 |
| | “Reasons: Right, Wrong, Normative, Fundamental” (with Errol Lord) <i>St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality</i> | May 2015 |
| | “Respect and the Reality of Apparent Reasons” <i>Normativity of Rationality Conference, Cardiff University</i> | May 2015 |

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| | “Explaining the Significance of the Internal in Epistemology” <i>University of California, San Diego</i> | January 2015 |
| | “How to Be an Epistemic Non-Consequentialist” <i>Second Southampton Normativity Workshop</i> | January 2015 |
| | “Rationality and Fundamental Epistemic Value: What’s the Connection?” <i>University of Graz</i> | June 2014 |
| | “Veritism, Epistemic Virtue, and Hurka’s Principle” <i>NYU Value and Virtue in Ethics and Epistemology Conference</i> | May 2014 |
| | “The Objective Significance of the Subjective” <i>University of Pennsylvania (Epistemic Normativity Graduate Seminar)</i> | April 2014 |
| | “Reasons: Right, Wrong, Normative, Fundamental” <i>Southern Normativity Conference, University of Kent</i> | March 2014 |
| | “Apparent Reasons and the Fragmentation of Epistemic Evaluation” <i>Harvard University</i> | January 2014 |
| | “Rationality and Justification: Reasons to Divorce?” <i>University of Edinburgh (Early Career Forum, Research Talk)</i> | November 2013 |
| | “Why Be Rational?” <i>University of Edinburgh (Early Career Forum, Public Talk)</i> | November 2013 |
| | “How to Divorce Rationality and Justification in Epistemology” <i>University of Southampton</i> | October 2013 |
| | “The Place of Reasons in Epistemology” <i>St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality</i> | May 2013 |
| | “Reasons and the Metaphysics of Epistemology” <i>Northwestern–Notre Dame Epistemology Conference</i> <i>Georgetown Reasons and Reasoning Conference</i> | April 2013 April 2013 |
| | “On How Groups Possess Evidence” <i>Princeton-Rutgers-Penn Social Epistemology Workshop</i> | April 2013 |
| | “What Isn’t the Swamping Problem?” <i>USC-UCLA Graduate Conference</i> | February 2013 |
| COMMENTS | On Chris Blake Turner’s ‘What Basing Must Be’ <i>Eastern APA (Delivered from Abroad Thanks to the Home Office)</i> | January 2019 |
| | On Ernest Sosa’s <i>Epistemic Explanations</i> <i>COGITO Symposium, University of Glasgow</i> | September 2018 |
| | On Peter Klein’s “Certain Knowledge from Fallible Foundations” <i>Episteme Conference, Tenerife, Canary Islands</i> | July 2018 |
| | On Jonathan Ichikawa’s <i>Contextualizing Knowledge</i> | |

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| <i>Pacific APA</i> | March 2018 |
| On Daniel Greco's "On the Very Idea of an Epistemic Dilemma" <i>Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference</i> | August 2017 |
| On Elizabeth Harman's "When Is a Failure to Realize Exculpatory?" <i>Responsibility—The Epistemic Dimension II, Amsterdam</i> | May 2015 |
| On Juan Comesaña's "Can We Believe for Practical Reasons?" <i>SOFIA Conference, Huatulco, Mexico</i> | January 2015 |
| On Maria Alvarez's "Reasons for Action as Reasons for Belief" <i>First Southampton Normativity Workshop</i> | June 2014 |
| On Ryan Walsh's "A Hard Problem for Schroeder's Analysis of Knowledge" <i>Pacific APA</i> | April 2014 |
| On Daniel Fogal's "Rational Requirements and the Primacy of Pressure" <i>Princeton–Rutgers Graduate Conference</i> | April 2013 |
| On Mark Phelan's "Believing <i>Qua</i> Member" <i>Pacific APA</i> | March 2013 |

