

ROBERT MARK SIMPSON

✉ robert.simpson@ucl.ac.uk

📍 c/- UCL Philosophy Department
Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

🌐 robertmarksimpson.com

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CAREER AND EDUCATION

University College London, Associate Professor of Philosophy 2020- (Lecturer 2018-19)

University of Chicago, Visiting Assistant Professor of Law 2015

Monash University, Lecturer in Philosophy 2013-17

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University of Oxford, DPhil in Philosophy 2009-13

Monash University, MA 2007-08, BA Honours 2006, BSc 2000-03

JOURNAL ARTICLES

44. Against Radical Epistemic Environmentalism (Or Why Uncritically Deferring to Authority is Still Irrational), forthcoming in *Episteme*, with Toby Handfield
43. The Chilling Effect and the Heating Effect, *Political Philosophy* 1/2 (2024): 345-80
42. Composing Thoughts: Free Speech and the Importance of Thinking Aloud in Music and Images, *Legal Theory* 30/2 (2024): 83-104, with Léa Salje
41. The Connected City of Ideas, *Daedalus* 153/33 (2024): 166-86
40. Heckling, Free Speech, and Freedom of Association, *Mind* 133/529 (2024): 117-42, with Emily McTernan
39. Law as Counterspeech, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 26 (2023): 493-510, with Anjalee de Silva
38. Counterspeech, *Philosophy Compass* 18/1 (2023): 1-11, with Bianca Cepollaro and Maxime Lepoutre
37. The Conversational Character of Oppression, *Australasian Philosophical Review* 5/2 (2022): 160-69
36. Reconciling Regulation with Scientific Autonomy in Dual-use Research, *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 47/1 (2022): 72-94, with Nicholas Evans and Michael Selgelid
35. Minimalism, Determinacy, and Human Rights, *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence* 34/1 (2021): 149-69
34. The Relation Between Academic Freedom and Free Speech, *Ethics* 130/3 (2020): 287-319
33. The Big Shill, *Ratio* 33/4 (2020): 269-80, with Eliot Michaelson
32. Won't Somebody Please Think of the Children? Hate Speech, Harm, and Childhood, *Law and Philosophy* 38/1 (2019): 79-108
31. Regulating Offense, Nurturing Offense, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics* 17/3 (2018): 235-56
30. Permissivism and the Arbitrariness Objection, *Episteme* 14/4 (2017): 519-38
29. Tolerating Hate in the Name of Democracy, *Modern Law Review* 80/4 (2017): 746-65, with Amanda Greene
28. Indirect Epistemic Reasons and Religious Belief, *Religious Studies* 53/2 (2017): 151-69, with Kirk Lougheed
27. Defining 'Speech': Subtraction, Addition, and Division, *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence* 29/2 (2016): 457-94
26. Indoctrination Anxiety and the Etiology of Belief, *Synthese* 193/10 (2016): 3079-98, with Josh DiPaolo
25. Climate Change, Cooperation, and Moral Bioenhancement, *Journal of Medical Ethics* 42 (2016): 742-47, with Toby Handfield and Pei-hua Huang
24. Dehumanization: its Operations and Origins, *Journal of Law and Biosciences* 3/1 (2015): 178-84
23. Life in Overabundance: Agar on Life-Extension and the Fear of Death, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 17/2 (2014): 223-36, with Aveek Bhattacharya

22. Intellectual Agency and Responsibility for Belief in Free Speech Theory, *Legal Theory* 19/3 (2013): 307-30
21. Epistemic Peerhood and the Epistemology of Disagreement, *Philosophical Studies* 164/2 (2013): 561-77
20. Dignity, Harm, and Hate Speech, *Law and Philosophy* 32/6 (2013): 701-28
19. Unringing the Bell: McGowan on Oppressive Speech and the Asymmetric Pliability of Conversation, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 91/3 (2013): 555-75
18. Moral Antitheodicy: Prospects and Problems, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 65/1 (2009): 153-69
17. Some Moral Critique of Theodicy is Misplaced, But Not All, *Religious Studies* 45/3 (2009): 339-46
16. Avoiding the Afterlife: Victims of Suffering and the Argument from Usefulness, *Forum Philosophicum* 13/2 (2008): 437-55

