

# Akshath Jitendranath

October 30, 2024

Paris School of Economics  
48 boulevard Jourdan,  
75014 Paris, France.

[akshath.jitendranath@psemail.eu](mailto:akshath.jitendranath@psemail.eu)  
[akshathjitendranath.weebly.com](http://akshathjitendranath.weebly.com)  
ORCID

## EMPLOYMENT

### *Paris School of Economics*

Postdoctoral Fellow in Philosophy and Economics, (2023-)

### *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

Junior Lecturer in PPE, (2016-2023)

## EDUCATION

### *Ph.D. in Philosophy,*

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2016-2024)

Thesis: What is a Hard Choice?

Supervisors: Martin van Hees, Roland Iwan Luttens

Examiners: Johan E. Gustafsson, Sonja Smets, Conrad Heilmann, Catarina Dutilh Novaes, Lieven Decock, Rene van den Brink (economics), Ines Lindner (economics).

### *M.A. (Research Master) in Philosophy and Economics,*

Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (2014-2016)

Thesis: Hard Choices

Supervisors: Martin van Hees, Constanze Binder

Examiner: Jack Vromen

### *B.Sc. in Economics,*

Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune, India (2011-2014)

Thesis: Methodology and Relevance: An Essay on Randomised Control Trials

Supervisor: Amir Bazaz

Examiner: Roudra Chakraborty

## INTERESTS

AoS: Ethics, Political Philosophy, Decision Theory (Utility Theory, Game Theory, Social Choice Theory), Philosophy of (Social) Science.

AoC: Logic, Epistemology, South Asian Studies, History of Indian Philosophy.

## RESEARCH

### *Journal Articles*

“Choice Functions and Hard Choices,” (with Martin van Hees and Roland Iwan Luttens).  
*Journal of Mathematical Economics*, 2021.

“Optimization and Beyond,”  
*Journal of Philosophy*, 2024.  
—Winner of the Isaac Levi Prize of the Journal of Philosophy

“Small Amendment Arguments: How They Work and What They Do and Do Not Show,” (with Martin van Hees and Roland Iwan Luttens).  
*Theory and Decision*, 2024.

### *Edited Works*

Book Symposium on Prof. John Roemer’s “*How We Cooperate—A Theory of Kantian Optimization*,” (with Marina Uzunova) in,  
*Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics*, 2020.  
Contributors: Itai Sher, Peter Vallentyne, Martin van Hees, Matthew Braham, Jean-Francois Laslier.

### *Interviews*

“What Egalitarianism Requires: An Interview with John E. Roemer,” (with Marina Uzunova) in  
*Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics*, 2020.

“What Public Policy Can Be: An Interview with Matthew Adler,” (with Måns Abrahamson) in  
*Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics*, 2024.

### *Book Reviews*

Review of “*Choosing Well: The Good, the Bad, and the Trivial*,” by Chrisoula Andreou in  
*Economics and Philosophy*, Under Commission.

### *Unpublished Work*

The Formulation of Rational Choice

What Are We Talking About When We Are Talking About Hard Choices?

Don’t Call Me Postcolonial.

Rational Decision Making With Multiple Considerations (with Susumu Cato).

Hoodwinking the Public (with Anmol Somanchi).

### *Talks*

“*What is a Hard Choice?*”  
Hard Cases and Rational Choice, University of Bern, 2016

OSZW Annual Conference, University of Utrecht, 2017

*“Hard Choices: Neither Parity, Nor Incommensurability, Nor Incomparability”*

OSZW Annual Conference, University of Amsterdam, 2019

Departmental Colloquium, Ashoka University, 2020

Departmental Colloquium, UC Louvain, 2020

*“The Formulation of Rational Choice”*

Preferences, Commitments and Choice, University of Zurich, 2021

OZSW Annual Conference, Tilburg University, 2021

PPE Conference, New Orleans, 2024

*“Optimization and Beyond”*

INEM Summer School on Economic Behaviours: Models, Measurements, and Policies, Lake Como, 2022

European PPE Network Conference, University of Groningen, 2023

INEM Conference, University of Venice, 2023

*“What Are We Talking About When We Are Talking About Hard Choices?”*

PPE Conference, New Orleans, 2023

European PPE Network Conference, University of Warwick, 2024

Value Theory Workshop, Lund University, 2024

OZSW Workshop on Behavioural Paternalism, Rational Choice, and Public Policy, VU Amsterdam, 2024

