

# SIMON RIPPON

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Department of Philosophy  
Central European University  
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**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION** Metaethics, Applied Ethics, Normative Ethics, Practical Reason  
**AREAS OF COMPETENCE** Epistemology, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Language

## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

### **CURRENT**

**Assistant Professor**, Department of Philosophy and School of Public Policy,  
Central European University (since Dec 2012)

### **PREVIOUS**

**Research Fellow**, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, 2009-2012  
**College Lecturer in Philosophy**, Oriel College, University of Oxford, 2010-2012

## **EDUCATION**

**PhD in Philosophy**, Harvard University, 2010  
Dissertation: *An Epistemological Argument for Moral Response-Dependence*  
(Committee: Prof. Christine Korsgaard, Prof. T.M. Scanlon, Mr Derek Parfit)

**AM in Philosophy**, Harvard University, 2003  
Thesis: *On the Role of the Nominal in Complex Demonstratives*

**BA (Hons) in Philosophy and Theology**, Oriel College, University of Oxford, 1997

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Emily and Charles Carrier Prize [awarded for best dissertation or thesis in social, political or moral philosophy], Harvard University, 2010

Fulford Junior Research Fellow, Somerville College, University of Oxford, 2010–2012.

Oxford/Harvard Uehiro Postdoctoral Fellow at the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics. Funded by the Uehiro Foundation, 2009–2011.

Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Graduate Fellowship in Ethics, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 2004–2005

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Rippon, S. “Should Conservative Christians be Allowed to Care for Our Children?”, “Is Half an Abortion Worse than a Whole One?”, and “My Client’s Brain is to Blame”; blog-length articles in David Edmonds, ed., *Philosophers Take on the World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016) [In press].

Rippon, S. “On the Rational Impotence of Urges.” *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy* 10, no. 1 (2014): 70–75.

Rippon, Simon. "Were Kant's Hypothetical Imperatives Wide-Scope Oughts?" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 92, no. 4 (2014): 783–88. doi:10.1080/00048402.2014.915576.

Rippon, S. "Imposing Options on People in Poverty: The Harm of a Live Donor Organ Market." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 40, no. 3 (2014): 145–150. doi:10.1136/medethics-2011-100318. (Published Online First: 28 June, 2012). [feature article]

Rippon, S. "Organ Markets and Harms: A Reply to Dworkin, Radcliffe Richards and Walsh." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 40, no. 3 (2014): 155–156. doi:10.1136/medethics-2012-101083. (Published Online First: 5 November, 2012).

Rippon, S. "How to Reverse the Organ Shortage." *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 29, no. 4 (November 2012): 344–358. doi:10.1111/j.1468-5930.2012.00576.x.

Rippon, S. "In Defense of the Wide-Scope Instrumental Principle." *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy* 5, no. 2 (Feb 2011): 1–21.

Douglas, T., Powell, R., Devolder, K., Stafforini, P., and Rippon, S. "Resisting Sparrow's Sexy Reductio: Selection Principles and the Social Good." *The American Journal of Bioethics* 10, no. 7 (2010): 16–18.

#### **RECENT ACADEMIC RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

"Is There an Ability Intuition about Knowledge?"

Thought Experiments in Epistemology, University of Maribor, April 2015  
European Congress on Analytic Philosophy, Bucharest, September 2014

"Is 'Human Enhancement' a Useful Moral Category?"

European Congress on Analytic Philosophy, Bucharest, September 2014  
Human Enhancement, RIP Workshop, Birmingham, May 2013

"Reflective Equilibrium in Bioethics"

Analytic Bioethics in Europe, University of Ghent, May 2014

"Moral Non-Naturalism, Disagreement and Skepticism"

Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, September 2013

"Rational Decisions about Moral Beliefs"

CRNAP moral epistemology workshop, Princeton, March 2013

"Making them Healthy and Making them Sick: How the Possibilities of Synthetic Biology Shed Light on the Concepts of Mental and Physical Health"

Medical Humanities Seminar, Kings College, London, Nov 2012  
Synthetic Biology for Human Health (SYBHEL) Workshop, The Hague, Feb 2012

"Trolley Problems, Moral Expertise, and Moral Vagueness"

CEU Graduate Philosophy Conference Keynote Address, Oct 2012

"Can Aetiological Accounts of Biological Function Ground Normativity?"

