

Christina E. Easton

Curriculum Vitae

University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK
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SPECIALISATION

AOS: Ethics, Political Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Philosophy and Public Policy

AOC: Feminism, Philosophy of Education, Philosophy of Religion

TERTIARY EDUCATION

PhD in Philosophy (no corrections)

Thesis title: 'Liberalism, education, and promoting 'British values' in schools'

Supervisors: Luc Bovens and Alex Voorhoeve

Examiners: Matthew Clayton and Adam Swift

London School of
Economics and Political
Science

(10/2015 – 07/2020)

*[Parental leave: 09/2018 –
08/2019]*

MA Religious Education [Part-time]

Distinction

King's College London

(10/2013 – 08/2014)

Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching

[Part-time]

Sheffield Hallam University

(10/2011 – 09/2012)

PGCE Secondary with Religious Education

King's College London

(09/2007 – 06/2008)

BA Philosophy and Theology

First class honours

King's College London

(09/2004 – 06/2007)

RECENT EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor in the Ethics of Non-Violence, Department of Philosophy, University of Birmingham (09/2025 – present)

Open-ended, tenure-track position: research, teaching and administration.

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, Warwick [Part-time, 0.5] (05/2022 – 08/2025)

Research on British Academy funded project '[Opening minds: A new analysis of tolerance for the classroom](#)'

Parental leave (10/2021 – 04/2022)

Fellow in Philosophy, LSE [Part-time, 0.6] (10/2020 – 10/2021)

Responsibilities included delivering lectures and seminars to BSc and MSc students, BSc and MSc dissertation supervision and conducting original research.

Lecturer in Public and International Affairs, Princeton (08/2020 – 01/2021)

Responsibilities included teaching undergraduate classes online and assessing students in a varied and regular fashion.

LSE Studentship and Graduate Teaching Assistant, LSE (10/2015 – 07/2020)

PhD dissertation research. Teaching undergraduates, including leading all seminars and marking coursework and examination scripts.

Parental leave (09/2018 – 08/2019)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, King's College London (01/2018 – 05/2018)

Responsibilities included teaching tutorials and marking student coursework.

Research Assistant for the LASAR (Learning about Science and Religion) Project (09/2016 – 08/2017)

Analysed 53 interviews and wrote an interdisciplinary paper analysing whether primary-age students tend to view science and religion as opposed.

Head of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Surbiton High School (09/2009 – 08/2015)

Ran a highly successful department of 5 teachers, reviewed in 2015 by Senior Management as 'outstanding' in all areas, including 'Teaching' and 'Leadership and Management'.

Responsibilities included creating schemes of work and resources, budgeting, timetabling, managing professional development and monitoring teaching and learning. I was originally appointed as a classroom teacher in 2009 to help initiate Philosophy A-Level. I was promoted to Assistant Head of Year 7 in 2010 and then to Head of Department in 2012.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2026. [*Teaching Values Whilst Respecting Difference*](#). London: Bloomsbury.

2019. [*Critical Religious Education in Practice: A Teacher's Guide for the Secondary Classroom*](#) (with A. Goodman, A. Wright, & A. Wright). London: Routledge.

Journal articles

Forthcoming. [*Do You Really Need to Know How Many Protons are in Helium?*](#) *Think*.

2026. [*Teaching Evolution in Schools: A Thin Comprehensive Liberal Approach*](#). *Journal of Philosophy of Education*.

2024. [*'Filling the Ranks': Moral Risk and the Ethics of Military Recruitment*](#) (with Jonathan Parry). *American Political Science Review* 118 (4), 1763-1777. [Shortlisted for the 2024 Elizabeth D. Rockwell Prize for Best Article on Ethics, Leadership, and Public Policy]

2024. [*Religion and Religious Education on the Journey to the Ideal Society*](#). *Analysis* 84 (3), 609-621.

2023. [*LGBT-Inclusive Education in Liberal Pluralist Societies*](#). *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 40 (3), 550-568.

