STEVEN J. FIRTH

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EDUCATION

PHD IN PHILOSOPHY (Doctor of Social Sciences)* | **University of Helsinki** | Finland | **2025**
Thesis: *Whither a Better Place: Philosophical Reflections on Disability and Inclusion*

MASTER OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY | **University of Lethbridge** | Canada | **2016**

BACHELOR OF ARTS (Hons.) **IN PHILOSOPHY** | **University of Lethbridge** | Canada | **2014**

NVQ 6 IN DIESEL ENGINEERING & MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION | EMTA | UK | **1996**

BTEC 4 (Prof. Award) **IN ELECTRIC & ELECTRONIC PRINC.** | **Harper Hill College** | UK | **1993**

AOS:

APPLIED ETHICS | SOCIAL & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY | PHILOSOPHY OF DISABILITY

AOC:

BIOETHICS | SPACE ETHICS & BIOETHICS | HEALTHCARE ETHICS

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (N=13)

FIRTH, S.J. | "Betwixt Ends and Means: Toward a Procedural Sortal for Häyry's Liberal Utilitarianism" | in H. Rydenfelt & T. Takala (Eds.) | *Justice to Extinction: Essays in Honour of Matti Häyry* | *Acta Philosophica Fennica* 103 - 978-952-7585-06-1 | **2026**

FIRTH, S.J. | In Space, No-One Can Hear the Screams of Paternalism: A Response to Häyry's Immorality of Space Exploration | *Bioethics* - DOI: 10.1111/bioe.70133 | **2026**

FIRTH, S.J. | Whither a Better Place: Philosophical Reflections on Disability and Inclusion | *Helsingin Yliopisto* - 978-952-84-0483-5 | **2024**

FIRTH, S.J. | The Picture Theory of Disability | *The Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* - DOI:10.1017/S0963180123000154 | **2024**

FIRTH, S.J. | An Assay on The Hobbesian Trap and Axioms of First Contact | *Space Policy* - DOI:10.1016/j.spacepol.2023.101581 | **2023** | SSRN preprints available

FIRTH, S.J. & I. NEIDERS | Sexual Citizenship: Defending Society's Most Disadvantaged | *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* - DOI:10.1007/s11017-023-09654-y | **2023**

FIRTH, S.J. & I. NEIDERS | The place of sexuality in society: misplaced grand theorising will sideline disabled people's sexual rights | *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* - DOI:10.1007/s11017-023-09638-y | **2023**

FIRTH, S.J. & I. NEIDERS | Anent The Theoretical Justification of a Sex Doula Programme | *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* - DOI:10.1007/s11017-023-09612-8 | **2023**

* Following Nordic structure, Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Helsinki falls under the Humanities while Practical Philosophy is housed within the Faculty of Social Sciences. The *terminal degree* awarded by the University of Helsinki in *Practical Philosophy* is, therefore, '**Doctor of Social Sciences**'.

FIRTH, S.J. | *Whither a Welfare-Funded 'Sex Doula' Programme?* | *The Journal of Medical Ethics* - *DOI:10.1136/medethics-2018-105330* | ***2019***

FIRTH, S.J. | The Quality Adjusted Life Year: A Total-Utility Perspective | *The Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* - DOI:10.1017/S0963180117000615 | **2018**

ESAU, P., VIEJOU, C., CHOW, S., DOHMS, K., **FIRTH, S.J.**, MORRISON, D., ET AL. | 'Let's Start a Journal!': The Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Journal as Educational Opportunity | *The Journal of Electronic Publishing* - DOI:10.3998/3336451.0021.109 | **2018**

O'DONNELL, D., VIEJOU, C., CHOW, S., DOHMS, K., ESAU, P., **FIRTH, S.J.**, ET AL. | Zombie Journals: Designing a Technological Infrastructure for a Precarious Graduate Student Journal | *Scholarly & Research Communication* - DOI:10.22230/src.2018v9n2a296 | **2018**

FIRTH, S.J. | Research Ethics Insurrection: Challenges to REB Criteria from the Social Sciences | *The Meeting of the Minds Journal* - DOI: 10.5281/ZENODO.437193 | **2017**

JOURNAL FORUM PUBLICATIONS (N=2)

FIRTH, S.J. & I. NEIDERS | Baselining Sexual Rights as Health Care Rights | *The Journal of Medical Ethics Blog* | **2020**

FIRTH, S.J. & I. NEIDERS | A Sexual Rights Puzzle, Un-Puzzled! | *The Journal of Medical Ethics Blog* | **2020**

ENCYCLOPAEDIA ENTRIES & REPRINTS (N=3)

FIRTH, S.J. | "An Assay on The Hobbesian Trap and Axioms of First Contact" | Extended reprint in Anderson W. H. U. (Ed) | *Space, Philosophy, and Ethics* - 979-8-8819-0083-0 | **2025**

FIRTH, S.J. | "The Picture Theory of Disability" | In: Bennett, G., Goodall, E. (eds) | *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Disability* - DOI:10.1007/978-3-031-40858-8_2-1 | **2024**