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

15. Censorship and Understanding, forthcoming in Thomas Adams, Kate Greasley, and Denise Réaume (Eds.), *The Morality in Law: Themes from the Work of Leslie Green* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)
14. Harmful Speech Online: Five Models of Platform Regulation, forthcoming in Sejal Palmer and Natalie Alkiviadou (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook on Hate Speech* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), with Gavin Phillipson
13. Free Speech, forthcoming in Robert Jubb and Patrick Tomlin (Eds.), *Issues in Political Theory*, 5th Edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press), with Jeffrey W. Howard
12. Disagreement and Free Speech, in Maria Baghramian, J. Adam Carter, and Rach Cosker-Rowland (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Disagreement* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2025), with Sebastien Bishop
13. Should We Unbundle Free Speech and Press Freedom?, in Carl Fox and Joe Saunders (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy and Media Ethics* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2024), with Damien Storey
10. The Ethics of Quitting Social Media, in Carissa Véliz (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Digital Ethics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022)
09. Lost, Enfeebled, and Deprived of its Vital Effect: Mill's Exaggerated View of the Relation Between Conflict and Vitality, *Aristotelian Society Supplementary Volume* 95/1 (2021): 97-114
08. Epistemic Permissivism and Reasonable Pluralism, in Michael Hannon and Jeroen de Ridder (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Political Epistemology* (New York: Routledge, 2021), with Rach Cosker-Rowland
07. Language and Legitimation, in Rachel Sterken and Justin Khoo (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language* (New York: Routledge, 2021)
06. Norms of Inquiry, Student-led Learning, and Epistemic Paternalism, in Jonathan Matheson and Kirk Lougheed (Eds.), *Epistemic Autonomy* (New York: Routledge, 2021)
05. Political Correctness Gone Viral, in Carl Fox and Joe Saunders (Eds.), *Media Ethics, Free Speech, and the Requirements of Democracy* (New York: Routledge, 2019), with Waleed Aly
04. Search Engines and Free Speech Coverage, in Susan J. Brison and Katharine Gelber (Eds.), *Free Speech in the Digital Age* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019), with Heather M. Whitney
03. No Platforming, in Jennifer Lackey (Ed.), *Academic Freedom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), with Amia Srinivasan
02. Super Soldiers and Technological Asymmetry, in Jai Galliot and Mianna Lotz (Eds.), *Super Soldiers: Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2015)
01. Nanotechnologically Enhanced Combat Systems: The Downside of Invulnerability, in Bert Gordijn and Anthony Mark Cutter (Eds.), *In Pursuit of Nanoethics* (Dordrecht: Springer Science and Business Media, 2014), with Rob Sparrow

REVIEWS, OP-EDS, OTHER WRITING

- No Platforming: Academic or Moralistic? *Pea Soup*, 29th November 2023
- Doing Collective Inquiry Better: The Alignment Between EDI and Academic Freedom / Free Speech in UK Universities, *Advance HE* Position Paper, 18th October 2023
- With Friends Like These, Free Speech Doesn't Need Enemies, *Justice Everywhere*, 18th January 2021
- When is it Ethical to Vote for the Lesser of Two Evils?, *Psyche*, 28th October 2020
- Speaking Freely, Thinking Aloud, and Embarrassing Yourself on Social Media, *ABC Religion & Ethics*, 7th May 2020
- Supply Chains, Disaster-Mitigation, and State Manufacturing, *Justice Everywhere*, 6th April 2020
- How the Rhetoric of Weaponisation is Undermining Liberal Ideals, *The New Statesman*, 11th February 2020
- The Varieties of Religious Expedience | Review of *Interior States* by Megan O'Gieblyn, *The New Rambler Review*, 5th February 2020
- Review of *Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights*, Edited by Rowan Cruft, S. Matthew Liao, and Massimo Renzo, *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 16/4 (2019): 517-20
- Triggered | Review of *Speak Freely: Why Universities Must Defend Free Speech*, by Keith E. Whittington, *Times Literary Supplement*, 14th May 2019
- Universities and Democratic Legitimacy, *Justice Everywhere*, 10th/12th June 2019
- C. S. Lewis's Demons, *ABC Religion & Ethics*, 1st May 2018
- Free Speech is a Blunt Instrument; Let's Break It Up, *Aeon*, Friday 31st March 2017
- The Origin of Belief, *The Forum*, 15th August 2016; with Josh DiPaolo
- Making Humans Morally Better Won't Fix Climate Change, *JME Blog*, 25th August 2016
- Moral Renegades | Review of *Strangers Drowning* by Larissa MacFarquhar and *Doing Good Better* by William MacAskill, *The New Rambler Review*, 12th July 2016
- Review of *Speech Matters: Lying, Morality, and the Law* by Seana Shiffrin, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 28th April 2015
- Prevent Harm, Allow Offence?, *The Free Speech Debate*, 8th January 2013

BOOK PROJECT

I am currently writing a book, called *Experimentality: Pop Music, Free Speech, and Romantic Liberalism*. This work examines the place of popular music in the politics free speech. It argues that we need to appeal to a relatively neglected ideal from the liberal tradition – namely, the ideal of experimentality – in order to make sense of pop music's place in our free speech politics. If you want to read a draft, send me an email!

