

Cathy Mason

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Employment

2025 – present, Associate Professor, Central European University

(On parental leave 2025-2026)

2022 – 2025, Assistant Professor, Central European University

2021 – 2022 (offered through 2024) Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, University of Cambridge

2021 – 2021 Teaching Fellow, University of Birmingham

2019 – 2020 Stipendiary Lecturer in Philosophy, Wadham College, University of Oxford

Education

2016 – 2019

University of Cambridge, Trinity College

PhD in Philosophy, Pass without corrections

Supervisors: Paulina Sliwa, Tom Dougherty

2015 – 2016

University of Sheffield

MA Philosophy, Distinction

Dissertation Supervisor: Jimmy Lenman

2012 – 2015

University of Oxford, Trinity College

BA Philosophy and Theology, First Class Honours

Research Areas

AOS: Ethics, Moral Epistemology, Iris Murdoch

AOC: Aesthetics, Applied Ethics, Political Philosophy, Epistemology, History of Philosophy

Publications

Iris Murdoch's Moral Philosophy: Reframing the True, the Real and the Good (forthcoming, OUP)

“Purpose and Play in Art and Ethics” (forthcoming in *Iris Murdoch's Sovereignty of Good After 50 Years*, eds. Carla Bagnoli and Brad Cokelet)

“Personal relationships, belief and knowledge” (forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Personal Relationships*, eds. Monika Betzler and Sarah Stroud)

“Making Sense of Letting Go”, co-authored with Matt Dougherty. *Philosophy* (forthcoming)

“Anscombe, joint action and the guise of the good”, *Inquiry* (forthcoming)

“Murdoch and *Gilead*: John Ames as a Model of Murdochian Virtue” in Garry Hagberg, ed., *Narrative and Ethical Understanding* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024)

“Epistemic Partialism and Taking Our Friends Seriously”, *American Philosophical Quarterly* 61 (3) (2024)

“Reconceiving Murdochian Realism”, *Ergo* 10 (2023)

“Epistemic Partialism”, *Philosophy Compass* 18 (2) (2023)

“Murdoch’s Ontological Argument”, co-authored with Matt Dougherty. *European Journal of Philosophy* 31 (3) (2023)

“Is Forgiveness Openness to Reconciliation”, co-authored with Matt Dougherty. *Inquiry* 68 (2) (2025)

“What’s Bad About Friendship with Bad People?”, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 51 (7) (2021)

“Iris Murdoch, Privacy and the Limits of Moral Testimony”, *European Journal of Philosophy* 30 (3) (2022)

“The Epistemic Demands of Friendship: Friendship as Inherently Knowledge – Involving”, *Synthese* 199 (2020)

“Hoping and Intending”, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 7 (4) (2021)

“The Virtue of Hope in a Turbulent World” in *Values and Virtues in a Changing World*, ed. Jefferson, Palermos, Paris and Webber (Cambridge University Press, 2022)

“Mourning and the Recognition of Value” in Slawkowski-Rode (ed.), *The Meaning of Mourning*. Co-authored with Matt Dougherty (Lexington, 2023)

“Iris Murdoch and the Epistemic Significance of Love” in Cushing (ed.) *New Philosophical Essays on Love and Loving* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021)

“On the Basis of Friendship”, *Inquiry* 66 (6) (2023)

“Humility and Ethical Development”, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 17 (2020)

“Responsibility and Comparative Pride – a Critical Discussion of Morgan-Knapp” *The Philosophical Quarterly* 70 (2020)

Reviews

Review of Gary Browning, *Iris Murdoch and the Political*, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* (forthcoming)

Review of Matthew Congdon, *Moral Articulation*, *The Philosophical Quarterly* (forthcoming)

Review of Silvia Caprioglio Panizza, *The Ethics of Attention: Engaging the Real with Iris Murdoch and Simone Weil*, *Philosophy* 98 (3) (2023)

Review of Benjamin Lipscomb, *The Women are up to Something: How Elizabeth Anscombe, Philippa Foot, Mary Midgley, and Iris Murdoch Revolutionized Ethics*, *Philosophy* 97 (4) (2022)

Review of Jennifer Wright (ed.) *Humility*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 18 (2021)

In Progress

“Murdoch and Love” (commissioned for *The Routledge Handbook of Love in the History of Philosophy*, eds. Natasha McKeever and Joe Saunders)

“Murdoch and Metaethics” (commissioned for the *Oxford Handbook to Iris Murdoch*, eds. Miles Leeson, Frances White, Rob Hardy and Hannah Altorf)

A co-edited book on the Wartime Quartet (with Clare Mac Cumhaill, Evgenia Mylonaki and Rachael Wiseman) (in progress)

A co-edited book on Iris Murdoch and Classic Literature (with Eva-Maria Düringer) (in progress)

A co-written paper on love (in progress)

Public Philosophy

‘Why love matters most’, an Aeon piece on Murdoch and love: <https://aeon.co/essays/for-iris-murdoch-morality-is-about-love-not-duties-and-rules>