FIRTH, S.J. & I. NEIDERS | "The Sex Doula Programme" | In: Bennett, G., Goodall, E. (eds) | *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Disability* - DOI:10.1007/978-3-031-40858-8_3-1 | **2024**

BOOK REVIEWS (N=3)

FIRTH, S.J. | Antinatalism, Extinction, and the End of Procreative Self-Corruption *by* Matti Häyry and Amanda Sukenick—A Review | In *Teaching Philosophy* - DOI:10.5840/teachphil2024474228 | **2024**

FIRTH, S.J. | The Bioethics of Space Exploration *by* Konrad Szocik—A Review | In *Teaching Philosophy* - DOI:10.5840/teachphil2024472204 | **2024**

FIRTH, S.J. | Disability, Avoidance and the Academy: Challenging Resistance, Disability, Avoidance and the Academy, *edited by* David Bolt and Claire Penketh—A Review | *The Journal of Moral Philosophy* - DOI:10.1163/17455243-01601002 | **2019**

WORKS IN PROGRESS

IN REVIEW

FIRTH, S.J. | A paper developing a new approach to the moral status of extra-terrestrial life

FIRTH, S.J. | A paper developing a Humean approach to disability

IN PROGRESS

FIRTH, S.J. | A paper on antinatalism as a sufficient solution to the Fermi-paradox

FIRTH, S.J. & DRANSEIKA | An X-Phi paper on human obligations to extra-terrestrial entities

CONTRACTED

FIRTH, S.J. (ed) | To Affinity and Beyond: A Transdisciplinary Social and Political Philosophy of Space | Edited Volume | Springer; Space and Society

LECTURING & EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

SESSIONAL LECTURER | UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY | **2023**

COURSE: ***Contemporary Moral Problems*** | 100% Led | 2nd Yr. | 180-min | 27 students

SESSIONAL LECTURER | SOUTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY | **2019—2020**

COURSES: ***Intro. to Philosophy*** | 100% Led | 3rd Yr. | 50-min | 18 students
Research Methodologies | 100% Led | 4th Yr. 90-min | 48 students
Critical Thinking | 100% Led | 2nd Year 50-min | 32 students

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT | UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE | **2014—2016**

COURSES: ***Ancient Philosophy*** | 40% Led | 2nd Yr. | 90-min | 22 students
Social and Political Philosophy | 40% Led | 3rd Yr. | 90-min | 25 students
Intro to Philosophy (4 sections) | 50% Led | 1st Yr. | 50-min | ≥30 students
Advanced Ethics | 75% Led | 3rd Yr. | 90-min | 21 students
Biomedical Ethics | 50% Led | 3rd Yr. | 50-min | 18 students

INVITED PRESENTATIONS (N=14)

Betwixt Ends and Means; Toward a Procedural Sortal for Häyry's Liberal Utilitarianism | The Philosophies of Matti Häyry: Consequential Controversies | European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare (ESPMH) | Amsterdam | **2026**

Why we should be looking for a nomadic post-biological ETI | ISSET Space Exploration Symposium | THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA | Edmonton | **2024**

The Hobbesian Trap and what the Philosophy of Language has to say about Communication with ETI | Social and Ethical Frontiers in Space — THE EUROPEAN ASTROBIOLOGY INSTITUTE & the Society for Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology | Kiruna | **2024**

An Assay on the Hobbesian Trap and Axioms of First Contact | Philosophy Department Colloquium Series | UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE | **2024**

Axioms of First Contact and the Moral Status of Extra Terrestrial Life | The American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Astro Affinity Group (ASBH) | Zoom Seminar | **2024**

The Moral Status of Extra Terrestrial Life | ISSET Space Exploration Symposium | THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA | Edmonton | **2023**

Virtual Companions & the Curious Case of Sexual Lethargy | Philosophy Department Colloquium Series | UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE | **2023**

It's Life Jim... Then Again, Maybe Not: Detection, Definition, and Doubt Beyond Earth | Philosophy Department Colloquium Series | UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE | **2020**

From Zero to Hero: Logic 101 — How to Argue Effectively (Three sessions) | Alberta Student Leader Conference | Lethbridge | **2019**

A Humean Approach to Disability | Moral & Political Research Seminar | UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI | **2018**

The Picture Theory of Disability & the Prescription of Prosthetics | Moral & Political Research Seminar | UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI | **2018**

The Picture Theory of Disability and the Prescription of Prosthetics | UNIVERSITY OF TURKU | **2018**

The Picture Theory of Disability and Sexual Citizenship | UNIVERSITY OF TARTU | **2018**

Applying the Picture Theory of Disability | Philosophy Department Colloquium Series | UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE | **2017**

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (N=14)

Mission Qua Sovereign: Hobbesian Drift in Space Ethics and Bioethics | European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare (ESPMH) | Amsterdam | **2026**

An Assay on The Hobbesian Trap and Axioms of First Contact | ISSET Space, Philosophy, and Ethics Conference | Edmonton | **2023**

The Primacy of Phenomenological Perspectives in Medicine | (ESPMH) | Riga | **2023**

