

# ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RACHEL KATHARINE STERKEN

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## Research Areas

Philosophy of Language, Philosophical Linguistics (Semantics and Pragmatics), Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics, Social/Political Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Social Science, some areas of Developmental and Social Psychology

## Academic Employment

- 2020-Present Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy, Hong Kong University
- 2020-2024 Principle Investigator  
Norwegian Research Council SAMKUL Project (w E. Michaelson and J. Pepp)  
New Frontiers of Speech: Linguistic Meaning and Communication in the Information Age  
Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo
- 2017-2020 Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo
- 2018-Present Co-Director and Researcher  
The Concept Lab  
Norwegian Research Council *Toppforsk* Project (w H. Cappelen, Ø. Linnebo, C. Serck-Hanson)  
Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo
- 2013-2017 Senior Lecturer/Fixed Term Associate Professor/Visiting Researcher  
Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo

## Education

- 2013 University of St Andrews and University of Oslo  
PhD in Philosophy (double-badge)  
Member of Arché Philosophical Research Centre, St Andrews and the CSMN, Oslo.  
Thesis: *Generics in Context: Generalization, Context and Communication*  
Supervisors: Ephraim Glick, Olav Gjelsvik and Brian Weatherson  
Committee: Sarah-Jane Leslie and Jefferey Pelletier
- 2008 University of Amsterdam  
MSc in Logic and Mathematics  
Member of the ILLC.  
Thesis: *Concatenation as a Basis for Q and the Intuitionistic Variant of Nelson's Result*  
Supervisor: Albert Visser
- 2005 University of Toronto  
Honors BSc in Mathematics and Philosophy (*with Distinction*)

## Publications

### Articles

1. "Generics in Context". *Philosopher's Imprint*, 15(21), 2015.

2. "Leslie on Generics". *Philosophical Studies*, 172(9), 2015.
3. "Generics, Content and Cognitive Bias". *Analytic Philosophy*, 56(1), 2015.
4. "Generics, Covert Structure and Logical Form". *Mind and Language*, 31(5), 2016.
5. "The Meaning of Generics". *Philosophy Compass*, 12(8), 2017.
6. "The Structures of Social Structural Explanation". *Disputatio*, special issue on the work of S. Haslanger *Doing Justice to the Social*, 2018.
7. "Linguistic Intervention and Transformative Communicative Disruptions" in A. Burgess, H. Cappelen and D. Plunkett (eds.), *Conceptual Engineering and Conceptual Ethics*, Oxford University Press, 2019.
8. "What's New About Fake News?" (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp), *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, 2019.
9. "Why We Should Keep Talking About Fake News" (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp), *Inquiry*, forthcoming.
10. "Generics and Essentializing" in J. Khoo and R.K. Sterken (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language*, forthcoming.
11. "Introduction: Social and Political Philosophy of Language" (with J. Khoo), *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language*, forthcoming.

#### Editorial Work

12. *Genericity in Philosophy and Linguistics*, co-edited with B. Nickel, special issue of *Inquiry*, 2018.
13. *Semantics and Epistemology in the Digital Age*, co-edited volume with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp, special issue of *Inquiry*, 2020.
14. *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language*, co-edited with J. Khoo, Routledge, forthcoming.

#### Reviews

15. "Nickel's Between Logic and the World: An Integrated Theory of Generics". *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2016.

#### Under Review and In Preparation

1. "Language Signaling High-Proportions, Not Just Generics, Leads to Generalizing and Essentializing". (with E. Hoicka, E. Prouten, L. Whitehead and J. Saul).
2. "Generics and the Metaphysics of Kinds" (commissioned by *Philosophy Compass*, with D. Liebesman)
3. "On Authentic Speech", in preparation.
4. "Generics and Metalinguistic Negotiations", in preparation. (with D. Plunkett and T. Sundell)

#### Selected Recent and Upcoming Presentations

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|------|---|
| 2021 | Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP) Annual Meeting Pre-Conference, Princeton University, <i>Essentialism: What is it and do the cognitive sciences need it?</i> |
|      | Philosophy of Language Workshop, MIT, <i>Generics and Meta-Linguistic Negotiation</i>   |
| 2020 | Cambridge Moral Sciences Club (invited), Department of Philosophy, Cambridge University, <i>Authentic Speech</i>  |

- Generics Workshop, Department of Philosophy, Cambridge University, *Generics and Meta-Linguistic Negotiation*
- Dublin Conference on Underdetermination (keynote), Department of Philosophy, University College Dublin, *Generics and Meta-Linguistic Negotiation*
- 2019 Vienna Workshop on Conceptual Engineering (invited), Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna, *Generics and Meta-Linguistic Negotiation*
- Inaugural APHIL Lecture (invited), Graduate Program, University of Barcelona, *Authentic Speech*
- Ontario Meaning Workshop (invited), Departments of Philosophy, CUNY and Toronto, *Comments on M. Hyska 'On the value of communication'*
- Constructing Social Hierarchy (invited), Department of Philosophy, University of Melbourne, *Speaking Authentically*
- Workshop on Progress in Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, University of Tokyo and Concept Lab, *Comments on S. Goldberg 'Philosophical Championing'*
- Swedish Congress of Philosophy (keynote), *Speaking Authentically*
- British Postgraduate Philosophical Association Masterclass on Conceptual Engineering (invited), *Speaking Authentically*
- Uppsala Higher Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy (invited), *Speaking Authentically*
- Workshop New Frontiers of Speech: Philosophy of Online Speech and Communication, University of Uppsala, *Norms for Speech Acts and the Division of Epistemic Responsibilities between Senders and Receivers* (with G. Bjornsson, J. Pepp and E. Michaelson)
- 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> California Philosophy Workshop, *Comments on G. Johnson's 'The Structure of Bias'*
- Stockholm and Uppsala Workshop on Direct and Indirect Speech (invited), *Amelioration and Meaning Change*
- New York Philosophy of Language Workshop (invited), NYU, *Transformative Communicative Disruptions*
- Sherbrooke Workshop on Generics and Social Practices (refereed), Sherbrooke, *Troubling Aspects of Generic Thought and Talk*
- The Iceland Meaning Workshop (invited), University of Iceland, *Comments on R. McKinney 'Narrative, Ritual and Social Construction'*
- Department of Philosophy colloquium, University of Hong Kong, *Troubling Aspects of Generic Thought and Talk*
- Concept Lab Working Group Meeting, University of Oslo, *Comments on A. Thomasson's 'A Pragmatic Method for Conceptual Ethics'*
- 2017 Bergen Women in Philosophy Workshop (invited), University of Bergen, *Troubling Aspects of Generic Thought and Talk*
- A Generic Workshop, CSLI and Department of Psychology, Stanford University, *Generics in Context*
- California Philosophy Workshop, UCLA, *The Structures of Structural Explanation*
- Semantics and Communicative Effects of Slurs Conference (invited), Arche, University of St Andrews  
*Transformative Communicative Disruptions*
- Author-Meets-Critics Session (invited), American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, *Nickel's Between Logic and the World*
- Ranch Metaphysics Workshop (invited), Tucson, Arizona, *Transformative Communicative Disruptions*
- 2016 Departments of Philosophy and Cognitive Science, Rutgers University (invited)  
What is Cognitive Science Series, *Generics, Quantified Generalizations and Social Prejudice*
- NOMOS Network Meeting, University of Pompeu Fabra (invited)  
Symposia on Haslanger's Doing Justice to the Social, *The Structures of Structural Explanation*
- Arche, University of St Andrews (invited), Meaning and Language Seminar, *Amelioration, Meaning Change and Deception*
- King's College London and Institute of Philosophy (invited), Workshop on Deception  
*Amelioration, Meaning Change and Deception*
- 2015 University of Warwick (refereed), Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society, *Generics, Kind-Predication and Context*

Dartmouth College (invited), Dartmouth Philosophy of Language Workshop, *Generics in Context*

CSMN Colloquium, CSMN, University of Oslo, *Generics and Social Prejudice*

2014 Philosophy of Language and Mind Network, Indexicality in Language and Thought  
*Comments on Corazza's 'The Essentiality of Indexical Thoughts'*

2013 University of Umea (invited), Departments of Philosophy and Linguistics Colloquium  
*Generics, Context-Sensitivity and Logical Form*

University of Umea (invited), Philosophical Society  
*Generics and Prejudice*

École Normale Supérieure (invited), Institut Jean-Nicod Colloquium  
*Generics, Context-Sensitivity and Logical Form*

## Professional Service

Conference Organization                      Genericity in Philosophy and Linguistics Conference  
Harvard University and University of Oslo (with B. Nickel)

Workshop Organization                      Speech Act Engineering  
The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp)

Difficulties with Communicating Online  
The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp)

Meaning Innovation and Meaning Change  
The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with J. Armstrong)

The Practical Implications of Defective Communication  
The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with A. Peet)

New Frontiers of Speech: Philosophy of Online Speech and Communication  
University of Uppsala (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp)

California Philosophy Workshop  
La Kretz Center for Conservation Science, UCLA (with J. Armstrong, A. Burgess and D. Plunkett)

2<sup>nd</sup> California Philosophy Workshop  
La Kretz Center for Conservation Science, UCLA (with J. Armstrong, A. Burgess, D. Locke and D. Plunkett)

A Generic Workshop  
CSLI, Departments of Psychology, Stanford University (with M.H. Tessler)

Refereeing                      *Philosophical Review, Oxford University Press, Nous, Philosopher's Imprint, Journal of Semantics, Ergo, Philosophical Quarterly, Synthese, Thought, Analysis, Inquiry, Mind and Language, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Neuroethics, Journal of Social Theory and Practice, Brill, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy.*

Advisory                      Scientific Advisory Board member, ERC Starting Grant, *The Developing Communicator: Pragmatics, Sense Conventions and Non-Literal Uses of Language*, Dr. Ingrid Falkum.

## Grants and Awards

2020-2024                      Norwegian Research Council SAMKUL Project, New Frontiers of Speech: Linguistic Meaning and Communication in the Information Age, Principle Investigator (9.1 million nok)

2020-2023                      Swedish Research Council, Humanities Project, Researcher (25%), with J. Pepp and E. Michaelson (4 million nok)

2019-2024                      Faculty of Humanities Strategic Priority Areas, Center for Philosophy and the Sciences, Area 3 Researcher (10 million nok).

2018-2021                      Norwegian Research Council *Toppforsk* Project, The Concept Lab, co-Director, with H. Cappelen, C. Serck-Hanssen, Ø. Linnebo (32 million nok).

2018-2019                      Peder Sather Grant, with S. Yalcin (Berkeley), University of California-Berkeley (\$20,000).

2018-2019                      Norwegian Research Council SAMKUL Network Grant, with J. Pepp (Uppsala) and E. Michaelson (KCL) (320 thousand nok).

## Teaching

**As Lecturer:**

Gender and Philosophy (undergraduate, with I. Torsen), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo (2020)

Philosophical Method and Practice (masters), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo (2019)

Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics (masters), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2017)

Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics (advanced undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2015, 2016, 2018)

Philosophy of Language (advanced undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2013, 2017, 2019)

Ethics (undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

History of Philosophy and Science (undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)

**As Seminar Leader:**

Logic (undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2015, 2016)

Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics (undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2017, 2018)

**Supervision and Departmental Service**

PhD Coordinator, Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2019-Present)

MA Supervision: I. Dale, M. Hirstad, M. Strøm-Natvig.

PhD Evaluation Committee: S. Kasin-Viksdal (2018)

MA Evaluation Committee: S. Nygaard (2016), L. Faehn (2018), E. Oygarden (2019), G. Trapp (2020)

PhD Job Market and Postdoctoral Mentoring: S. Kasin-Viksdal (2019-), J. Vecht (2019-), J. Pollock (2018-), K. Pedersen (2019-)

Teaching Mentor: L. Townsend (2017), S. Kasin-Viksdal (2019-)

Hiring Committees for PhD and Postdoctoral Positions (x3) (2017, 2018)

External for Hiring Committee for Associate Professor Position (2019)