

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Olof Leffler

olof.leffler@univie.ac.at

+43(0)6765048683

University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy
Sensengasse 8, Top 9-10, Room 1005, 1090 Vienna, Austria

[Personal website](#)

[PhilPeople/PhilPapers page](#)

ORCID: 0000-0001-9073-2552

Areas of Specialization

- Metaethics, normative ethics, philosophy of action.

Areas of Competence

- Social & political philosophy, philosophy of social science, epistemology.
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Employment

- ESPRIT Fellow, University of Vienna, 2025-
 - Postdoc, University of Siena, 2024-2025.
 - Postdoc, University of Pavia, 2023-2024.
 - Postdoc, University of Vienna, 2022-2023.
 - Teacher/Researcher (“Vikarierande universitetslektor”), University of Gothenburg, 2021.
 - Teaching Fellow, Durham University, 2019-2021.
 - Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Leeds, 2016-2019.
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Education

- PhD: University of Leeds, 2015-2019.

Thesis: *The Constitution of Constitutivism* (passed without corrections).

Supervisors: Prof. Pekka Väyrynen (primary), Dr. Daniel Elstein (secondary).

Visiting Doctoral Research: Humboldt University, Berlin, summer term 2017.

- MA: Practical philosophy, University of Gothenburg, 2009-2014, w. distinction.
 - BA: Practical philosophy, University of Gothenburg, 2008-2012, w. distinction.
 - BSc: Political science, University of Gothenburg, 2008-2012, w. distinction.
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Publications

Editorship

- Leffler, Olof & Moen, Lars (2025). *Group Agency* (special issue), *Inquiry*, 68(3).

Journal Articles

- Leffler, Olof (2026). “Even Bigger-Picture Causalism”, in *Acta Analytica*, Vol. 41, No. 2, pp. 273-293. [Originally published Online First 2025.]
- Leffler, Olof (2025a). “Outlines of a Neo-Humean Disjunctivism”, in *Synthese*, Vol. 206, No. 4, pp. 1-30.
- Leffler, Olof (2025b). “Agent-Switching, Plight Inescapability, and Corporate Agency”, in *Analytic Philosophy*, Vol. 66, No. 2, pp. 181-197. [Originally published Online First 2023.]
- Leffler, Olof (2025c). “Desire, Disagreement, and Corporate Mental States”, in *Inquiry*, Vol. 68, No. 3, pp. 1000-1020. [Originally published Online First 2023.]
- Leffler, Olof (2025d). “‘Now What?’ in Social Ontology and Metaethics”, in *Journal of Social Ontology*, Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 139-165.
- Leffler, Olof (2024a). “Constitutivism’s Plight: Normativity, Inescapability, and Relativism”, in *Philosophical Quarterly*. [Published Online First 2024, full details TBC.]
- Leffler, Olof (2024b). “Contingency, Sociality, and Moral Progress”, in *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, Vol. 10, No. 3, pp. 522-541. [Originally published Online First 2023.]
- Leffler, Olof (2024c). “Rationality, Shmationality: Even Newer Shmagency Worries”, in *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, Vol. 27, No. 2, pp. 371-404.
- Leffler, Olof (2024d). “Market Failures and Moral Failures: A Dilemma”, in *Public Affairs Quarterly*, Vol. 38, No. 2, pp. 153-171.
- Leffler, Olof (2023a). “Zombies Incorporated”, in *Theoria*, Vol. 89, No. 5, pp. 640-659.
- Leffler, Olof (2023b). “A Reason to Know”, in *Journal of Value Inquiry*, Vol. 57, No. 3, pp. 557-575. [Originally published Online First 2021.]
- Leffler, Olof (2022). “How Simple is the Humean Theory of Motivation?”, in *Philosophical Explorations*, Vol. 25, No. 2, pp. 125-140.
- Leffler, Olof (2019). “New Shmagency Worries”, in *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, Vol. 15, No. 2, pp. 121-145.
- Leffler, Olof (2016a). “The Foundations of Agency – and Ethics?”, in *Philosophia*, Vol. 44, No. 2, pp. 547-563.

Book Chapters

- Leffler, Olof (2020). “Reasons Internalism, Cooperation, and Law”, in Garcia-Godinez, Miguel; Mellin, Rachael & Tuomela, Raimo (eds.). *Social Ontology, Normativity and Law*, De Gruyter, GER: Berlin, pp. 115-132.
- Leffler, Olof (2014). “Om rättfärdigandereflektion”, in Alarcon, Meri; Amundsen Bergström, Matilda; Kaveh, Tanja & Pettersen, Andrea Vilde (eds.). *Meningens motstånd*, Göteborgs universitet: LIR, SWE: Gothenburg, pp. 35-39.

Book Reviews

- Leffler, Olof (2018). “Recension av *Social Contract Theory for a Diverse World – Beyond Tolerance* (Ryan Muldoon)”, in *Tidskrift för Politisk Filosofi*, Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 46-51.
- Leffler, Olof (2016b). “Recension av *From Morality to the End of Reason* (Ingmar Persson)”, in *Filosofisk Tidskrift*, Vol. 2016, No. 1, pp. 60-65.

Presentations (selected)

Invited

- “Group Responsibility and the Enactor Role”, at Social Ontology 2026, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, 23/7 2026, *qua* symposium organizer.
- “Bratman’s Subject” (with Franz Altner), at Collective Agency and Joint Action, Georgetown University, 16/4 2026.
- “Constitutivism without Inescapability?”, at 11th NYU Abu Dhabi Normativity and Reasoning Workshop, NYU Abu Dhabi, 20/1 2026.
- “‘Now What?’ in Social Ontology and Metaethics”, New Perspectives on the Now What Question for Moral Error Theory, University of Leiden, 15/12 2023; Krakow Seminars in Law, Language, and Philosophy, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, 9/4 2024.
- “Intelligibly Bad Action”, Research Seminar, IUSS Pavia, 25/10 2023; Institutions, Agency, and Responsibility Workshop, University College Cork, 24/5 2024.
- “Market Failures and Moral Failures: A Dilemma”, FIRE Seminar, University of Gothenburg, 26/4 2022.
- “Deference Incorporated”, Practical Philosophy and Political Theory Research Seminar, University of Gothenburg, 30/3 2022.
- “Contingency, Sociality, and Moral Progress”, The Enemy of the Good. Towards a Theory of Moral Progress Reading Group, Utrecht University, 28/1 2022.
- “Reasons Internalism, Cooperation, and Institutions”, at Social Ontology, Normativity and Philosophy of Law, University of Glasgow, 31/5 2019.

Peer Reviewed

- “Group Constitutivism”, at Social Ontology 2025, Trinity College Dublin, 6/8 2025; Commitment, Individual and Collective, University of Tampere, 18/9 2026.
- “Desire, Disagreement, and Corporate Mental States”, at Social Ontology 2023, University of Stockholm, 17/8 2023.
- “Kantian Doubts about Categorical Imperatives”, at Third Groningen Metaethics Workshop, University of Groningen, 26/4 2023; Possibilities, Impossibilities, and Conflict in Ethics, University of Pardubice, 2/6 2023; ECAP11, CEU/University of Vienna, 22/8 2023.
- “Agent-Switching, Plight Inescapability, and Collective Action”, at SOCI 2022, University of Vienna, 23/8 2022; Workshop on Capacities and the Good, FU Berlin, 9/9 2022.
- “Deference Incorporated”, at Filosofidagarna 2022, Lund University, 11/6 2022; Society for Applied Philosophy, University of Edinburgh, 2/7 2022.
- “Contingency, Sociality, and Moral Progress”, at RoME XIV, Rocky Mountains Ethics Congress, University of Colorado Boulder, 12/8 2021; MANCEPT: Moral and Socio-Political Progress, University of Manchester, 8/9 2021.
- “A Reason to Know”, at The Unity of Normativity, University of Vienna, 25/9 2020.
- “Weird Reasons”, at the Joint Session, University of Kent, 10/7 2020.
- “Instrumental Rationality and the Argument against Particularistic Willing”, at Future of Normativity, University of Kent, 30/6 2018; Understanding Value VII, University of Sheffield, 18/7 2018; Irish Philosophical Society Annual Conference, UCD, 10/11 2018.
- “The Virtues of the Humean Theory of Motivation”, at ECAP9, LMU Munich, 24/8 2017; Humeanisms, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 29/7 2018.
- “Categorical Normativity and Bottom-Up Solutions”, at Filosofidagarna 2015, Linköping University, 13/6 2015.

Teaching

Taught at Vienna (2026)

- Moral Epistemology, MA module, module designer/leader.

Taught at Pavia (2023)

- Ethics, Law and AI, 2nd year module, sub-module designer/leader.
- Advanced Foundations of Law and Privacy Regulations, MA module, guest speaker.

Taught at Gothenburg (2021)

- Normativ etik ("Normative Ethics"), 1st year module, module designer/leader.
- Analytisk filosofi ("Analytic Philosophy"), 1st year module.
- Fördjupad kurs i den praktiska filosofins historia: Aristoteles ("Extended Course in the History of Practical Philosophy: Aristotle"), 2nd year module, module designer/leader.
- Samtida västerländsk filosofi ("Contemporary Western Philosophy"), general module.

Taught at Durham (2019-2021)

Undergraduate

- Science, Medicine, and Society, 1st year module, sub-module designer/leader, 2019-2020; 2020-2021.
- Philosophy of Economics and Politics, 2nd year module, module designer/leader, 2019-2020; 2020-2021.
- Ethics in Business Practice, 3rd year module, module designer/leader, 2020-2021.
- BA Dissertation Supervision, 2019-2020; 2020-2021.

