

ROBERT (ROBIN) MCKENNA

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EMPLOYMENT

2018-	Lecturer, University of Liverpool
2014-2018	Postdoctoral Fellow and Adjunct Lecturer, University of Vienna
2013-2014	Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Geneva

AFFILIATIONS

2020-2023	Senior Research Associate, University of Johannesburg
2012	Visiting Scholar, Arche Research Centre, University of St Andrews

EDUCATION

2018-2020	Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice, University of Liverpool [This is a teaching qualification which leads to accreditation as a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy]
2010-2013	PhD Philosophy, University of Edinburgh Dissertation: “Epistemic Contextualism: A Normative Approach” Supervised by Duncan Pritchard, Matthew Chrisman and Allan Hazlett
2009-2010	MLitt Philosophy (with Distinction), University of St Andrews
2004-2008	MA Mathematics and Philosophy (1 st Class), University of St Andrews

RESEARCH INTERESTS

AOS	Epistemology (including Applied, Social and Feminist Epistemology)
AOC	Ethics (including Metaethics), Philosophy of Language

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volumes:

2020	<i>Social Epistemology and Relativism</i> . Routledge (co-edited w/Natalie Ashton, Martin Kusch and Katharina Sodoma).
2018	<i>Metaepistemology: Realism and Antirealism</i> . Palgrave MacMillan (co-edited w/Christos Kyriacou).

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

Forthcoming	Assertion, Action and Context. In <i>Synthese</i> (w/M. Hannon). Absolutism, Relativism and Metaepistemology. In <i>Erkenntnis</i> (w/J. Adam Carter).
2020	Skepticism Motivated: On the Skeptical Import of Motivated Reasoning. In <i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i> (w/J. Adam Carter). Situating Feminist Epistemology. In <i>Episteme</i> (w/Natalie Ashton). The Genealogical Method in Epistemology. In <i>Synthese</i> (w/Martin Kusch).

- 2019 Kornblith versus Sosa on Grades of Knowledge. In *Synthese* (w/J. Adam Carter).
- Irrelevant Cultural Influences on Belief. In *Journal of Applied Philosophy*.
- 2018 No Epistemic Trouble for Engineering ‘Woman’. In *Logos & Episteme*.
- 2016 Clifford and the Common Epistemic Norm. In *American Philosophical Quarterly*.
- 2015 Assertion, Complexity and Sincerity. In *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- Revisionary Epistemology. In *Inquiry* (w/Davide Fassio).
- Epistemic Contextualism Defended. In *Synthese*.
- 2014 Disagreeing About ‘Ought’. In *Ethics*.
- Shifting Targets and Disagreements. In *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- Normative Scorekeeping. In *Synthese*.
- 2013 ‘Knowledge’ Ascriptions, Social Roles and Semantics. In *Episteme*.
- Epistemic Contextualism: A Normative Approach. In *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*.
- Why Assertion and Practical Reasoning Are Possibly Not Governed by the Same Epistemic Norm. In *Logos & Episteme*.
- 2011 Interests Contextualism. In *Philosophia*.

Articles in Edited Volumes:

- 2020 Persuasion and Epistemic Paternalism. In *Epistemic Paternalism: Conceptions, Justifications, and Implications*. Eds. G. Axtell & A. Bernal. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Pragmatic Encroachment and Feminist Epistemology. In *Social Epistemology and Relativism*. Eds. N. Ashton, M. Kusch, R. McKenna & Katharina Sodoma. Routledge.
- 2018 The Genealogy of Relativism and Absolutism. In *Metaepistemology: Realism and Antirealism*. Eds. C. Kyriacou & R. McKenna. Palgrave MacMillan (w/Martin Kusch).
- 2017 Pluralism about Knowledge. In *Epistemic Pluralism*. Eds. A. Coliva & N.J. Pedersen. Palgrave MacMillan.