A lecture on Iris Murdoch’s Moral Philosophy for the Timeline Theological Videos (as part of a series on the Wartime Quartet): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qe8Up-aHiZo>

My paper ‘Reconceiving Murdochian Realism’ is discussed on the Ergoblog: <https://ergoblog.org/cathy-mason-reconceiving-murdochian-realism/>

‘The Ethics of Friendship’, radio interview on ‘Mornings with Simi’, CKNW (2023)
<https://globalnews.ca/bc/program/the-simi-sara-show>

“The Moral Minority”, a review of *Metaphysical Animals* and *The Women are up to Something*, for *Literary Review* (2022, <https://literaryreview.co.uk/the-moral-minority>)

“A Murdochian Metaethics”, blogpost for the Iris Murdoch Society (2022, https://irismurdochociety.org.uk/2022/01/10/a_murdochian_metaethics/)

Women in Parenthesis Podcasts. This series of podcasts explore the work of Elizabeth Anscombe, Philippa Foot, Mary Midgley and Iris Murdoch. The second series focuses on Iris Murdoch; I feature in episodes 2.2, 2.3 and 2.5
(<https://open.spotify.com/show/1p37fcZC8jpJl4JOLnvPNU>)

“Iris Murdoch: what the writer and philosopher can teach us about friendship” *The Conversation* (2021, <https://theconversation.com/iris-murdoch-what-the-writer-and-philosopher-can-teach-us-about-friendship-167819>)

Grants, Awards and Scholarships

2025: ‘The Philosophy of Iris Murdoch’ summer school at the University of Vienna I taught on was awarded €8000

2024: ‘Ethics of Attention’ summer school I co-directed was awarded \$2000 from the Institute for Humane Studies

2023 – 2028: key researcher on FWF-funded ‘Knowledge in Crisis’ project

2021 – 2022 (offered to 2024): Leverhulme/Isaac Newton Trust Early Career Fellowship

2016 – 2019: AHRC-Trinity Research Training Support Grant

2016: University of Sheffield Department of Philosophy Graduate prize

(Awarded annually for best performance on the MA)

2015 – 2016: University of Sheffield Postgraduate Support Scheme Scholarship

(Tuition fees and maintenance)

2015: Trinity College Knox Prize

(Awarded to the student/s of Trinity College, Oxford, who perform/s best overall in Finals examinations)

2013 – 2015: Trinity College Woodroffe Exhibition and Scholarship

(Awarded for academic performance in 1st and 2nd years)

Academic Presentations

‘Anscombe and Murdoch on Ethics and Action’, The Somerville Group Conference, Lund University, June 2025

‘Friendship and Self-Knowledge’, Workshop on Love and the Value of Intimate Relationships, LMU Munich, May 2025 (invited speaker)

‘Friendship and Self-Knowledge’, Knowledge in Crisis Science and Society Workshop, CEU, April 2025

‘Iris Murdoch on Love’, Anadolu Philosophy Society, March 2025 (invited speaker)

‘Iris Murdoch’, Ideas of Women in Philosophy workshop, University of Cambridge, March 2025 (invited speaker)

‘Anscombe, Joint Action, and the Guise of the Good’, Sharing Anscombean Intentions, University of Chicago, February 2025 (invited speaker)

‘Love and Deception’, Knowledge in Crisis seminar, University of Vienna, November 2024

‘Self and Self-Transcendence in Murdoch and *Middlemarch*’, Iris Murdoch Society Conference, University of Chichester, August 2024

‘Murdoch and Anscombe on Action’, World Congress of Philosophy, Sapienza University of Rome, August 2024 (panel organiser)

‘Love and Deception’, World Congress of Philosophy, Sapienza University of Rome, August 2024 (invited panellist)

‘Making Sense of Letting Go’, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, January 2023 (invited talk)

‘Making Sense of Letting Go’, CEU POLEMO seminar, January 2023 (invited talk)

‘Murdochian Metaethics’, Research Seminar of the Centre for Ethics, University of Pardubice, November 2023 (invited speaker)

‘Depth Knowledge, Vision and Motivation’, workshop on ‘Attention and Action’ as part of the Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy, September 2023 (invited speaker)

‘Two Conceptions of Moral Life’, Vienna Forum for Analytic Philosophy, University of Vienna, June 2023 (invited keynote speaker)

‘Friendship and Moving on from Wrongdoing’, Interpersonal Relations Workshop, University of Birmingham, June 2023 (invited talk)

‘Murdoch on Truth’, Wartime Quartet: Significance, Legacy, Spirit, University of Durham, June 2023

‘Friendship and Moving on from Wrongdoing’, Personal Relationships and the Normative Landscape, University of Leeds, May 2023 (invited keynote speaker)

‘Friendship and Equality’, CRASSH Network on Illuminating Friendship, University of Cambridge, November 2022 (invited talk)

‘Purpose and Play in Art and Ethics’, CEU Graduate Conference, October 2022 (invited keynote talk)

‘Reconceiving Murdochian Realism’, CEU/LFUI Philosophy Symposium, University of Innsbruck, October 2022

‘Purpose and Play in Art and Ethics’, Interpersonal Relations: Ethics, Aesthetics, and Phenomenology, University of Birmingham, June 2022

