

## **Dr Bronwyn Finnigan**

BA Hons. (Melbourne), MA (Sydney), PhD (Auckland)

Senior Lecturer and ARC Early Career Research Fellow  
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### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

#### **Australian National University**

Senior Lecturer, School of Philosophy (January 2018 – current)  
ARC Early Career Research Fellow (June 2018 – current)  
Lecturer, School of Philosophy (September 2014 – 2017)

#### **Marquette University**

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy (2012-2014)

#### **University of Auckland**

Professional Teaching Fellow, Department of Philosophy (2011-2012)  
Senior Tutor/Graduate Teaching Fellow, Department of Philosophy (2006-2009)

### **EDUCATION**

PhD in Philosophy (University of Auckland, New Zealand, 2012)

Thesis: *The Practical Intellect: Investigating Non-Deliberative Ethical Action*

Advisors: John Bishop and Rosalind Hursthouse

Examiners: Garrett Cullity and John McDowell

MA in Philosophy (University of Sydney, Australia, 2005) Advisor: Caroline West

BA (Hons.) in Philosophy (University of Melbourne, Australia, 2002) Advisor: Karen Jones

### **FELLOWSHIPS and VISITING POSITIONS**

Invited Faculty, Mind and Life Summer Research Institute, Garrison, NY, USA (Summer 2015)

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, University of Kyoto (Summer 2014)

Visiting Fellow, Department of Philosophy, Harvard University, USA (Spring 2009)

Visiting Student, Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University, Sweden (Fall 2008)

Visiting Student, Department of Philosophy, University of Kyoto, Japan (Nov 2007)

Invited Student, Department of Oriental Literatures and Languages, University of  
Lausanne, Switzerland (Spring 2004)

Visiting Student, Department of Philosophy, Smith College, USA (Spring 2003)

Research Assistant, Department of Philosophy, Macquarie University, Australia (2003-2004)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Co-Authored Books

- (2011) The Cowherds, [\*Moonshadows: Conventional Truth and Buddhist Philosophy\*](#), (Oxford) (= Georges Dreyfus, Bronwyn Finnigan, Jay Garfield, Guy Newland, Graham Priest, Mark Siderits, Koji Tanaka, Sonam Thackchoe, Tom Tillemans, Jan Westerhoff)

### Articles, Chapters and Proceedings

- (in press) [Karma, Moral Responsibility and Buddhist Ethics](#) in *Oxford Handbook of Moral Psychology*, John Doris & Manuel Vargas (eds.) (Oxford)
- (2021) [The Paradox of Fear in Classical Indian Buddhism](#), *Journal of Indian Philosophy* (online version)
- (2020) [On being a good friend to Buddhist philosophy](#), in *APA Newsletter on Asian and American Philosophers and Philosophies*, 20 (2) (Special Issue on Evan Thompson's *Why I Am Not a Buddhist*) Minh Nguyen and Yarran Hominh (eds.), pp.15-18
- (2019) [Śāntideva and the moral psychology of fear](#), in *Readings of the Bodhicaryāvatāra*, J. Gold & D. Duckworth (eds.) Columbia University Press, pp.221-234
- (2018) [Is consciousness reflexively self-aware? A study in conventional truth and Buddhist philosophy of mind](#), *Ratio* (31) pp.389-401
- (2018) [Madhyamaka Ethics](#), in *Oxford Handbook of Buddhist Ethics*, D. Cozort & M. Shields (eds.) (Oxford)
- (2018) [Can We Reinvent Ourselves?](#) *IAI News*, online article
- (2017) [Buddhism and Animal Ethics](#), *Philosophy Compass*, 12(7):1-12
- (2017) [Buddhist Idealism](#), in *Idealism: Contemporary Issues in Metaphysics*, K. Pearce & T. Goldschmidt (eds.) (Oxford) pp.178-199
- (2017) [The Nature of a Buddhist Path](#), in *A Mirror is for Reflection: Understanding Buddhist Ethics*, J.H. Davis (ed.) (Oxford) pp.33-52
- (2015) [Phronēsis in Aristotle: Reconciling Deliberation and Spontaneity](#), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 91(3): pp.674-697
- (2015) [Madhyamaka Buddhist Meta-ethics: The justificatory grounds of moral judgements](#), *Philosophy East and West*, 69(3): pp.65-785
- (2014) [Examining the Bodhisattva's Brain](#), *Zygon*, 49(1): pp.231-241
- (2010-11) [Buddhist Meta-Ethics](#), *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*, 33 (1-2): pp.267-297
- (2011) [How Can a Buddha Come to Act? The Possibility of a Buddhist Account of Ethical Agency](#), *Philosophy East and West*, 61(1): pp.134-159
- (2011) [A Buddhist Account of Ethical Agency Revisited: A Reply to Garfield and Hanson](#), *Philosophy East and West*, 61(1): pp.183-194
- (2011) Carnap's Pragmatism and the Two Truths (co-authored with Koji Tanaka), in *Moonshadows*, The Cowherds (Oxford), pp.181-188
- (2011) Ethics for Mādhyamikas (co-authored with Koji Tanaka), in *Moonshadows*, The Cowherds, (Oxford), pp.221-232
- (2010) Don't Think, Just Act (co-authored with Koji Tanaka), in *Philosophy and the Martial Arts*, G. Priest & D. Young (eds.) (Open Court) pp. 25-32
- (2006) [The Dialectical Method in Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics](#), *Phronimon*, 7(2): 1-15