Postgraduate

- Philosophy of the Social Sciences, module designer/leader, 2020.
- Business Ethics I: Ethical Leadership, module designer/leader, 2020-2021.
- Business Ethics II: Society and Sustainability, module designer/leader, 2021.
- MA Dissertation Supervision, 2021.

Taught at Leeds (2016-2019)

- The Mind, 1st year module, 2019.
- Knowledge, Self and Reality, 1st year module, 2018.
- The Good, the Bad, the Right, the Wrong, 1st year module, 2017; 2019.
- How to Think Clearly and Argue Well, 1st year module, 2017.
- Great Philosophical Thinkers, 1st year module, 2016; 2018; 2019.
- Philosophy of Mind, 2nd year module, 2019.
- Ethics of Life and Death, 2nd year module, 2019.
- Topics in Epistemology: Knowledge and Justification, 2nd year module, 2017.
- War, Terror and Justice, 3rd year module, 2019.
- Metaethics, 3rd year module, 2018.

Mentoring

- Academic advisor for undergraduate students, Durham University, 2020-2021.
- Mentor for undergraduate students, University of Leeds, 2018-2019.
- Mentor for undergraduate students, University of Gothenburg, 2011-2014.

Further Experience

- Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA), 2018.
- Internal seminars on higher education teaching, University of Leeds, 2016-2019.
- Instructor of new postgraduate tutors at PRHS, University of Leeds, 2018; 2019.
- MA studies include the 15 HEC module “Practical Philosophy: Scientific Methods and Philosophical Pedagogy”, University of Gothenburg, 2012.

Administration

Funding Received

As PI

- “Reasons, Values, and Group Agents”, Austrian Science Foundation, 2025-2028.
- “Group Agency and Metaethics”: Small grant from ISOS (with Niels de Haan), 2026.

As PhD Student

- Anérstiftelsen: 40 000 SEK (ca £3500) to cover expenses during my 4th PhD year, 2018.
- “Morality and Rationality Revisited” conference: Minor grants from CEM and PRHS at the University of Leeds, Mind, The Analysis Trust, and the Aristotelian Society, 2018.
- “Understanding Value VI” conference: Minor grants from the White Rose College of the Arts & Humanities, the Analysis Trust, and the British Society of Aesthetics, 2017.
- Erasmus+: Visiting doctoral researcher at HU Berlin, summer 2017, 2016.
- University of Leeds 110th Anniversary Scholarship: PhD fees and maintenance, 2015-2018.

Organization

- “Social Ontology and Metaethics” (with Niels de Haan), workshop, University of Vienna, 2026.
- “Anti-Realisms about Group Agency”, symposium at Social Ontology 2026, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, 2026.
- “Retrospective Responsibility: Justification and Conditions” (with Christoph Lumer), conference, University of Siena, 2025.
- “Collective Retrospective Responsibility” (with Christoph Lumer), workshop, University of Siena, 2024.
- “Aesthetics, Ethics, and Politics” (x2), workshop, Durham University, 2021.
- “Morality and Rationality Revisited” (with David Heering and Adina Covaci), conference, University of Leeds, 2018.
- White Rose Philosophy Postgraduate Forum organizer (Leeds rep.), 2018.
- “Understanding Value VI” (Leeds rep., with James Lewis, Ahmad Fattah, William Hornett, Rosa Vince), conference, University of Sheffield, 2017.

- PG Seminar (with David Heering), University of Leeds, 2016-2017.
- Peer mentoring programme coordinator, University of Gothenburg, 2013-2015.

Departmental Service

- International Exchange Officer, Durham University, 2020-2021.
- Misc. at Durham: Exam scrutinizer, hiring process participant, research committee member, 2020-2021.
- Misc. at Leeds: CEM & research seminar activity planning, hiring process participant, outreach work, member of MAP chapter, 2016-2019.
- Misc. at Gothenburg: Assistant at Filosofidagarna 2011, board member of the Philosophical Society, 2009-2014.

Miscellaneous

Peer Reviewer

- *Analysis* (x2), *Croatian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Episteme*, *Ergo*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Journal of Social Ontology*, *Journal of Value Inquiry* (x2), *Mind*, *Organon F*, *Philosophical Explorations*, *Philosophical Inquiries*, *Philosophical Studies* (x4), *Philosophical Quarterly* (x2), *Southwest Philosophy Review*, *Topoi*.
- Equivalent work as guest editor of *Inquiry* and at several conferences.

Languages

- Swedish (native)
- English (excellent)
- Norwegian, Danish, and German (reasonable)
- French (basic)

References

- Available on request.