

Charlie Blunden

Curriculum Vitae

Postdoctoral Researcher
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[PhilPeople](#)
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Research areas

AOS: Philosophy of moral progress and moral change, Political and social philosophy

AOC: Normative ethics, Metaethics, Business ethics

Academic positions

2025-	Senior Assistant (Postdoctoral Researcher), Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb
2020-2024	PhD Researcher, Utrecht University

Education

2020-2025	PhD in Philosophy Utrecht University Dissertation: <i>Moral Prosperity: Basic, Instrumental, and Vindicated Moral Progress</i> (Available online.) Supervisors: Hanno Sauer, Joel Anderson Committee: Daniel Cohnitz, Ibo van de Poel, Annemarie Kalis, Joseph Heath, Nicholas Smyth
2017-2019	Research Master (MA) in Philosophy Utrecht University Graduated <i>cum laude</i> Master's Thesis: 'Brace Yourself: Prospects and Problems for Improving the Mental Environment'
2017-2018	Graduate Honours Interdisciplinary Seminars (Honours Degree) Utrecht University Diploma received: Highest score for final project
2013-2016	BA in Philosophy University of Reading Graduated <i>cum laude</i>

Publications

- Forthcoming* (with Hanno Sauer) “Perfect Strangers: Moral Progress, Cultural Evolution, and the Inclusivist Anomaly.” *Philosophical Explorations*. Accepted for publication. Pre-print:
<https://philpapers.org/go.pl?aid=BLUPSM>
- “A Vindication of the Value of ‘Choice.’” *Inquiry*, online first.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2025.2549731>
- (with Paul Rehren) “The ‘Who,’ ‘What,’ and ‘When’ of Moral Progress.” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. Accepted for publication. Pre-print:
<https://philpapers.org/go.pl?aid=REHTWW>
- 2025 (with Jon Rueda and Viktor Ivanković) “A cautiously optimistic view on large language model use against linguistic injustice in academia.” *Nature Machine Intelligence, Correspondence*.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42256-025-01138-z>
- “It’s Only Natural! Moral Progress through Denaturalization.” *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, 29 (2): 219-48.
<https://doi.org/10.26556/jesp.v29i2.3316>
- (with Benedict Lane) “Vindicating Universalism: Pragmatic Genealogy and Moral Progress.” *European Journal of Philosophy*, 33 (1): 249-268. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ejop.12975>
- (with Jeroen Hopster, Chirag Arora, Cecilie Eriksen, Lily Frank, Julia Hermann, Michael Klenk, Elizabeth O’Neill, and Steffen Steinert) “Pistols, Pills, Pork and Ploughs: The Structure of Technomoral Revolutions.” *Inquiry*, 68 (2): 264-96.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2022.2090434>
- 2024 (with Paul Rehren) “Let’s not get ahead of ourselves: we have no idea if moral reasoning causes moral progress.” *Philosophical Explorations*, 27 (3): 351-369.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13869795.2024.2363876>
- 2023 (with Paul Rehren and Hanno Sauer) “Implicit Cognition, Dual Process Theory, and Moral Judgment.” pp. 105-15 in J. Robert Thompson (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy and Implicit Cognition*, Routledge: Abingdon.
- 2022 (with Michael Klenk, Elizabeth O’Neill, Chirag Arora, Jeroen Hopster, Cecilie Eriksen, and Lily Frank) “Recent Work on Moral Revolutions.” *Analysis Reviews*, 82 (2): 354-366.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/analys/anac017>

“Between Market Failures and Justice Failures: Trade-Offs Between Efficiency and Equality in Business Ethics.” *Journal of Business Ethics*, 178 (3): 647-660. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-021-04767-7>

2021 (with Hanno Sauer, Cecilie Eriksen, and Paul Rehren) “Moral progress: Recent developments.” *Philosophy Compass*, 16 (10): 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1111/phc3.12769>

2019 “Libertarianism and collective action: is there a libertarian case for mandatory vaccination?” *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 45: 71-74. <https://doi.org/10.1136/medethics-2018-104752>

Papers in progress / under review

A paper on land value taxes — In progress.

A paper on the intersections between cultural evolutionary theory and Wittgensteinian moral epistemology — In progress.

A paper on innovation and the collective brain hypothesis, arguing that particular institutional designs are required for an innovative collective brain — In progress.