Teleological Organisation Workshop, Carlsberg Akademi, Copenhagen, August 2012

"Dispositions and Valuing the Good"

Special Lecture, University of Oxford, May 2012  
Central European University, Budapest, May 2012

“Imposing Options on People in Poverty: The Harm of a Live Donor Organ Market”  
MCR/SCR Symposium, Somerville College, University of Oxford, May 2012  
Oxford-Melbourne Conference in Human Tissue Storage and Ownership, University  
of Oxford, Nov 2011  
Philosophy Society, University of Reading, Nov 2010

“Evolution and Moral Theory”  
Ian Ramsey Centre Conference on “The Evolution of Morality and the Morality of  
Evolution”, University of Oxford, July 2011

“Chess as a Normative Practice”  
Moral Philosophy Seminar, University of Oxford, Jan 2011

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

### **TALKS TO GENERAL AUDIENCES**

“The Closing of Civil Society and the Failure of Public Philosophy”  
Responding to Chris Stone (Director of Open Society Foundations), CEU Faculty  
Seminar, Oct 2015.

“Propaganda and Migration”  
Contribution to the panel discussion: “Philosophy, the refugee crisis, and how to  
help in Hungary”, CEU, Sept 2015.

“The Value of Free Expression (and Speech not Worth Protecting)”  
Contribution to panel discussion: “L'après Charlie – Reflecting on Freedom(s),  
Religion, and Security”, *Frontiers of Democracy* series, CEU, May 2015.

“Status Quo Bias and the Appeal to Nature Fallacy”  
Contribution to panel discussion on the film “Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human  
Enhancement”, CEU, Nov 2014.

“The Ethics of Climate Change”  
Joint Academic Forum on Climate Change and Responsibility, Oriel College,  
University of Oxford, Feb 2012

“Ethical Doubts about a Market in Live Donor Organs”  
South Place Ethical Society, Conway Hall, London, Nov 2011

“The Three R’s: Rules, Requirements and Reasons”  
Oriel College Philosophy Alumni Day, University of Oxford, June 2010

Panellist for Sale of Human Organs debate  
UCLU Debating Society, London, Dec 2010

### **WRITING IN THE MEDIA**

“Mit diesen Tricks manipuliert Orbán die eigene Bevölkerung”  
*Cicero*, Oct 2015. <http://www.cicero.de/weltbuehne/fremdenfeindliche-propaganda-mit-diesen-tricks-staerkt-orban-den-auslaenderhass-im-volk>

“Viewpoint: Should Organ Donors Get Free Funerals?”  
*BBC News Magazine*, Oct 2011. <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-15253928>

“Should pets have a £15m hospital?”

*BBC News Magazine*, Sept 2009.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/magazine/8246995.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/8246995.stm)

**OTHER**

Various contributions at *Practical Ethics: Ethics in the News* blog

See <http://blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/author/simon-rippon/>

Briefed the UK’s Committee on Standards in Public Life, contributing to their report, *Standards matter: a review of best practice in promoting good behaviour in public life*, London, June 2012.

Contributor to the multi-disciplinary European SYBHEL (Synthetic Biology for Human Health) project and its policy recommendation workshop, London, June 2012.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY**

2015-16: SOPP 5121 – *The Ethics of Government Propaganda* (elective; 2 credit)  
PHIL 6005 – *Issues in Applied Ethics* (elective; 4 credit)

2014-15: PHIL 5650 – *Ethics* (MA core; 2 credit)  
PHIL 5008 – *Moral Epistemology* (elective; 2 credit)  
PHIL 5019 – *The Ethics of Government Propaganda* (elective; 2 credit)  
SOPP 5072 – *Ethics, Politics and Policy* (MPA core; 2 credit; 2 sections)

