

# Joshua Rowan Thorpe

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Specialisations: epistemology, philosophy of mind.

Competencies: philosophy of language, ethics (including environmental ethics and ethics of AI), feminist philosophy, early modern philosophy.

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## Employment

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<b>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</b> University of Aberdeen and University of Glasgow	2023-now
<b>Teaching Fellow</b> Lingnan University	2022-2023
<b>Teaching Fellow</b> University of Edinburgh	2021-2022
<b>Visiting Lecturer</b> University of Stirling	2020-2021
<b>Teaching Fellow</b> University of Edinburgh	2019-2020
<b>Visiting Postdoctoral Research Fellow</b> KBNS <sup>1</sup> project, University of Stirling.	2017-2018
<b>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</b> University of Campinas <sup>2</sup>	2016-2019
<b>Visiting Lecturer</b> University of Stirling.	2015-2016

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## Publications

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### *Papers and book chapters*

- 2023 “External World Scepticism and Self Scepticism” *Philosophical Studies* 180, pp. 591–607.
- 2022 “Merely Superficially Contingent A Priori Knowledge and the McKinsey Paradox” *Synthese* 200/38.
- 2022 (With Crispin Wright) “Putnam’s Proof Revisited” James Conant and Sanjit Chakraborty (editors), *Engaging Putnam*. De Gruyter.
- 2018 “Semantic Self-Knowledge and the Vat Argument” *Philosophical Studies* 176/9, pp. 2289–2306.
- 2017 “Closure Scepticism and the Vat Argument” *Mind* 127/507, pp. 667–690.
- 2017 “Radical Interpretation, Scepticism, and the Possibility of Shared Error” *Synthese* 196/8, pp. 3355–3368.

### *Book review*

- 2018 Review of Tim Button’s (2013), *The Limits of Realism*, Oxford University Press, in *Argumenta* 06.

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<sup>1</sup> Templeton funded Knoweldge Beyond Natural Science project at Stirling.

<sup>2</sup> Suspended for one year while visiting KBNS at Stirling.

*In draft/under review*

“Evidential Externalism, Defeat, Scepticism”.

“Certainty and the Impoverished Subject”.

“Conspiracy Theories as Epistemic Wrecking Balls”.

“Sex, Consent, and Patriarchy” (With Giada Fratantonio).

“(When) should I ostrich? The rationality of evidence avoidance” (With Giada Fratantonio).

“A Generalist Account of Conspiracy Theories” (With Jesper Kallestrup).

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### Selected talks and presentations

\* = refereed or invited

#### **(When) should I ostrich? The rationality of evidence avoidance (with Giada Fratantonio)**

2023 Normativité Colloquium, ZEGRA, University of Zurich.\*

#### **A Generalist Account of Conspiracy Theories (with Jesper Kallestrup)**

2023 European Social Epistemology Network, Bute.\*

#### **Conspiracy Theories as Epistemic Wrecking Balls**

2023 Digital Knowledge Conference, University of Aberdeen.\*

#### **Sex, Consent, and Patriarchy (with Giada Fratantonio)**

2023 Knowledge and Language Conference, University of Edinburgh.\*

2022 Bristol Philosophy Department Research Seminar.\*

#### **Lichtenbergian Foundationalism**

2022 Scottish Epistemology Early Career Researchers Group Seminar, Edinburgh.\*

#### **External World Scepticism and Self Scepticism**

2020 Stirling Philosophy Department Staff Seminar.

2019 Knowledge Beyond Natural Science Project Seminar, University of Stirling.\*

2019 Edinburgh University Philosophy Department Staff Work in Progress Seminar.

#### **A Solution to the McKinsey Paradox**

2018 Fifth Conference of the Brazilian Society for Analytic Philosophy, Unicamp.\*

2017 Knowledge Beyond Natural Science Project interim workshop, University of Stirling.\*

2017 Stirling Philosophy Department Staff Seminar.

#### **Semantic Self-Knowledge and the Vat Argument**

2017 Edinburgh University Philosophy of Language Group.\*

2017 Knowledge Beyond Natural Science Project Seminar, University of Stirling.

#### **Rehabilitating the Causal-Theoretic Argument**

2016 University of Campinas visiting Speaker Seminar.\*

#### **Closure Scepticism and the Vat Argument**

2016 International Conference: Putnam’s Path.\*

#### **Radical Interpretation, Scepticism, and the Possibility of Shared Error**

2016 Brazilian Society for Analytic Philosophy Conference.\*

2015 Stirling Philosophy Department Staff Seminar.

2015 Stirling Undergraduate Philosophy Society.

#### **Scepticism and First-Person Thought**

2015 Stirling Undergraduate Philosophy Society.

#### **Putnam’s Proof and Ineffability**

- 2012 Edinburgh Epistemology Postgraduate Conference.\*  
 2012 Seoul Philosophy Postgraduate Conference.\*

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### Public Engagement

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- 2023 Podcast interview of Dr Joshua Habgood Coote entitled "Conspiracy Theories in a Digital World".  
 2017 Talk entitled "Some Themes from *Roadside Picnic*" at Café Philosophique, public engagement event at Blackwell's bookshop, Edinburgh.\*