Augmenting and Accommodating Accessibility: Policy Generation through the Picture Theory of Disability at Post-Secondary Institutions | With Nicole Andres | ESPMH | Riga | **2023**

The Suffering of the Many Outweighs the Suffering of the Few or the One | ESPMH | Warsaw | **2022**

And on a Positive Note, Welfare Funded Sex Doulas? | World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) | Pennsylvania | **2020**

Virtual Companions and the Curious Case of Sexual Lethargy | ESPMH | Oslo | **2019**

Disability and Sex; Let's Talk About Sex... Doulas | ESPMH | Lisbon | **2018**

Novel Therapeutics: Advanced Prosthetics | ESPMH | Belgrade | **2017**

The Picture Theory of Disability | Minorities & Philosophy Conference (MAP) | Leeds | **2017**

Applying the Picture Theory of Disability | The Nordic Network of Disability Research | Örebro | **2017**

A Revisionary Theoretical Approach to Disability: The Picture Theory of Disability | ESPMH | Zagreb | **2016**

The Picture Theory of Disability | Meeting of the Minds Conference | Lethbridge | **2016**

On Hume and The Models of Disability | Ryerson University | Toronto | **2014**

GUEST LECTURES (N=5)

Advanced Ethics | UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE | **2021**
Social Justice & Diversities in Education | UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI | **2018**
Medical Sociology | RIGA STRADIŅŠ UNIVERSITY | **2018**
Bioethics | RIGA STRADIŅŠ UNIVERSITY | Latvia | **2018**
Kinesiology; Disability & Physical Activity | UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE | **2018**

GRANTS & AWARDS

HYMY Doctoral School Travel Grant (Helsinki) | **2024 / 2023 / 2022 / 2021 / 2019** | €1300ea.
The Faculty Association of the University of Calgary's Travel Fund Grant | **2024** | CAD5,000
Nova Scotia Graduate Student Scholarship | **2016** | CAD60,000 | (declined)
The Three Minute Thesis | **2016** | Finalist
The Lethbridge University Dissemination Award | **2015** | CAD1000
Graduate Presentation Award for "On Hume and the Models of Disability" | **2015** | CAD500
The Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship | **2014** | CAD15,000
Jason Lang Scholarship | **2011 / 2012 / 2013** | CAD3000ea.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & PHILOSOPHY OUTREACH (N=7)

Betwixt Ends and Means | The Exploring Antinatalism Podcast | **2026**

Di Nucci's Sexual Rights Puzzle, Un-Puzzled | Lethbridge Philosophy Club | **2023**

On the Posthumous Bodily Integrity of ETI 'Biologics' | The Tim Ventura Interviews | **2023**

Axioms of First Contact with Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence | The Tim Ventura Interviews | **2023**

The Hobbesian Trap and First Contact with Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence | The Tim Ventura Interviews | **2023**

The Picture Theory of Disability | Lethbridge Philosophy Club | **2017**

Time Travel Under The Many Worlds Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics | Lethbridge Philosophy Club | **2016**

ADMINISTRATIVE & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

JOURNAL REFEREE

Bioethics | x2 | **2025/26**
Philosophia (Springer Nature) | x2 | **2025**
Cambridge University Press (Elements) | x1 | **2024**

Springer (Book); Floor Oosting | x1 | **2024**
Moral Philosophy and Politics | x2 | **2018 / 2024**
Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics | x1 | **2023**
The American Journal of Bioethics | x1 | **2020**
Journal of Medical Ethics | x3 | **2020/21**

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER | Meeting of the Minds Graduate Journal | **2018—2022**
CREATOR | University of Lethbridge Official Tartan | **2017**

CONFERENCE SERVICE

CHAIR | ESPMH Conference | Riga | Latvia | **2023**
CHAIR | ESPMH Conference | Oslo | Norway | **2019**
CHAIR | SAP Conference | Edinburgh | Scotland | **2015**
CHAIR & COMMENTER | WCPA Conference | Lethbridge | Canada | **2011**

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

University of Helsinki | Research Group Member, Practical Philosophy | **2026–CURRENT**
The Society for Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology | **2023—CURRENT**
American Society for Bioethics + Humanities | **2023—CURRENT**
International Association of Bioethics | **2020—CURRENT**
The Nordic-Baltic Network for Philosophy of Medicine | **2018—CURRENT**
The European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare | **2016—CURRENT**

REFEREES

SUPERVISOR

DR. TUIJA TAKALA
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Dept. of Management Studies,
Aalto University,
Ekonominaukio 1, Finland

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E-mail: tuija-maija.takala@aalto.fi

RESEARCH

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Emeritus Professor, Dept. of Philosophy,
University of Lethbridge,
Lethbridge, AB,
Canada

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E-mail: kent.peacock@uleth.ca

ACADEMIC

DR. MATTI HÄYRY
Professor, Senior Fellow;
Dept. of Management Studies,
Aalto University,
Ekonominaukio 1, Finland

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E-mail: matti.hayry@aalto.fi

TEACHING

DR. NICOLE WYATT
Associate Professor, Dept. of Philosophy,
University of Calgary,
Calgary, AB,
Canada

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E-mail: nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca