

# Robert Knowles

## Curriculum Vitae

**AOS:** Philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of language, metaphysics, epistemology.  
**AOC:** Logic, philosophical logic, philosophy of religion, history of philosophy.

### Education

2011–2015	<b>PhD Philosophy</b> (No corrections)	University of Manchester
2010–2011	<b>MRes Philosophy</b> (Distinction)	University of Manchester
2007–2010	<b>BA(hons) Philosophy</b> (2:1)	University of Manchester

### Employment

2021–2022	<b>Lecturer</b>	Swansea University, Grade 8 0.6 FTE
2021–2022	<b>Lecturer</b>	University of Bristol, Level 7 1.0 FTE
2021	<b>Visiting Lecturer</b>	University of Lancaster, Level 7 0.2 FTE
2020	<b>Teaching Fellow</b>	University of Leeds, Level 7 1.0 FTE
2017–2020	<b>British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow</b>	University of Leeds, Level 7 1.0 FTE
2016–2017	<b>Teaching Fellow</b>	University of Leeds, Level 7 1.0 FTE

### Publications

2022	<b>No Grounds for Fictionalism</b>	(9)
	<i>Philosophical Studies</i>	
2021	<b>Unification and Mathematical Explanation</b>	(8)
	<i>Philosophical Studies</i> 178: 3923–3943	
2021	<b>Platonic Relations and Mathematical Explanations</b>	(7)
	<i>The Philosophical Quarterly</i> 71: 623–644	
2021	<b>Mathematics and Explanatory Generality: Nothing but Cognitive Salience</b>	(6)
	<i>Erkenntnis</i> 86: 1119–1137 (with Juha Saatsi)	
2021	<b>The Uncanny Accuracy of God’s Mathematical Beliefs</b>	(5)
	<i>Religious Studies</i> 57: 333–352	
2016	<b>Semantic Assumptions in the Philosophy of Mathematics</b>	(4)
	<i>Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science</i> 318: 43–65	
2015	<b>Good Weasel Hunting</b>	(3)
	<i>Synthese</i> 192: 3397–3412 (with David Liggins)	
2015	<b>What ‘The Number of Planets is Eight’ Means</b>	(2)
	<i>Philosophical Studies</i> 172: 2757–2775	
2015	<b>Heavy Duty Platonism</b>	(1)
	<i>Erkenntnis</i> 80: 1255–1270	

## Teaching

### Module Coordinator & Lecturer & Tutor

Swansea University

- 2023 PO-127 Disinformation, Ideology, and Bias: Researching and Examining Political Data
- 2023 HUP242 Freedom, Angst, and the Embodied Self: Themes in Continental Philosophy
- 2022 HUP243 Philosophy and the Enlightenment

University of Bristol

- 2022 PHIL20039 Philosophy of Mathematics
- 2021 PHILM0021 Epistemology and Metaphysics

Lancaster University

- 2021 PPR307 Transformations and Revolutions in Twentieth Century Philosophy

University of Leeds

- 2020 PHIL3123 Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics
- 2020 PHIL2121 Introduction to Philosophy of Language
- 2019 PHIL2422 Topics in Epistemology: Knowledge and Justification
- 2016 PHIL2521 Realism and Antirealism
- 2016 PHIL2542 Introduction to Metaphysics
- 2016 PHIL2532 Philosophy of Religion

### Supervisor

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|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| 2022–2023 | PO-3317 Dissertation                   | University of Swansea |
| 2022–2023 | PO-M25 Dissertation                    | University of Swansea |
| 2022      | PHILM0001 Philosophy Dissertation      | University of Bristol |
| 2022      | PHIL30108 Second Extended Essay        | University of Bristol |
| 2021      | PHIL30107 First Extended Essay         | University of Bristol |
| 2021–2022 | PHILM0041 Supervised Independent Study | University of Bristol |
| 2016–2020 | PHIL3000 Independent Research Project  | University of Leeds   |
| 2017      | PHIL5170M Philosophy Dissertation      | University of Leeds   |

### Tutor

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| 2022      | PHIL20053 Space, Time, and Matter                            | University of Bristol    |
| 2021      | PHIL30107 Writing Workshops                                  | University of Bristol    |
| 2018–2020 | PHIL5002M Analytic B: Mathematics and Empirical Evidence     | University of Leeds      |
| 2016–2019 | PHIL1250 How to Think Clearly and Argue Well                 | University of Leeds      |
| 2017      | PHIL2122 Formal Logic  | University of Leeds      |
| 2016      | PHIL2422 Topics in Epistemology: Knowledge and Justification | University of Leeds      |
| 2016      | PHIL1140 I Think Therefore I Am: The Philosophy of Descartes | University of Leeds      |
| 2016      | PHIL1005 The Mind  | University of Leeds      |
| 2013–2015 | PHIL20021 Philosophy of Religion                             | University of Manchester |
| 2012–2015 | PHIL10041 Critical Thinking                                  | University of Manchester |
| 2015      | PHIL10021 Values We Live By                                  | University of Manchester |