2022. [*Winning in Philosophy: Female Under-Representation, Competitiveness, and Implications for Inclusive High School Philosophy Competitions*](#). *Journal of Philosophy in Schools* 9 (1), 47-67.

2021. [*Women and 'the Philosophical Personality': Evaluating Whether Gender Differences in the Cognitive Reflection Test have Significance for Explaining the Gender Gap in Philosophy*](#). *Synthese* 198, 139-167.

2019. [Religious Education – Reform, not Abolition: A Reply to Matthew Clayton and David Stephens](#). *Theory and Research in Education* 17 (1), 100-111.
2019. [Dietary Double-Think](#). *Think* 18 (52), 75-80.
2018. [Educating in Respect: Against Neutral Discourse as a Norm for Respectful Classroom Discussion](#). *Philosophy* 93 (2), 187-210. [Royal Institute of Philosophy Essay Prize 2017, Runner-up]
2017. [Did Most Brits Fail in their Civic Duties in the EU Referendum?](#) *Think* 16 (45), 7-14.

Book chapters

2026. [Forming an Orderly Queue: Remediating Educational Inequality in the Post-Covid World](#). In *The Future of Education: Reimagining Its Aims and Responsibilities*. New York: Oxford University Press.
2023. [Political Philosophy](#). In *Short Cuts: Philosophy*, ed. Laura D'Olimpio, 106-119, London: IconBooks.
2022. [Teaching Liberal Values: The Case of Promoting 'British Values' in Schools](#). In *Liberal Democratic Education: A Paradigm in Crisis*, ed. J. Culp, J. Drerup, I. de Groot, A. Schinkel, & D. Yacek, 47-66, Paderborn, Germany: Brill mentis.
2019. [Truth in Science and 'Truth' in Religion: An Enquiry into Student Views on Different Types of Truth-Claim](#). In *Science and Religion in Education*, ed. B. Billingsley, K. Chappell & M. J. Reiss, 123-139, London: Springer.
2018. ['Words that Wound' in the Classroom: Should they be Silenced or Discussed?](#) In *The Value and Limits of Academic Speech: Philosophical, Political, and Legal Perspectives*, ed. D. A. Downs & C. W. Surprenant, 167-186, London: Routledge.

Edited collection

2026. [The Future of Education: Reimagining Its Aims and Responsibilities](#). New York: Oxford University Press.

Book review

2018. [Countering Extremism in British Schools? The Truth about the Birmingham Trojan Horse Affair](#). *Journal of Education Policy* 33 (4), 584-585.

TEACHING AWARDS

School-wide LSE Student-Led Teaching Excellence Award for 'Feedback and Communication' (runner-up), 2017

LSE Class Teacher Award, Department of Philosophy, 2017

Nominated for LSE Student-Led Teaching Excellence Award, 2016 (multiple)

AWARDS

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship (£266,556.05), 2022

Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain Large Grant (£3000), 2022

ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship with SeNSS DTP, 2021 (*declined*)

ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship with Midlands DTP, 2021 (*declined*)
Winner of New Philosopher Writers' Award XXVII (\$1000), 2020
LSE studentship (tuition fees and full living expenses - £54,000), 2015-2020
AHRC scholarship (tuition fees and full living expenses), 2015-2018 (*declined*)
Runner-up prize in New Philosopher Writers' Award XIX, 2018
Royal Institute of Philosophy Essay Prize: Runner-up, 2017
Culham St. Gabriel's Trust partial grant for MA, 2013-2014
Hanson Prize in Philosophy of Religion, KCL, 2007
Paul Caudwell Prize for best first year results, KCL, 2005

SELECTED PUBLIC-FACING WRITING

[The military is the only job where people are asked to kill. Here's how to make the system fairer](#), *The Big Issue*, 9 November 2025. [Also in print issue.]
[Military recruitment is a moral minefield](#), *British Politics and Policy at LSE*, 5 March 2024.
[Why schools should teach that it's okay to be LGBT](#), *Justice Everywhere*, 16 March 2023.
[Teaching tolerance in schools cannot avoid controversy](#). *Psyche/Aeon*, 25 January 2022.
Growing and betraying. *New Philosopher* #29, August-October 2020.
Critical Religious Education in practice: A teacher's guide for the secondary classroom. *RE Today* 37 (3), Summer 2020.
[Women and the 'philosophical personality'](#). *Daily Nous*, 17 October 2019.
The decision to create life. *New Philosopher* #21, August-October 2018.
[How philosophy can help us have better arguments](#). *Prospect*, 18 May 2018.
[A year without clothes shopping](#). *Huffington Post*, 25 March 2018.
[An education in diversity?](#) *Philosophy Now* 123, December 2017-January 2018.
[How to teach children about tolerance – and its limits](#). *Times Literary Supplement*, 18 July 2017.
[An education in diversity?](#) *LSE Philosophy Blog*, 3 July 2017.
[Teaching \(in\)tolerance in schools](#). *Huffington Post*, 7 June 2017.
[Don't mention Jesus! Why excluding beliefs from the public sphere is mistaken](#). *Open Democracy*, 29 March 2017 [audio version released 18 April 2017].

OTHER EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC-FACING WORK

Submitted evidence to the Government's Energy Security and Net Zero Committee's inquiry on International Climate Policy, 7 January 2026.
Speaker on [TRT Roundtable](#), 'Could Germany bring back military conscription as it rebuilds army?', 10 September 2025.

Mentioned twice in ForcesWatch [report](#) 'The politics of the military recruitment crisis', 16 April 2025.

Mentioned by name during House of Lords [debate](#) on the Armed Forces Commissioner Bill, 5 March 2025.

Interviewed for [Metro](#) Sunday paper on LGBT-affirmative school policies, 16 February 2025.

Invited to (and attended) All-Party Parliamentary Group on the new Schools Bill and Curriculum Review, 15 January 2025.

Interviewed on tolerance on [The Breakfast Show](#), *Voice of Islam* Radio, 15 November 2024.

Research the main focus of an [article](#) in *Dagens ETC*, 19 August 2024.

Podcast '[Flourishing Together](#)' [with Angela Goodman], 30 April 2024.

Research the main focus of an [article](#) in *Dagens Nyheter*, 17 April 2024.

Panel discussion on 'Liberalism: Tolerance and Its Limits' (with David Enoch and Paul Billingham), Oxford Philosophy Society, 27 February 2024.

LBC radio interview on military recruitment, 12 February 2024.

Interview with Dan Sabbagh, the Guardian's defence and security editor, on military recruitment, 25 January 2024.

Edited collection referenced twice in [OECD report](#) on 'The New Flourishing Agenda in Education: A Report on the Current Theoretical State of Play', 2023.

Newsreel Appearances, Free Radio (Coventry and Warwickshire), discussing Conservative Party Conference, 5 October 2022.

Invited Chair, *The Women Are Up to Something*, online public [talk](#), LSE, 18 November 2021.

Book referenced five times in Ofsted's Religious Education [research review](#), 12 May 2021.

Radio interview on the [Shoreditch Radio Education Show](#), 11 June 2020.

TEACHING

Problems of Philosophy B (Birmingham, 2026): Led 2 lectures on moral relativism.

Guest lecturer on PGCE (King's College London, 2025, 2024, 2022, 2021): Delivered interactive lectures on 'Promoting Tolerance and Managing Controversy' to PGCE students.

Philosophy and Public Policy (LSE, 2020-21) (MSc level): Delivered lectures on social justice, liberal neutrality and education. Took seminars throughout the year, including on Covid-19 responses, economic sanctions, hate speech, environmental policy and democratic inclusion.

Philosophy and Public Policy (LSE, 2020) (BSc level): Delivered lectures on social justice, liberal neutrality and education policy.

Ethics and Public Policy (Princeton, Fall 2020): Example topics: Utilitarianism, dirty hands, torture, war, property rights, criminal justice, migration and global justice.

The Big Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy (LSE, 2017-18): Example topics: Scepticism, the existence of God, consciousness, persistence, time, numbers, utilitarianism, lottoocracy, the meaning of life.

Elements Of Ethics (King's College London, Lent Term 2018): Example topics: Objectivity and subjectivity of moral values, relativism, the social sources of morality.

Philosophy & Public Policy (LSE, 2016-17): Example topics: Immigration, global aid, statistical discrimination, paying for Higher Education, population policy, freedom of speech.

Philosophy & Public Policy (LSE, 2015-16): Example topics: Healthcare ethics (responsibility, risk, resource distribution), climate justice, killing vs. letting die, intellectual property.

Philosophy A-Level (2009-15): Epistemology, Political Philosophy, Mill's *On Liberty* (set text), Moral Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind.

Religious Studies A-Level (2008-15): Moral Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (* = INVITED)

* *"Recruiting the Young: The Ethics of Military Presence in Educational Settings*, Military Institutions and Democratic Resilience panel, Backsliding, Resilience, Renewal? Democracy in Eras of Transformation Conference, University of Passau, Germany, 5 – 7 October 2026.

* *Teacher Impartiality: On the Theory and Practice of an Elusive Ideal*, Symposium, European Seminars in Philosophy of Education, American University of Paris, France, 4 – 5 June 2026.

* *From Lunch to Lessons: The Case for Promoting Plant-Based Diets in Schools*, Institute of Education, University College London, 4 March 2026.

* *Human Flourishing and the Future of Education*, The Human Flourishing Program at Harvard [Online], 16 December 2025.

"But you're her mother": The moral exploitation of women in family decision-making.

- *Royal Institute of Philosophy public lecture, Keele University, 17 March 2026.
- British Society for Ethical Theory Annual Conference 2025, University of Southampton, 16 – 17 July 2025.
- Society of Applied Philosophy Annual Conference 2024, St Anne's College, University of Oxford, 28 – 30 June 2024.
- MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory 2023, 11 – 13 September 2023.

Teaching evolution in schools: A thin comprehensive liberal approach, PESGB Annual Conference 2025, New College, Oxford, 27 – 30 March 2025.

* *Early years reading programmes and LGBT-affirmative education*, Values Education in the Early Years Workshop, UCL, 21 March 2025.

Teaching values whilst respecting difference

- Book manuscript workshop, University of Warwick, 19 March 2025. Commentators: Paul Billingham, Simon Caney, Matthew Clayton, Chris Mills, Ruth Wareham.
- First book manuscript workshop, BIAPT Annual Conference, University of York, 9 – 11 January 2025. Commentators: Tim Fowler, Liam Shields, Cain Shelley.

* *A thin comprehensive liberal approach to deciding the content of the curriculum.* MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory 2024, University of Manchester, 4 – 6 September 2024.

Thin comprehensive liberalism and its implications for values education.

- * 'Rekindling Liberalism' Reading Group, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 15 July 2024.
- PESGB Annual Conference 2024, New College, Oxford, 22 – 24 March 2024.

"Filling the Ranks": Moral Risk and the Ethics of Military Recruitment.

- * Workshop for Applied Political Theorists, Newcastle, 22 – 23 May 2023.
- * Philosophy Departmental Seminar, Nottingham, 3 May 2023.
- * Just War workshop, University of Warwick, 23 January 2023. [With Jonathan Parry]

Why understanding the nature of science must be a core aim of science education, PESGB Annual Conference 2023, New College, Oxford, 31 March – 2 April 2023.

LGBT-inclusive education in liberal pluralist societies.

- * CELPA, University of Warwick, 11 October 2022.
- Society of Applied Philosophy Annual Conference 2022, University of Edinburgh, 1 – 3 July 2022.
- PESGB North West branch (online), 25 May 2022.

* *Truth, Truthfulness and Religion and Worldviews* (with Angela Goodman and Angela Wright). RExChange 2022 (training/CPD event for Religious Education teachers), 7 October 2022.

Forming an orderly queue: Remediating educational inequality in the post-Covid world. The Future of Education: Reimagining Its Aims and Responsibilities, St. Anthony's College, Oxford, 16 – 17 September 2022.

Liberalism, education, and promoting 'British values' in schools.

- * Templeton 'From Values to Virtues' Reading Group, 13 December 2021. [Online and available as a [podcast](#)]
- * Liberal Democratic Education: A Paradigm in Crisis Conference, VU Amsterdam, 28 – 29 August 2021.
- * Children, Justice and the Future Conference, University of Swansea, 17 December 2019.

* *Symposium on Tim Fowler's 'Liberalism, Childhood and Justice'*, University of Swansea, 16 December 2019.

Women and 'the philosophical personality': Evaluating whether gender differences in the Cognitive Reflection Test have significance for explaining the gender gap in Philosophy.

- * Departmental seminar, University of Salzburg, 7 October 2019.
- [Selected LSE representative] 15th Annual London-Berkeley Philosophy Conference, Senate House, 17 May 2018.
- Choice Group, LSE, 24 January 2018.
- 91st Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, University of Edinburgh, 15 July 2017.

Two types of liberalism, 16th Annual MANCEPT Conference, University of Manchester, 9 – 11 September 2019.

*'Words that wound' in the classroom: Should they be silenced or discussed? Philosophy of Education Research Seminar Series 2018-19, University of Birmingham, 4 June 2019.

Book launch, *Critical Religious Education in practice: A teacher's guide for the secondary classroom*, King's College London, 21 May 2019.

Educating Amish children: Neutrality and the hierarchy of values objection, London Graduate Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop, King's College London, 4 May 2018.

Investigating barriers to representation of marginalized groups in philosophy. Panel. PPE Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, 16 March 2018.

* *Philosophy at GCSE and A-Level*, The Public Face of Philosophy: Reflections in the Mirror of Experience, University of Hertfordshire, 8 March 2018.

Liberalisms and perfectionisms, Warwick Graduate Conference in Political and Legal Theory, University of Warwick, 17 February 2018.

'For the love of wisdom': Diversity arguments for increased representation of women in philosophy, SWIP UK Annual Conference, University of Manchester, 15 May 2017.

Truth in science and 'truth' in religion: An enquiry into student views on different types of truth-claim, Science and Religion in Education, Somerville College Oxford, 28 October 2016.

Decriminalising polygamy in the UK: Reflections on policy change, Warwick Graduate Conference in Political and Legal Theory, University of Warwick, 13 February 2016.

* *Exemplifying a Critical RE approach to philosophy and ethics* (with A. Goodman and A. Wright), Energising RE Conference, Culham St. Gabriel's, 3 October 2015.

* *Applying a critical realist pedagogy: A case study on Islam* (with A. Goodman and A. Wright), Leaders for Changing RE: Defining our Future Conference, Culham St. Gabriel's, 28 September 2013.

EXAMPLES OF SERVICE

Philosophy in schools sessions: Havant College, 19 March 2026.

Philosothon judge, King Edward's School, 6th March 2026.

Innovation, Industry and Community Champion, University of Birmingham (2025 – present).

Reviewer for *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *International Journal of Wellbeing*, *Journal of Philosophy in Schools*, *Journal of Philosophy of Education*, *Journal of Social Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Res Publica*, *RUSI Journal*, *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, *Synthese*, and *Theory and Research in Education*.

Led seminar on 'Applying for postdocs' for PhD students at Warwick (November 2024; November 2023).

MSc dissertation summer clinics (August 2024)

Co-organiser of the Critical Religious Education Webinar Series (2022).

Co-organiser of the conference 'The Future of Education: Re-imagining its Aims and Responsibilities' (2022).