GRANTS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS

- Australian Research Council; Discovery Project Grant, on "Governing the Knowledge Commons", International Partner Investigator (administering institution: Monash University), 2019-21
- Society for Applied Philosophy; Conference Grant Scheme, 2017
- The Spencer Foundation; Research Grant on Hate Speech and Education, 2015-16
- St. Louis University / Templeton Foundation; Research Cluster Group Grant for Project on the Philosophy and Theology of Intellectual Humility, 2014-2015
- Monash University Faculty of Arts; Emerging Research Excellence Fellowship, 2014

- Monash University, School of Philosophy and History; Research Grant on ‘Intrinsic Valuation’, 2013-14
- Princeton University Centre for Human Values; Postdoctoral fellowship in Public Policy, 2013-16, declined position in order to take up continuing lectureship at Monash University
- Monash University Faculty of Arts; New Appointees Research Grant, 2013
- Oxford University Faculty of Philosophy; Faculty Doctoral Scholarship, 2009-12
- Somerville College, Oxford; Graduate Doctoral Scholarship in Philosophy, 2009-12
- Monash University Faculty of Arts; Postgraduate Publications Award, 2008-09
- Australian Department of Education and Training; Australian Postgraduate Award, 2007-08
- Monash University Faculty of Arts; Honours Merit Scholarship, 2006

LECTURING & MODULE COORDINATION

- “Free Speech and Theories of Autonomy”, UCL 3rd Year and MA Course, 2018-2025
- “Epistemology and Contemporary Society”, UCL 2nd Year Course, 2021-2025
- “Legal Philosophy”, UCL MA Course, 2019-2023
- “Obscenity and Censorship”, UCL 2nd Year Course, 2018
- “Ethics” Monash University 2nd Year Course, 2016-2017
- “Introduction to Human Rights”, Monash University 1st Year Course, 2013-2017
- “Free Speech and Hate Speech”, Monash University, Graduate Module, 2016
- “Workshop in Legal Philosophy”, University of Chicago Graduate Module, 2015
- “International Human Rights Law”, University of Chicago Graduate Module, 2015
- “The Ethics of Global Conflict”, Monash University 3rd Year Course, 2014-2015
- “Issues in Social Epistemology”, Monash University Graduate Module, 2014
- “Language, Truth, and Power”, Monash University 2nd Year Course, 2013-2014

SUPERVISION

- I am currently the primary supervisor for two PhD students at UCL, and I was previously the primary supervisor for two completed PhD students at UCL.
- I am currently the secondary supervisor for three PhD students at UCL.
- I am currently the primary supervisor for three M.Phil.Stud students at UCL – writing a 30,000 word dissertation as part of a two-year research-focused degree – and I was previously the primary supervisor for seven M.Phil.Stud students at UCL.
- At Monash University (2013-17), I was the primary supervisor for two completed PhD students.
- Also at Monash, I was the primary supervisor for two completed MA students – writing 40,000 word dissertations as part of a two-year research-focused degrees.
- In 12 years of full-time teaching, between UCL (2018-) and Monash (2013-17), I have supervised 42 students on single-year research projects (8,000-10,000 words), in the UCL MA in Philosophy, the UCL Philosophy Undergraduate Dissertation Module, and the Monash Honours Philosophy programme.

SERVICE & ADMINISTRATION

- Reviews Editor for *MIND*, 2025–
- Associate Editor for the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 2022-25
- In2Research Widening Participation Research Mentor, 2022-23
- London Arts and Humanities Partnership, PhD Funding Assessor, 2022-23
- Working Group on Developing an Institutional Definition of Anti-Semitism, UCL, 2021-22
- External Examiner for University of Cambridge MPhil in Philosophy, 2019-21
- Departmental Tutor, University College London Philosophy Department, 2018-21
- Widening Participation Officer, University College London Philosophy Department, 2018-20
- Organiser, UCL Philosophy Department “Widening Participation Summer School”, August 2019
- Organiser, Workshop on “Philosophical Approaches to Hate Speech”, UCL Philosophy, June 2019
- Philosophy Society Liaison, University College London Philosophy Department, 2018-19
- Co-organiser, Institute of Philosophy Seminar Series on ‘The Practical, the Ethical, and Political’, 2019
- Organiser, “Just Words”: Workshop in Applied Philosophy of Language, UCL, June 2018
- Co-organiser, Conference on Democracy and Hate Speech, Queen Mary Law School, June 2017
- Co-organiser, Wellesley Workshop on Law and Language, Wellesley College, March 2017
- Australian Research Council Reviewer, Discovery Projects and DECRA Fellowships, 2014-17
- Convener of the Human Rights Major, Monash University Faculty of Arts, 2016-17
- Co-organiser, APA Society for the Philosophy of Human Rights Meeting, 2016
- Philosophy Graduate Program Coordinator, Monash University, 2015
- Philosophy Honours Program Coordinator, Monash University, 2013-14
- International Studies Committee, Monash University, 2013-14
- Admissions interviews for PPE Degree, Somerville College Oxford, 2012
- 15th Oxford Philosophy Graduate Conference, organising committee member, 2011