2015	PHIL10401 History of Philosophy	University of Manchester
2014	PHIL10641 Philosophy and Social Science	University of Manchester
2014	PHIL10622 Discovering Reality	University of Manchester

### **Philosophy in Schools (The Royal Institute of Philosophy)**

2015	Metaphysics	Xaverian Sixth Form College
2014	Intro to Western Philosophy	Xaverian Sixth Form College
2014	Think	Xaverian Sixth Form College
2013	Philosophy of Language	Xaverian Sixth Form College
2013	Philosophy of Language	Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

### **Grants and Awards**

2019	BSPS Conference Grant	£500
2019	Aristotelian Society Conference Grant	£235
2017	British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship	£319,196
2015	Manchester Doctoral College Best Outstanding Output Award	
2014	Royal Institute of Philosophy's Jacobsen Studentship	
2013	Mind Association Minor Conference Grant	
2013	Analysis Trust Conference Grant	
2011	AHRC Studentship	

### **Research Events**

#### **Organiser & Host**

2022–2023	Philosophy Research Group Seminar	Swansea University
Sept 2019	Mathematics and its Applications: Philosophical Issues	University of Leeds
Nov 2018	Epistemology of Mathematics	University of Leeds
Dec 2017	Applicability of Mathematics	University of Leeds
July 2013	Open Minds VIII Graduate Conference	University of Manchester

#### **Assistant**

July 2015	BSPS Annual Conference	University of Manchester
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### **Selected Presentations**

May 2022	Distinctively Mathematical Explanation: A Deflationary Proposal Mathematics as/in Science, University of Ghent
Dec 2021	Distinctively Mathematical Explanation: A Deflationary Proposal Departmental Seminar, University of Bristol
Dec 2021	On the Alleged Necessity of Mathematical Nominalism (with Bahram Assadian Foundational Studies Bristol (FSB), University of Bristol
June 2018	Alethic Appearances Context, Cognition, and Communication, University of Warsaw

- April 2018 Explanatory Mathematical Abstraction in Science  
Varieties of Mathematical Abstraction, University of Vienna
- March 2017 Non-Optimal Support for Mathematical Platonism  
The Explanatory Function of Abstract Objects, University of Santiago de Compostela
- May 2016 Non-Optimal Support for Mathematical Realism  
FilMat: Truth, Existence, and Explanation, University of Chieti-Pescara
- July 2014 The Indispensability Argument Dispensed With  
88th Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, University of Cambridge
- May 2014 What ‘The Number of Planets is Eight’ Means  
FilMat: Objectivity, Cognition, and Proof, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University
- Jan 2014 Heavy Duty Platonism  
6th Conference of the Dutch-Flemish Association for Analytic Philosophy, University of Groningen
- June 2013 The Problem of Mathematical Communication  
Graduate Conference on Ontology, University of Warsaw
- Jan 2013 Reply to Liggins  
Ethics and Explanation, University of Nottingham

## Academic Service

### External Subject Specialist

Consultant in the development of the BA(Hons) in Philosophy at Coventry University

### Referee

*Analysis, Erkenntnis, Synthese, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Science, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Religious Studies, Disputatio*

### 2017 REF Grade Internal Peer-Review Committee

School of PRHS, University of Leeds

### 2012–2013 Graduate Representative

Department of Philosophy, University of Manchester

## Outreach and Public Engagement

### 2020 Double Check: Is Math Real?

Interview by Edie Miller: <https://www.logically.ai/articles/double-check-is-math-real>

### 2018 Mathematics: Invented, Discovered, or Neither?

With Jack Woods and Simon Hewitt. Café Scientifique, Leeds

### 2013–2015 Philosophy Club Coordinator, (Royal Institute of Philosophy)

Xaverian Sixth-Form College, Blessed Thomas Holford Sixth-Form College, Manchester

## Referees

### Professor James Ladyman

Professor of Philosophy  
University of Bristol  
james.ladyman@bristol.ac.uk  
+44 117 331 0934  
Head of Department

### Dr. Scott A. Shalkowski

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy  
University of Leeds  
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+44 113 343 3280  
Deputy Head of School

**Dr. Juha Saatsi**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
University of Leeds  
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Research Mentor

**Dr. Anthony Everett**

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy  
University of Bristol  
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+44 117 954 6796  
PhD External Examiner

**Professor Mary Leng**

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy  
University of York  
mary.leng@york.ac.uk  
+44 190 432 3256  
PhD External Examiner

**Dr. David Liggins**

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy  
University of Manchester  
david.liggins@manchester.ac.uk  
+44 161 306 6947  
PhD Supervisor