### Reviews

- (2015) Book Review of Dan Arnold's '*Brains, Buddhas and Believing: The Problem of Intentionality in Classical Buddhist and Cognitive Scientific Philosophy of Mind*' in *Journal of Religion* 95(1): 143-46

**MEDIA ENGAGEMENT**

- (2018) [Buddhism and the Moral Status of Animals](#) (reprint of ‘Buddhism and Animal Ethics’) on [ABC Religion & Ethics website](#)
- (2016) Interviewee for Episodes 9 ([Religious Diversity](#)) & 11 ([Animals](#)) in TV series [Ethics Matters](#), hosted by Dan Halliday (aired on ABC TV3, Australia)

**GRANTS**

- 2019 ANU School of Philosophy Diversity Grant
- 2019 ANU College of Arts and Sciences Conference Grant
- 2017 ARC Discovery Early Career Research Award (Project: [Buddhist Meta-Ethics and Moral Psychology](#))
- 2015 ANU College of Arts and Sciences Internal Grants Scheme
- 2014 ANU Early Career Researcher Travel Grant
- 2013 Summer Faculty Fellowship, Graduate School, Marquette University  
Interdisciplinary Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, Marquette University
- 2008 New Zealand Postgraduate Study Abroad Award, Education New Zealand  
Doctoral Research Fund, Faculty of Arts, University of Auckland  
Performance Based Research Fund, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Auckland  
Elizabeth De Boer Fund, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2007 Graduate Research Fund, University of Auckland
- 2006-2009 Doctoral Scholarship, University of Auckland  
Australian Postgraduate Award (awarded but declined)
- 2004 Elizabeth De Boer Fund, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

**AWARDS AND HONORARIA**

- 2019 Shortlisted for the [Annette Baier Prize](#) (for article: [Is consciousness reflexively self-aware: A study in conventional truth and Buddhist philosophy of mind](#))
- 2018 ANU Vice Chancellor Award for Excellence in Education
- 2017 ANU College of Arts and Sciences Award for Excellence in Education
- 2017 Shortlisted for the [Annette Baier Prize](#) (for article: [The Nature of a Buddhist Path](#))  
Shortlisted to give the ‘The Last Lecture’ at ANU (2015, 2016, 2017)
- 2016 ANU College of Arts and Science Excellence in Education Awards: Highly Commended
- 2016 Shortlisted for the [Annette Baier Prize](#) (for article: [Phronēsis in Aristotle: Reconciling Deliberation and Spontaneity](#))
- 2012 Faculty Development Award, Graduate School, Marquette University
- 2009 Honorarium, Chicago Buddhist Studies Forum, University of Chicago  
Honorarium, Five Colleges Buddhist Studies Forum, Smith College

**CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS (CHAIR AND ORGANISER)**

- 2022 *Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) Annual Conference* July 2022 (currently being organised), ANU, Australia
- 2016 *Reflexivity in Consciousness: A Cross-Cultural Workshop* (Joint with NYU Global Institute of Advanced Studies), ANU, Australia
- 2014 *Subjectivity and Self-Awareness in Consciousness: Buddhist and Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives Workshop*, Marquette University, USA

## CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP & COLLOQUIA PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 *Buddhist Ethics*  
 – ANU Student Association (ANUSA), ANU, Australia
- 2019 *Buddhism and the Self-Awareness Thesis*  
 – Philosophical Perspectives on the Self Workshop, Monash University, Australia  
 – Auckland Philosophy Research Seminar, University of Auckland, New Zealand
- 2018 *Is Consciousness Reflexively Self-Aware?'*  
 – Keynote, Australasian Philosophy Postgraduate Conference, Monash University, Australia
- Conceptuality and mathematical thinking in Aristotle: an intervention into the McDowell-Dreyfus debate'*  
 – Thursday Seminar, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, Melbourne University, Australia  
 – Department of Philosophy, Kyoto University, Japan  
 – Tokyo Forum for Analytic Philosophy, Tokyo University, Japan
- 'It's all relative!'" The value of philosophy in a 'post-truth' world*  
 – Open Day Presentation, ANU, Australia
- What to do when things go wrong*  
 – ANU NECTAR Early Career Academic Forum, Australia
- Response to Arnold: "Perception and the Perceptible: Candrakīrti on the Difference an Adjective Makes"*  
 – Conceptuality and Nonconceptuality in Buddhist Philosophy Workshop, University of California Berkeley, USA
- 2017 *The Conventional Truth of the Buddhist Self Awareness Thesis*  
 – Philosophy of Mind Work in Progress Group, School of Philosophy, ANU, Australia
- Ahimsā and the moral status of animals*  
 – Department of Philosophy Seminar, University of Wollongong, Australia
- Do you have a self?*  
 – Philosophy Forum, University of Wollongong, Australia
- Conceptuality and craving in Buddhism: Response to Loy*  
 – Max Charlesworth 2nd Biennial Lecture, Deakin University, Australia
- Comments on Albahari's Perennial Idealism*  
 – Idealism & the Mind-Body Problem Workshop, NYU-Shanghai, China
- The moral psychology of fear and trust*  
 – Readings of the Bodhicaryāvatāra Conference, Princeton University, USA
- 2016 *Closing Reflections: Reflexive Theories of Consciousness: A Cross-Cultural Workshop'*  
 – Workshop Organiser & Chair, ANU (co-sponsored with NYU Global Institute for Advanced Studies), Australia
- Know-how and the practical mode of presenting a proposition*  
 – PHILSOC, School of Philosophy, ANU, Australia
- Madhyamaka Ethics*  
 – Australasian Moral Philosophy Workshop, ANU Kioloa Campus, Australia  
 – Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies (AABS) Seminar, U Sydney, Australia

