

Ronan Ó Maonaile

Philosopher/Teacher

Contact Details

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I am a recently graduated PhD and associate lecturer in philosophy at the University of Reading. My primary interests are in the philosophy of normativity broadly construed, including metaethics, normative and practical ethics, as well as aesthetics and epistemology. My current research is on the nature of different normative categories and the relations between them.

Education and Qualifications

PhD, University of Reading, Reading, UK (September 2021 - March, 2026).

I recently passed my viva for a PhD in philosophy. My thesis argues for the fundamentality of ‘fittingness’ while advancing a number of non-reductive explanations of the relations between different normative categories.

MA, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands (September 2018 - August 2020).

Research Masters in Philosophy with Distinction. My dissertation defends ‘immoralism’ in the debate over the interaction between ethical and aesthetic value.

BA, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland (September 2013 - August 2016)

Joint honours degree in Philosophy and English Literature with a 2.1. grade. My final dissertation was a critical discussion of ‘non-conceptual content’ in John McDowell’s *Mind and World*.

Publications

1. (2026) “The Deontic and the Evaluative: A Family Affair”, accepted, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*.
2. (2026) “Fittingness and Bioethics” (with James Hart), accepted, *Ratio*.

Under Review

1. “Why Fit-Making Considerations Are Not Normative Reasons”, under review at the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
2. “Epistemic Perspectivism about Ought, Fit, and Value”, under review at *Synthese*.

Employment in Higher Education

Associate Lecturer, University of Reading (November, 2025 - Present)

Courses taught

1. *Ethical Argument*: module convenor responsible for all aspects of the second-year module which focuses on understanding and evaluating philosophical arguments in practical ethics, normative ethics, and metaethics.
2. *Ethics in the Real World*: teaching assistant preparing and delivering seminars and lectures for a second-year module on practical ethics, with a focus on animal ethics.

Associate Lecturer, University of Reading (January - April, 2024 and March - June, 2025).

Courses taught

1. *Radical Philosophy*: teaching assistant leading seminars and marking assignments for a first-year module on radical philosophical arguments, including sessions on fascism and gender.

Associate Lecturer, University of Reading (January - April, 2023).

Courses taught

1. *Ethical Argument*: teaching assistant preparing and delivering several weeks of lectures and seminars on the interaction between moral and aesthetic value and marking approximately thirty assignments.

Teaching Assistant, University of Groningen (September - December, 2019).

Courses taught

1. *The History of Analytic Philosophy*: teaching assistant preparing and delivering seminars on various topics in the philosophy of language with a focus on early analytic philosophers such as Frege and Russell.

Conference Talks

Groningen Metaethics Workshop

10th April, 2026, University of Groningen, Netherlands: at the 6th annual Groningen Metaethics Workshop I will present a paper entitled 'Why Fit-Making Considerations are not Normative Reasons'.

Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association

11th-13th July, 2025, University of Glasgow, UK: at the 2025 Joint Session, I presented a paper entitled 'Epistemic Perspectivism about Ought, Fit, and Value'.

Duke-UNC Philosophy Graduate Conference

29th March, 2025, Duke University, North Carolina: at the Duke-UNC graduate conference, I presented a paper entitled 'Epistemic Perspectivism about Ought, Fit, and Value'.

Formal Ethics 2024

15th-17th July 2024, University of Greifswald, Germany: at the biannual Formal Ethics conference, I presented a paper entitled 'The Deontic and the Evaluative: A Family Affair'.

Warwick Metaethics Workshop

23rd-24th April 2024, University of Warwick, UK: at the Warwick graduate metaethics workshop, I presented a paper entitled 'No-X-First: A Plea for Normative Pluralism'.

Recent Employment (Other)

English Teacher at Eurospeak, Reading

April 2021 - Present

I have been teaching English at Eurospeak Language School in Reading since April 2021. I have taught all levels from A1 to C1 as well as IELTS preparation courses and conversation classes.

English Teacher at Berlitz Dublin, Dublin.

September 2020 - March 2021

I taught English to Upper Intermediate and Advanced adult groups as well as IELTS exam preparation courses from September 2020 to March 2021.

English Teacher at the Language Centre, University of Groningen, Groningen.

October 2018 - March 2020

Alongside my masters studies, I worked part time as an English teacher with the Language Centre at the University of Groningen.