Axiology Workshop 2024, McGill University<sup>1</sup>

*“Hoodwinking the Public”* (with Anmol Somanchi)

PPE Conference, New Orleans, 2024

### *Comments*

On Ingrid Robeyns', *“Wellbeing, Freedom and Social Justice: The Capability Approach Re-Examined.”*

Symposium organised by EIPE, in collaboration with the Utrecht University, 2017

On Constanze Binder's, *“Agency, Freedom and Choice.”*

Symposium organised by EIPE, in collaboration with OZSW, 2020

On Michael Livermore's, *“Heteric Welfarism.”*

Research Seminar organised by the Institute of Advanced Studies, Paris, 2024

### TEACHING

#### *Thesis Supervision and Examination*

Rafael Rinks, Supervisor, BA Thesis (VU)

Zilver Stavenuiter, Supervisor, BA Thesis (VU)

---

<sup>1</sup>Unable to attend in person because my visa was not processed in time

Daniël de Bruijne, Examiner, BA Thesis (VU)  
Edoardo Doeve, Examiner, BA Thesis (VU)  
Sophia Winter, Examiner, BA Thesis (VU)

#### *Undergraduate Courses*

Political Philosophy II: Global Justice (VU)

#### *As Teaching Assistant*

Ethics (VU)  
Ethics II: Autonomy, Freedom, Responsibility (VU)  
Political Philosophy (VU)  
Political Philosophy II: Global Justice (VU)  
Methods of PPE I: Mathematics, Logic, and Decision Theory (VU)  
Philosophy of Science (VU)  
History of Philosophy (VU)  
Epistemology (VU)  
Behavioural Economics (VU)

#### *Outreach*

Guest Lecture for the [BoFEB](#) Trainees of the Dutch Government, 2022.  
Topic: *The Normative Foundations of Economic Policy*

#### ORGANISATION

##### *The First Paris Conference | Frontiers of Philosophy and Economics, 2024*

Paris School of Economics

Participants: Marc Fleurbaey, Franz Dietrich, Stephane Zuber, Jean-Francois Laslier, Ingela Alger, Marcus Pivato, Susumu Cato, Kai Spiekermann, Natalie Gold, Mark Budolfson, Constanze Binder, Michael Livermore, Roberto Veneziani, Chrisoula Andreou, Ralf Bader, Silvia Milano, Alexander Tolbert, Bele Wollesen, Erica Celine Yu, Marina Moreno, Petra Kosonen, Enrico Mattia Salina, Raphael Gomes De Oliveira, Akshath Jitendranath.

##### *Amsterdam Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2020*

VU Amsterdam and the University of Amsterdam  
(with Marina Uzunova, Sanne Groothuis, and Stefano Merlo)  
Keynotes: Laura Valentini, Karuna Mantena.

##### *PPE Summer School, Rationality and Choice*

Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, 2017  
Lecturers: Paul Anand, Kai Spiekermann, Martin van Hees.

#### EDITORIAL

Editor, *Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics* (2018–2022)

Reviewer for the following journals, and publishers: *Ethics*, *Erkenntnis*, *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy*, and *Routledge*.

## HONOURS

### *Awards*

Directors Award for Best Student, 2015. *Symbiosis School of Economics*.

The Isaac Levi Prize, 2023. *The Journal of Philosophy*.

Distinguished Alumni Award, 2024. *Symbiosis School of Economics*.

### *Grants*

Non- EU Student Fee Waiver 2014-2016. *Erasmus University Rotterdam* ( 17,000 €)

Kamala Chowdhry Fellowship 2012. *Centre for Science and Environment, Delhi* ( 1500 €)

## REFERENCES

Prof. Martin van Hees  
Department of Philosophy, Vrije University Amsterdam.  
Dean, Amsterdam University College  
[m.van.hees \[at\] vu.nl](mailto:m.van.hees@vu.nl)

Prof. Marc Fleurbaey  
Chaired Professor, Paris School of Economics.  
Senior Researcher, CNRS  
[marc.fleurbaey \[at\] psemail.eu](mailto:marc.fleurbaey@psemail.eu)

Dr. Conrad Heilmann  
School of Philosophy, Erasmus University Rotterdam  
[heilmann \[at\] esphil.eur.nl](mailto:heilmann@esphil.eur.nl)