Survey Articles, Critical Notices etc.:

- 2020 The Disappearance of Ignorance. In *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism*. Part of a symposium on Keith DeRose’s *The Appearance of Ignorance*.
- 2019 Critical Notice of J. Adam Carter, Andy Clark, Jesper Kallestrup, Duncan Pritchard and Orestis Palermos (eds.), *Extended Epistemology and Socially Extended Epistemology*. In *Analysis*.
- Relativism and Externalism. In *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Relativism*. Ed. M. Kusch. Routledge (w/J. Adam Carter).
- 2017 Conversational Kinematics. In *Routledge Handbook of Epistemic Contextualism*. Ed. J.J. Ichikawa. Routledge.

2015 Contextualism in Epistemology. In *Analysis*.

For a Popular Audience:

2019 Climate Change: Three Ways to Market the Science to Reach the Sceptics. In *The Conversation* (<http://theconversation.com/climate-change-three-ways-to-market-the-science-to-reach-the-sceptics-128744>)

Book Reviews:

2019 Review of Quassim Cassam's *Vices of the Mind*. In *European Journal of Philosophy*.

2018 Review of Mark McBride, *Basic Knowledge and Conditions on Knowledge*. In *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*.

2017 Review of J. Adam Carter, *Relativism and Metaepistemology*. In *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism*.

Review of John Hyman, *Action, Knowledge and Will*. In *Analysis*.

Review of Krista Lawlor, *Assurance: An Austinian View of Knowledge and Knowledge Claims*. In *Philosophical Quarterly*.

2015 Review of José Zalabardo, *Skepticism and Reliable Belief*. In *Mind*.

Review of Jessica Brown & Mikkel Gerken (eds.), *Knowledge Ascriptions*. In *Philosophical Quarterly*.

2012 Review of Jessica Brown & Herman Cappelen (eds.), *Assertion: New Philosophical Essays*. In *Mind* (w/ Allan Hazlett and Joey Pollock).

2011 Review of Keith DeRose, *The Case for Contextualism: Knowledge, Skepticism, and Context*. In *Philosophical Review* (w/Duncan Pritchard).

WORK IN PROGRESS

Commissioned "Persuasion and Intellectual Autonomy", for an edited volume on epistemic autonomy, to be published by Routledge

"Asymmetrical Irrationality: Are Only Other People Stupid?", for the *Routledge Handbook of Political Epistemology*, to be published by Routledge

"In (Partial) Defence of Moderate Skeptical Invariantism", for an edited volume on skepticism in epistemology, to be published by Routledge

In preparation A monograph on ideal and non-ideal theory in epistemology

A monograph arguing that knowledge is a social kind

Various papers on topics in political and social epistemology

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

(* denotes that the presentation was invited)

"Ideal Theory in Epistemology"

University of Glasgow, March 2020 (*cancelled due to strike action*)*

EXTRA Research Group, University of Bochum, January 2020*

- “Epistemic Asymmetries in Political Cognition”
 Irrationality in Politics, University of Nottingham, June 2019*
 New Directions in Political Epistemology Speaker Series, London, March 2019*
- “Irrelevant Cultural Influences on Belief”
 MANCEPT, University of Manchester, September 2018*
 ‘Fake Knowledge’ Conference, University of Cologne, June 2018
 Social Epistemology Speaker Series, University of Glasgow, March 2018*
 Vienna-Bratislava Workshop, Slovak Academy of Sciences, October 2017*
- “Is Knowledge Socially Constructed?”
 Social Epistemology Network, University of Oslo, May 2018
 Joint Session, Cardiff University, July 2016
 European Epistemology Network, Paris, July 2016
 ‘Relativism’ Workshop, University of Edinburgh, March 2016*
- “The Genealogical Method in Epistemology”
 Social Epistemology Workshop, EHESS, Paris, March 2018*
- “Is Knowledge a Natural Kind?”
 ‘New Trends in Epistemology’ Workshop, University of Hamburg, October 2017*
- “Relativism and Normativity”
 European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Munich, August 2017
- “The Metaphysical Status of Knowledge”
 Joint Session, University of Edinburgh, July 2017
- “Assertion, Action and Context”
 Epistemic Norms Conference, KU Leuven, November 2015
 Joint Session, University of Warwick, July 2015
- “Revisionary Epistemology” (w/Davide Fassio)
 University of Hradec Králové, April 2015*
 Epistemology Research Group, University of Edinburgh, October 2014*
- “Function First Epistemology”
 European Epistemology Network, Autonomous University of Madrid, June 2014

