

ROBERT MARK SIMPSON

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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, forthcoming in Maria Baghramian, Adam Carter, and Rach Cosker-Rowland (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Disagreement* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2025), with Sebastian 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 Galliott and Mianna Lotz (Eds.), *Super Soldiers: Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications* (Farnum: 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

- 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're interested in knowing more, 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 two 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 39 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

- 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