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| TEACHING EXPERIENCE | Instructor (at Southampton) | |
| | The Ethics of Belief | Spring 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019 |
| | Moral Philosophy | Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2019 |
| | Scepticism | Fall 2018 |
| | Epistemology | Fall 2018 |
| | Ethics | Spring 2018 |
| | Knowledge and Mind (Small Group Tutorials) | Fall 2018 |
| | Graduate Seminar on the Epistemology of Perception | Fall 2017 |
| | Epistemology | Spring 2015, 2017, Fall 2017 |
| | Philosophy of Mind | Fall 2015 |
| | Reasons, Rationality, and Ethics | Fall 2014 |
| | Political Philosophy | Fall 2015 |
| | Ethics (Small Group Tutorials) | Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Spring 2018, Fall 2018 |
| | Advisor (at Southampton) | |
| | Many undergraduate dissertations | Ongoing since 2014 |
| | MA students (Sam Jones, Jack Maden, David Field, Charlotte Bonar, Josef Nickerson) | 2014, 2016, 2018 |
| | Instructor (at Rutgers) | |
| Introduction to Epistemology | Summer 2013 | |
| Aesthetics of Film | Summer 2012 | |
| Introduction to Metaphysics | Summer 2011 | |
| Teaching Assistant (at Rutgers) | | |
| Introduction to Philosophy (for James Simmons) | Spring 2011 | |
| Current Moral and Social Issues (for Jeff McMahan) | Fall 2010 | |

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| SERVICE | Major Administrative Roles | |
| | Director of Undergraduate Admissions | Since Summer 2017 |
| | Interim Director of Graduate Studies | Spring and Summer 2017 |
| | Dissertation Coordinator | 2014-16 |
| | External Examiner | |
| | M. Phil Theses of Claire Field and Thomas Byrne at KCL | Fall 2015, Fall 2016 |

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| Editorial | |
| Editorial Assistant for the following books by Ernest Sosa: | 2014-15 |
| <i>Judgment and Agency</i> , Oxford University Press, 2015 | |
| <i>Epistemology</i> , Princeton University Press, 2017 | |
| Editorial Manager for <i>PPR</i> , <i>Noûs</i> , and <i>Philosophical Issues</i> | 2013-14 |
| Editorial Assistant for <i>PPR</i> , <i>Noûs</i> , and <i>Philosophical Issues</i> | 2011-12 |
| Editor of the following PhilPapers categories: | Since 2015 |
| Infinetism | |
| The Speckled Hen Problem | |
| Assistant Editor of the following PhilPapers categories: | Since 2013 |
| Perception and Skepticism; Perceptual Knowledge; Perceptual Evidence | |
| Referee for Presses and Journals | Since 2012 |
| Oxford University Press, Routledge, <i>Philosophical Review</i> , <i>Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Mind</i> (x3), <i>Noûs</i> (x4), <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i> , <i>Philosophical Studies</i> (x5), <i>American Philosophical Quarterly</i> , <i>Analysis</i> (x2), <i>Analytic Philosophy</i> , <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Dialectica</i> , <i>Dialogue</i> , <i>Episteme</i> (x2), <i>Ergo</i> (x2), <i>Erkenntnis</i> (x2), <i>Ethical Theory and Moral Practice</i> , <i>Inquiry</i> , <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> , <i>Journal of the American Philosophical Association</i> , <i>Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy</i> (x2), <i>Journal of Moral Philosophy</i> , <i>Journal of Value Inquiry</i> , <i>Pacific Philosophical Quarterly</i> (x2), <i>Philosophical Explorations</i> , <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i> (x2), <i>Synthese</i> (x5), <i>Teorema</i> , <i>Thought</i> (x2) | |
| Referee for Conferences | Since 2009 |
| British Society for Ethical Theory (x3), Canadian Philosophical Association, Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Conference (x2), Southampton-Humboldt Normativity Conference, St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality, Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference | |
| Referee for Funding Bodies | Since 2017 |
| Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada | |
| Organizer | |
| The Epistemic Role of Simple Seeing Workshop, Southampton | 2017 |
| Epistemology and Normativity Workshop, Rutgers | 2012 |
| Research Circle on Epistemic Value, Rutgers | 2011 |
| Research Circle on Rationality, Coherence and Normativity, Rutgers | 2010 |
| Research Circle on the Epistemology of Perception, Rutgers | 2010 |
| Co-Organizer | |
| Knowing by Looking Workshop, Southampton | 2016 |
| Attitudes and Agency: Epistemology Workshop, Southampton | 2016 |
| Three Workshops on Social and Cultural Ontology, Southampton | 2015-6 |
| Value and Virtue in Ethics and Epistemology, NYU | 2014 |
| Rutgers philosophy department colloquium series | 2013 |
| Rutgers graduate student colloquium series | 2012 |
| Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Conference | 2011 |
| Public Outreach | |
| Talk on Perception at Southampton City Art Gallery | February 2017 |
| Talk on Studying Philosophy at Farnborough Sixth Form College | July 2015 |
| Talks at Southampton Sixth Form Conference | April 2014, July 2014, July 2016 |
| Climate | |
| Volunteer in mentoring program at Rutgers for undergraduate women and minorities in philosophy | 2011-12 |
| Other Administrative Roles | |
| Member of internationalization committee | 2014-15 |
| Manager of departmental website | 2014-15 |