‘Epistemic Partiality and Taking One Another Seriously’, Workshop on Love, Intimacy and Relationships, University of Cambridge June 2022

‘Murdochian Realism’, Iris Murdoch Society Conference, University of Chichester, June 2022

‘Epistemic Partiality and Taking One Another Seriously’, Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, May 2022 (invited talk)

‘Hope as a Virtue in a Turbulent World’, Royal Institute of Philosophy Public Philosophy Festival 2021, Cardiff University (postponed to 2022 due to COVID)

‘Iris Murdoch, Privacy, and the Limits of Moral Testimony’, Iris Murdoch Society Conference, July 2021

‘The Epistemic Demands of Friendship’, Conference on the Normativity and Epistemology of Friendship, Trinity College Dublin, September 2020

‘The Epistemic Demands of Friendship’, Oxford Jurisprudence Discussion Group, October 2019 (invited talk)

‘Iris Murdoch and the Epistemic Significance of Love’, The Humane Philosophy Society, September 2019 (invited talk)

‘Humility and Moral Development’, Moral Sciences Club, University of Cambridge, February 2019

Commentator on ‘The Secular Problem of Evil: An Essay in Analytic Existentialism’ by Paul Prescott, Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, University of British Columbia, August 2018

‘Understanding Hope’, Edginton Graduate workshop with Katherine Hawley, Birkbeck College, June 2018

‘Iris Murdoch and the Epistemic Significance of Love’, SWIP Ireland/In Parenthesis Women in Philosophy: Past, Present, Future, University College Dublin, May 2018

‘Understanding Hope’, Philosophy in Progress Graduate Conference, University of Nottingham, January 2018

‘Murdoch on Kant and Utilitarianism’, St Andrews/Stirling Kant Reading Party, July 2017

‘Perceptual Moral Knowledge’, Joint Session, University of Edinburgh, July 2017

Teaching

Central European University (2022 – present)

Undergraduate Courses:

- Introduction to Ethics
- Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art

Graduate Courses:

- Introduction to Ethics
- Virtue Theory
- Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art
- Anscombe, Foot, Midgley and Murdoch
- Moral Psychology
- Philosophy of Love and Friendship

PhD Supervision:

- Aesthetics
- Ethics

University of Cambridge (2017 – 2019, 2021 – 2022)**Undergraduate Supervisor:**

- First year Ethics and Political Philosophy
- First year Metaphysics and Mind
- Second year Metaphysics and Epistemology
- Second year Ethics (also dissertation supervisor)
- Third year Aesthetics (also dissertation supervisor)
- Third year Ethics

Discussion Group Leader:

- First year Ethics and Political Philosophy
- First year Metaphysics and Mind

Lecturer:

- Third Year Ethics of Knowing, Moral Epistemology
- Second Year Helping and Harming

Graduate Supervisor:

- MA students working in ethics

University of Birmingham (2021)**Lecturer**

- Global Bioethics

Seminar Leader

- Global Bioethics
- Social Justice

University of Oxford (2019 – 2021)

Undergraduate Tutor:

- First year Moral Philosophy
- First year seminar on Philosophical Skills
- Finals Theory of Politics
- Finals Ethics
- Finals Practical Ethics
- Finals Aesthetics

Graduate Tutor:

- BPhil supervisor (Metaethics)

PhD Examiner: Nevim Borçin

Summer Schools

Summer School on the Philosophy of Iris Murdoch, Instructor, University of Vienna **2025**

CEU Summer School Co-Director (with Ella Whiteley), the Ethics of Attention, **2024**

Other

Journal Referee: American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, Analytic Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Episteme, Ergo, Erkenntnis, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, European Journal of Philosophy, Hypatia, Inquiry, Journal of Applied Philosophy, The Journal of Ethics, Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Philosophy of Emotion, Journal of Value Inquiry, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophy Compass, Review of Social Economy, Synthese, Theoria, The Philosophical Forum, The Philosophical Quarterly

Book Referee: Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Routledge

Board Member, Women in Parenthesis, **2023 – present**

Executive Committee Member, Society for Applied Philosophy, **2024 – present**

Philpapers leaf editor for 'Iris Murdoch', **2024 – present**

ECAP Programme Committee member, **2023**

Workshop Convenor: (jointly with Lucy McDonald) I ran a workshop in Cambridge titled 'Love, Intimacy and Relationships', **June 2022**

Tutorial Board member, Wadham College **2019 – 2020**

Convenor of the Cambridge Philosophy Graduate Seminar, **2018**

Graduate representative to the Faculty Board and Student-Staff Committee member, University of Cambridge **2018 – 2019**

Secretary of the Moral Sciences Club, University of Cambridge, **2017 – 2018**

Undergraduate Admissions Interviewer, Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, **2017 – 2021**

References

Prof Alison Hills

St John's College, University of Oxford

Prof Paulina Sliwa

University of Vienna

Dr Anil Gomes

Trinity College, University of Oxford

Dr Tom Dougherty

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Prof Rae Langton

Newnham College, Cambridge