- What is a Good Life? Philosophy and why it is good for you*
- HASS Showcase Presentation (to high school students in ACT/NSW region)
- 2015 *Uncovering Mental States: a study in Buddhist Philosophy of Mind'*
- Contemporary Buddhist Philosophy Symposium, University of British Columbia, Canada
- Inciting Fear to Achieve Fearlessness: a puzzle in Buddhist moral philosophy*
- Plenary Lecture, Mind and Life Summer Research Institute, Garrison NY, USA
  - Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) Conference, Macquarie University, Australia
  - Colloquium, Department of Philosophy, University of British Columbia, Canada
- Contemplative Neuroscience and the Problem of Informational Content'*
- Australasian Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy (ASACP) Conference, Monash University, Australia
- Discovering Fear*
- Seminar, Mind and Life Summer Research Institute, Garrison NY, USA
- Should we be Pluralists about Buddhist Ethics?*
- SOPHIS Seminar, Monash University, Australia
  - Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia USA
  - MSPT Seminar, School of Philosophy, ANU, Australia
- The Nature of a Buddhist Path: Is there a single approach to Buddhist Ethics?*
- Pacific APA, Vancouver, Canada
- 2014 *Phronēsis in Aristotle: Reconciling Deliberation and Spontaneity*
- ANU Colloquium Series, School of Philosophy, ANU, Australia
- Know-how and the practical mode of presenting a proposition*
- Department of Philosophy, Kyoto University, Japan
- 2013 *Know-how and the practical mode of presenting a proposition*
- New Zealand Philosophy Conference, University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Peacemaking and Nonviolence in the Buddhist Tradition: Dr Eleanor Rosche*
- Chair, Peacemaking and Non-Violence in World Religions Symposium, Marquette University, USA
- Owen Flanagan: The Bodhisattva's Brain, Author-meets-Critics*
- Pacific APA, San Francisco, USA
- Phronēsis in Aristotle: Reconciling Deliberation and Spontaneity*
- Midwest Annual Aristotle and Aristotelianism Conference, Marquette University, USA
  - Melbourne Ancient Philosophy Colloquium, University of Melbourne, Australia
  - Department of Philosophy, Auckland University, New Zealand
- The McDowell-Dreyfus Debate: Disputing the nature and function of phronēsis*
- Department of Philosophy, Marquette University, USA
- 2012 *The McDowell-Dreyfus Debate: Disputing the nature and function of phronēsis*
- Eastern APA, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
  - Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, USA
- How can a Buddha come to Act? A Debate Revisited*

- Department of Philosophy, Union College, USA
- Department of Philosophy, Marquette University, USA

*Madhyamaka Buddhist Ethics: Comments on Asher Walden*

- Eastern APA, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

*Buddhist Ideas on Conventional Truth and their Presentation in Moonshadows*

- Commentator, Eastern APA, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

2011 *Rationality in Action*

- Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) Conference, Dunedin, New Zealand

2009 *Buddhist Meta-Ethics*

- Department of Philosophy, University of Waikato, New Zealand
- Chicago Buddhist Studies Forum, University of Chicago, USA
- Five Colleges Buddhist Studies Forum. Smith College, USA

*Humeans and Kantians in Early Modern India? Desire, Motivation and Action in Sanskrit Philosophy, Comments with Parimal Patil*

- Columbia Forum for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University, USA

*What is a Moral Motive? Comments on Michael Schulman 'How to Become Moral: The Sources of Moral Motivation'*

- Columbia Forum for Comparative Philosophy and University Seminar on Ethics, Moral Education and Society, Columbia University, USA

2008 *Ethics for Madhyāmikas*

- Analytical Philosophers and Asianists on Buddhism: What is Conventional Truth and What's True about it? Workshop, Centre for Buddhist Studies at Ranjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu University, Nepal

*Normativity and Rational Action*

- Acting for a Reason: Normativity and Mentality in a World of Causality Workshop, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Sweden

*Does Intentional Action require Practical Reasoning?*

- Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) Conference, Melbourne, Australia

*How Can a Buddha Come to Act? The Possibility of a Buddhist Account of Ethical Agency'*

- Society of Asian and Comparative Philosophy Conference, University of Melbourne, Australia
- XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Emory University, USA
- Analytic Philosophy and Asian Thought International Conference, University of Kyoto, Japan
- Department of Philosophy, University of Auckland, New Zealand

2007 *Conventional Truth*

- Workshop Chair, University of Melbourne, Australia

*Non-Deliberative Ethical Agency*

- Department of Philosophy, University of Kyoto, Japan

*Moral Rationality, McDowell and Particularism*

- Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) Conference, Armidale, Australia
- Department of Philosophy, University of Auckland, New Zealand