Academic presentations

2026 (Invited) ‘It’s Only Natural! Moral Progress through Denaturalization.’
The Sciences of Ethics and Political Philosophy Reading Group,
Online, April 15th

‘Why Not Georgism? A Pluralistic Case for Land Value Taxation.’
Justice in the XXI Century: New Challenges, New Directions of
Inquiry, Catania, Feb 25th

2025 ‘A Vindication of the Value of ‘Choice.’’
Colloquium, Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb, Dec 10th

‘The Fact of *Progress*? Pluralism, Liberalism, and Cooperation.’
Zagreb Applied Ethics Conference, Sept 25th

2024 ‘Vindication and the Value of ‘Choice.’’
Rethinking Ethics – Reimagining Technology ESDiT / 4.TU
Ethics Conference, University of Twente, Oct 3rd

(with Benedict Lane) ‘Vindicating Universalism: Pragmatic
Genealogy and Moral Progress.’
Ethics Institute Colloquium, Utrecht University, February 27th

- 2023 (with Benedict Lane) 'Vindicating Universalism: Pragmatic Genealogy and Moral Progress.'
MANCEPT Workshop, Causal Histories: The Role of Genealogical Inquiry in Moral, Social and Political Philosophy. University of Manchester, Sept 12th
- 'It's Only Natural! Moral Progress Through Denaturalisation.'
SOPhiA Conference, University of Salzburg, Sept 8th
- (with Paul Rehren) 'Doing Empirical Philosophy: Two Anecdotes and Some General Lessons.'
Ethics of Socially Disruptive Technologies (ESDiT) Workshop on Engaging with Empirical Studies as a Philosopher, May 24th
- 'The De-Naturalisation Mechanism: Conventionality, Status-Quo Bias, and Moral Progress.'
IV Geneva Graduate Conference in Political Philosophy (GECOPOL), University of Geneva, February 16th-17th
- (with Paul Rehren) 'Can Moral Reasoning Explain Moral Progress?'
Ethics Institute Colloquium, Utrecht University, January 24th
- 2022 'There Is Some Alternative: Conventionality, Status-Quo Bias, and Moral Progress.'
History of Philosophy Colloquium, Utrecht University, February 17th
- 2021 'Brace Yourself: Can We Improve the Cognitive Environment of Democratic Politics?'
Amsterdam Graduate Conference in Political Theory, University of Amsterdam, Dec 6th
- (with Paul Rehren) 'How Do We Know If It's Moral Progress?'
OZSW Conference, University of Tilburg, Dec 3rd
- 'Brace Yourself: Can We Improve the Cognitive Environment of Democratic Politics?'
OZSW Conference, University of Tilburg, Dec 3rd
- (with Paul Rehren, Cecilie Eriksen, & Hanno Sauer) 'How Do We Know If It's Moral Progress?'
Ethics Institute Colloquium, Utrecht University, June 8th
- 2018 'Libertarianism and collective action: is there a libertarian case for mandatory vaccination?'
SOPhiA Conference, University of Salzburg, Sept 14th
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Public presentations

2018 'Evolution, Realism, and Ethics: Assessing the Darwinian Dilemma'
Presented to the Manchester Philosophy Group, Nov 6th

Teaching

Utrecht University

2024 Ethical and Political Implications of Human Nature
Weekly seminar (BA level), Sole responsibility for seminar,
Responsibility for grading mid-term exams and final papers, ~20
students

2022 Ethical and Political Implications of Human Nature
Weekly seminar (BA level), Sole responsibility for seminar,
Responsibility for grading mid-term exams and final papers, ~20
students

2021/22 Knowledge, Ignorance and Democracy
Weekly seminar (MA level), Teaching assistant, ~8 students

Service

Editor for 'Moral Progress' category on *PhilPapers*
(<https://philpapers.org/browse/moral-progress>)

Peer review for:

Social Theory and Practice (2023)
Philosophical Psychology (2024)
Philosophical Studies (2024, 2025)
Mind and Society (2025)
Analysis (2025)

Administrative experience

Utrecht University

2022/23 'Back to the Office' Workgroup
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, workgroup
concerned with accommodating the enlarged department in the
department building when increased numbers of staff started
working at the office as COVID restrictions were relaxed, and
with preparing the department for a move to temporary
accommodation during future renovations.

I was the representative of PhDs and Postdocs. My main task was to gather opinions and feedback from this group and relay it to the workgroup.

Outreach

2021 Vindicating Moral Progress? *Blog of the APA*. Published: Sept 6th, <https://blog.apaonline.org/2021/09/06/vindicating-moral-progress/>

Fellowships

2017-2019 *Bright Minds Fellowship*
Utrecht University and the Utrecht University Fund

Internships

2018-2019 Book Project: Human Rights in Western and Chinese traditions
Reviewing chapters of a forthcoming academic book, checking spelling, grammar, and argument.

References

Hanno Sauer (Associate Professor)
Utrecht University
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Janskerkhof 13
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Christopher Wareham (Associate Professor) [**Teaching reference**]
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Joseph Heath (Professor)
University of Toronto
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05/05/2026

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