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| GRADUATE | Epistemology | |
| COURSEWORK | Proseminar (in Epistemology and Mind) with Alvin Goldman | Fall 2008 |
| (GPA: 4.0/4.0) | Knowing How with Jason Stanley | Spring 2009 |
| ‘*’ = AUDITED | Methodological Naturalism and Intuitions with Alvin Goldman | Fall 2009 |
| | Social Epistemology with Alvin Goldman | Spring 2010 |
| | Survey in Epistemology with Ernest Sosa | Spring 2010 |
| | *Pragmatic Encroachment with Jason Stanley | Spring 2010 |
| | Independent Study on Epistemic Rationality with Alvin Goldman | Spring 2010 |
| | Independent Study on Epistemology of Perception with Ernest Sosa | Spring 2010 |
| | *Skepticism with Brian Weatherson | Fall 2010 |
| | Ancient Skepticism with Robert Bolton | Fall 2010 |
| | Independent Study on Epistemic Value with Ernest Sosa | Spring 2011 |
| | *Knowledge First with Jason Stanley | Fall 2012 |
| | Ethics | |
| | Reasons for Action with Ruth Chang and Derek Parfit | Spring 2009 |
| | Survey in Ethical Theory with Holly Smith | Spring 2010 |
| | Independent Study on Requirements of Rationality with Ruth Chang | Spring 2010 |
| | Advanced Topics in Ethics with Jeff McMahan and Derek Parfit | Spring 2011 |
| | Independent Study on Reasons and Value with Ruth Chang | Spring 2011 |
| | Mind | |
| | Proseminar (in Epistemology and Mind) with Alvin Goldman | Fall 2008 |
| | Philosophy of Mind with Jerry Fodor and Zenon Pylyshyn | Fall 2009 |
| | Proseminar in Cognitive Science with Zenon Pylyshyn | Fall 2009 |
| | Graduate Survey in Philosophy of Mind with Carrie Figdor (Iowa) | Fall 2007 |
| | Intentionality with Francesco Orilia (Iowa) | Spring 2006 |
| | Metaphysics and Language | |
| | Fundamentality and Metametaphysics with Ted Sider (NYU) | Spring 2009 |
| | The Metaphysics of Propositions with Jeff King | Fall 2008 |
| | Vagueness with Brian McLaughlin | Spring 2009 |
| | Other | |
| | Hume with Martha Bolton | Fall 2008 |
| | Probability with Barry Loewer | Fall 2008 |
| | Non-Classical Logics with Brian Weatherson | Fall 2009 |
| | Dissertation Seminar with Jason Stanley | Spring 2013 |

SUMMER SCHOOL The Normativity of Epistemic Rationality, University of Cologne Summer 2011

REFERENCES Ernest Sosa
Board of Governors Professor
Department of Philosophy E-mail: ernestsosa@me.com
Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Ruth Chang
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University of Texas, Austin

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