2006 *Metaphysics and Dialectical Reasoning in Aristotle's Ethics*

- New Zealand Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, Wellington, New Zealand
- Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) Conference, Canberra, Australia

2005 *A Challenge to the Ontological Commitments of Parfit's Reductionism*,

- Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) Conference, Sydney, Australia

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

### **Australian National University**

- Scholarship Assessor, Tuckwell Scholarship (2020)
- Deputy Head & Undergraduate Convener (January 2015 – 2017)
- Acting Head of School (March 2-4, 2015)
- Chair, Student Representative Meeting (2015-2017)
- Chair, Course Evaluation Meeting (2015-2017)
- School Representative, College of Arts and Sciences Education Committee (2017)
- School Representative, College of Arts and Sciences Coursework Committee (2015-2016)
- Member, Post-Doctorate Search Committee (2014)

### **Marquette University**

- Convenor, Brown-Bag Work-in-Progress Series (2013)
- Graduate Committee Member (2012-2014)
- Professional teaching development seminar (2012, 2013)
- Contemplative Community Steering Committee Member (2013-2014)

### **Auckland University**

- Chair and Convenor, Auckland Philosophy Graduate Seminars (2007)

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Editorial Board Member, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (2021 – present)
- Manuscript Reviewer, Hackett Publishing, Oxford University Press
- Advisor to ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies [BSSS] (May 2017)
- Master's Thesis Assessor, Monash University (2021)
- External PhD Examiner, Trevor Smith, Department of Philosophy (Marquette, 2015)

## **POSTGRADUATE ADVISING**

### **Australian National University**

- Szymon Bogacz (in progress; committee), PhD candidate
- Eric Lamas (in progress; committee), PhD candidate
- Michael Yuen (in progress; committee), PhD candidate
- Theodore Murray (in progress; committee), MA candidate

## **COURSES TAUGHT AND CONVENEED**

### **Australian National University**

- PHIL 1004 Fundamental Ideas in Philosophy: An Introduction (UG: 2015, 2016, 2017)
- PHIL 2012 Buddhist Philosophy (UG: 2015, 2020)
- PHIL 2061 Philosophy of Mind (UG: 2014)
- PHIL 2064 Theories of Ethics (UG: 2014)
- PHIL 3062 Advanced Philosophical Topics: comparative philosophy of the self (UG: 2016)
- PHIL 3062 Advanced Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy: Kantian Ethics (UG: 2017)

### **Kyoto University, Japan**

- Semantics and Meta-Ethics for Mādyamikas and Pramāṇavādins  
(Asian Philosophy Graduate Summer Course, co-taught with Koji Tanaka, 2014)

### **Marquette University, USA**

- PHIL 6430 Theories of Knowledge: Practical Knowledge and Know-How (Graduate: 2013)
- PHIL 3450 Epistemology: Empiricism and Scientific Knowledge (UG: 2013, 2014)
- PHIL 3380 Asian Philosophy: Indian Buddhist Philosophy (UG: 2013)
- PHIL 2310 Theories of Ethics (UG: 2012, 2013, 2014)

### **University of Auckland, New Zealand**

- PHIL 211 Ethical Theory: Ethical Naturalism - Hume, Kant and Foot (UG: 2011)
- PHIL 224/344 Buddhist Philosophy (UG: co-taught with Koji Tanaka, 2009)
- PHIL 102 Introduction to Ethics (UG: 2008)

## **TEACHING ASSISTANT (TUTOR) AND GUEST LECTURES**

### **University of Auckland, New Zealand**

- PHIL 202/322 Philosophy of Language (UG: 2012) Fred Kroon & Jonathon McKeown Green
- PHIL 211 Ethical Theory: Welfare and the Good Life (UG: 2007) Folke Tersman
- PHIL 214 Classical Chinese Philosophy (UG: 2007) Jerry Seligman
- PHIL 746 Philosophy of Action (Graduate Guest Lecture: 2008)

### **University of Melbourne, Australia**

- Buddhist Philosophy (UG Guest Lecturer: 2002) Len O'Neill