Summer 2014, CEU Summer University (SUN):

*Moral Epistemology* (Course Director)

*Applied Philosophy* (Course Faculty)

2013-14: PHIL 6005 – *Issues in Applied Ethics* (PhD; 4 credit)  
DPP 5131 – *Ethics and Public Policy* (with Agnes Batory; MAPP core; 2 credit; 2 sections)  
PHIL 5233 – *Philosophy of Social Science* (with Katalin Farkas and 3 others; elective; 2 credit)  
PHIL 5650 – *Ethics* (MA core; 2 credit)  
PHIL 6007 – *Hume’s Moral Theory* (PhD; 2 credit)  
SOPP 5012 – *Ethics: Politics and Policy as a Moral Problem* (MPA core; 2 credit)

2012-13: PHIL 6039 – *Normativity* (PhD; 4 credits)  
PHIL 5650 – *Ethics* (MA core; 2 credit)

**PHD SUPERVISIONS**

Marko Konjovic. (Associate Supervisor). *Just Care: A Liberal Feminist Approach*

**MA SUPERVISIONS**

Abdulhakim Legamo. *Government Propaganda and Autonomy*

Anthony Skoviak. *The Problems of Formally Modelling Virtue Ethics*

Daniel Corsano. *The Voluntaristic State: An Actual Consent Account of Legitimate Authority* (2015)

Adina Covaci. *Is Morality for the Chosen Few? The Problem of Moral Deference* (2015)

Dylan Manson. *Are Associative Political Obligations Possible?* (2014)

Isabel Patkowski. *Does McDowell’s Sensibility Theory Lead to an Unacceptable Relativism?* (2014)

Dimitrios Vasileiou. *An Investigation on the Moral Value of Life* (2013)

### **PRIOR TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**College Lecturer in Philosophy**, Oriel College, University of Oxford, 2010–12  
(Tutoring, and running seminars and revision classes)  
*Ethics* for Final Honour Schools  
*Mill's Utilitarianism* for Preliminary Examinations and Honour Moderations

**Philosophy Writing Tutor**, Harvard University, 2008  
(Tutoring, and running seminars on philosophical writing. Also wrote pamphlet, “A Brief Guide to Writing the Philosophy Paper”, Harvard Writing Center, 2008.)

**Teaching Fellow**, Harvard University, 2001-07  
(Course assistant with responsibility for running discussion seminars, holding office hours, and grading) [# = Head Teaching Fellow]  
*Moral Reasoning about Social Protest* (Moral Reasoning 66) #  
Professor Susanna Siegel, Spring 2007 and Fall 2001  
*Introduction to the Philosophy of Law* (Philosophy 12)  
Professor Douglas Lavin, Spring 2006  
*History of Modern Moral Philosophy* (Philosophy 172)  
Professor Christine M. Korsgaard, Fall 2005  
*Objectivity and Subjectivity in Ethics* (Philosophy 16)  
Professor Niko Kolodny, Spring 2004  
*Issues in Ethics* (Moral Reasoning 33) #  
Professor Thomas M. Scanlon, Fall 2003  
*The Ethical Thought of Hume* (Philosophy 121)  
Professor Christine M. Korsgaard, Spring 2003  
*Contemporary Political Philosophy* (Philosophy 171)  
Mr Andrew Williams, Fall 2002  
*Reason and Morality* (Moral Reasoning 60)  
Professor Melissa Barry, Spring 2002

**Course Instructor**, Harvard University, Spring 2003  
(Sole responsibility for development, instruction, and examination)  
*Undergraduate Seminar: Ethics and the Fact/Value Distinction*

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Journal Refereeing for (since 2011):  
*Mind*, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, *Organon F*, *Philosophical Explorations*, *Dialectica*,  
*Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*,  
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Acta Analytica*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Moral Philosophy and Politics*, *Ethics*.

CEU Ethical Research Committee, member since 2013

CEU Philosophy Department MA Admissions Committee; 2014, 2015, 2016

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

French, German (intermediate level for reading and writing, basic level for speaking)