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### Education

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- Ph.D in Philosophy at St Andrews and Stirling Joint Program in Philosophy (SASP)** 2010-2014  
 Thesis title: *A Response to External World Scepticism*.  
 Supervisors: Professor Peter Sullivan (primary), Dr Adrian Haddock (secondary).  
 Examiners: Professor Crispin Wright (external), Dr Philip Ebert (internal).
- M.Litt in Philosophy at SASP** 2009-2010
- B.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Oxford** 2004-2007

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### Teaching

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In the 2020 Edinburgh University Teaching Awards I was nominated for the Tutor of the Year award, and my undergrad course *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* was nominated for the Outstanding Course award. In 2022 I was again nominated for Tutor of the Year.

#### Teaching as a Visiting Lecturer at Lingnan University, 2022

- 2022 *Ethics*, honours course, course organiser.  
 2022 *Critical Thinking*, pre-honours course, tutor.

#### Teaching as a Teaching Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, 2022

- 2022 *Logic 1*, pre-honours course, tutor.  
 2022 *Knowledge and Reality*, tutor.

#### Teaching as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Stirling, 2020-2022

- 2021 *Feminist Philosophy*, honours course, course organiser.  
 2021 *From Plato to Existentialism*, pre-honours course (online due to Covid), tutor.  
 2020 *What is it all about?* pre-honours course (online due to Covid), tutor.  
 2020 *From Plato to Existentialism*, pre-honours course (online due to Covid), tutor.

#### Teaching as a Teaching Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, 2019-2020

- 2020 *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, honours course, course organiser.  
 2020 *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, graduate course, course organiser.  
 2020 *Knowledge and Reality*, pre-honours course, lecturer.  
 2019 *Epistemology*, graduate course (online), course organiser.  
 2019 *Advanced Ethics*, graduate course (online), course organiser.  
 2019 *Environmental Ethics*, honours course, course organiser.  
 2019 *Knowledge and Reality*, pre-honours course, lecturer.

#### Teaching as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Campinas, 2016-2019

- 2019 *Scepticism and First Person Thought*, graduate course, course organiser.

**Teaching as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Stirling, 2016**

- 2016 *Knowledge and Reality* honours course, course organiser.  
 2016 *Mind and Metaphysics* honours course, course organiser.

**Teaching as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Stirling, 2011-2014**

- 2014 *Rationalism and Empiricism*, honours course, teaching assistant.  
 2014 *Philosophy of Mind*, honours course, teaching assistant.  
 2014 *Aesthetics University of Stirling*, honours course, teaching assistant.  
 2014 *What is it all About?* Pre-honours course, teaching assistant.  
 2013 *Rationalism and Empiricism*, honours course, teaching assistant.  
 2013 *What is it all About?* pre-honours course, teaching assistant.  
 2012 *What is it all About?* pre-honours course, teaching assistant.  
 2011 *Mind and Reality*, pre-honours course, teaching assistant.

**Teaching as a Teaching Assistant at the University of St Andrews, 2010**

- 2010 *Mind, Value, and Reality*, pre-honours course, teaching assistant.

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**Grants and scholarships**


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<b>BEPE Postdoctoral Scholarship</b>	2017-2018
£42,000 for one year. To visit the Knowledge Beyond Natural Science Project at the University of Stirling.	
<b>FAPESP Postdoctoral Scholarship</b>	2016-2019
£20,000 per annum.	
<b>Royal Institute of Philosophy Studentship</b>	2013-2014
£3,000 block grant.	
<b>Full AHRC Doctoral Scholarship</b>	2010-2014
£13,000 per annum, plus tuition fees and £300 annual travel grant.	

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**Affiliations**


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<b>Member of COGITO research group</b> University of Glasgow	2023-now
<b>Member of CLE<sup>3</sup></b> University of Campinas	2016-2019
<b>Member of Arché</b> University of St Andrews	2010-2014

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**Organisational experience and academic service**


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**Organisation of research seminars and reading groups**

- 2023-now Scepticism Research Groupe (co-founder and co-organiser).  
 2015-2016 Stirling University Visiting Speaker Seminar, Law and Philosophy Department  
 2014-2015 Stirling University Postgraduate Work in Progress Seminar.  
 2011-2012 Wittgenstein Reading Group at St Andrews.

**Conference organisation**

- 2023 Co-organiser of Trust and AI conference, Glasgow.  
 2023 Co-organiser of Social Epistemology Network Conference, Bute.  
 2012 Co-organiser of Arché/CSMN Philosophy Graduate Conference. Keynote speakers: John Hawthorne (Oxford) and Delia Graff Fara (Princeton).

**Referee work**


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<sup>3</sup> Centre for Logic, Epistemology, and the History of Science.

*Noûs, Synthese, Mind, Philosophical Quarterly, Erkenntnis, European Journal of Analytic Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Analysis, International Journal for the Study of Skepticism, Manuscrpto.*

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