TEACHING

(denotes that I designed the module)*

University of Liverpool:

Graduate:

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| 2020-2021 | “Mind, Language and Metaphysics” (module co-ordinator) |
| 2019-2020 | “Mind, Language and Metaphysics” (module co-ordinator) |
| 2018-2019 | “Mind, Language and Metaphysics” (as seminar leader) |

Undergraduate:

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| 2020-2021 | “Knowledge and Epistemic Justice” (module co-ordinator) |
| | “Philosophical Insights” (module co-ordinator) |
| | “Philosophical Problem-Solving” (as seminar leader) |
| 2019-2020 | “Knowledge and Epistemic Justice” (module co-ordinator) |
| | “Philosophical Insights” (module co-ordinator)* |

“Philosophical Problem-Solving” (as seminar leader)
 “Mind, Knowledge and Reality” (as seminar leader)
 “Digital Inquiry Project” (as supervisor)
 2018-2019 “Reading and Writing Theoretical Philosophy” (module co-ordinator)
 “Knowledge and Epistemic Justice” (module co-ordinator)
 “Reading and Writing Practical Philosophy” (as seminar leader)

University of Vienna:

2017-2018 “Free Will and Moral Responsibility” (module co-ordinator)*
 “Knowledge in Society” (module co-ordinator)*
 2016-2017 “Social Epistemology” (module co-ordinator)*
 2015-2016 “Moral Anti-Realism” (module co-ordinator)*

University of Edinburgh:

2012-2013 “Philosophy of Language” (co-taught with Mike Ridge)
 “Greats: From Plato to the Enlightenment” (as seminar leader)

Supervision:

Liverpool: Masters thesis on epistemic injustice in museums
 Bachelor theses on conspiracy theories, pornography, political ignorance, disability, terrorism and feminist ethics
 Vienna: Masters student essay on testimony
 Bachelor theses on moral progress and Darwall’s ‘second-person standpoint’

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2019	BA/Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant (~£10000) Funding for a workshop on “Epistemic Vices: Individual and Collective” from the University of Liverpool (~£2000)
2017	Humboldt Research Fellowship (~€70000; turned down) Funding for a conference on ‘Political Epistemology’ from the Society for Applied Philosophy (£2288), Mind (£2000) and the Aristotelian Society (£420.57)
2014	‘Juan de la Cierva’ Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Barcelona (~€48000; turned down)
2010-2013	Carnegie Trust Doctoral Scholarship (~£45000 plus tuition) AHRC Doctoral Studentship (~£39000 plus tuition; turned down)
2011-2012	Various research support grants from the University of Edinburgh (£1400)
Total	~£200000

OUTREACH

2020	Interviewed about my research on feminist epistemology for the Podcast “Journal Entries” (w/ Natalie Ashton)
2018	Speaker at “Post-Truth Politics in the Pub”, which was part of the “Being Human” festival in London

2017 Participant in a public seminar on ‘The Politics of Human Nature and Cultural Differences’, which was part of a series of seminars on ‘Asylum, Refugees and Human Rights’ at the University of Vienna

SERVICE

2020- Chief Editor of the Philos-L mailing list

2018- Departmental Health and Safety Officer

2018- On the steering committee of the Political Epistemology Network

2017-2018 Founding member of the European Early Career Philosophers Network.

2013-2015 On the editorial committee of *Dialectica*

2012-2013 Events Co-ordinator for the British Postgraduate Philosophy Association

Events Co-organiser of a workshop on “Epistemic Vices”, Liverpool, 2019
Co-organiser of a conference on “Political Epistemology”, London, 2018

Referee *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (4x), Bloomsbury, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, de Gruyter, *Dialectica* (2x), *Discipline Filosofiche*, *Episteme* (2x), *Erkenntnis* (6x), *Ergo*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*, *Grazer Philosophische Studien* (2x), *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* (3x), *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *Journal of Applied Philosophy* (2x), *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Mind* (2x), Oxford University Press (2x), *Noûs*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (2x), *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Quarterly* (5x), *Ratio*, *Res Philosophica*, *Synthese* (12x), *Theoria*

REFEREES

Available on request