

Kurt L. Sylvan

- CONTACT INFORMATION Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities
University of Southampton
Avenue Campus
Southampton
SO17 1BF
- k.l.sylvan@soton.ac.uk
www.kurtlsylvan.com
(+44) 07922 773365
- AOS Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Practical Reason, Moral Philosophy
- AOC Kant, Classical Indian Philosophy, Metaphysics, Political Philosophy
- POSITIONS **University of Southampton**, Associate Professor since 2020
University of Southampton, Lecturer from 2015-2019
University of Southampton, Lecturer in the *Normativity: Epistemic and Practical* AHRC project, 2014-2015
- EDUCATION **Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, NJ
Ph.D., Philosophy, Awarded May 2014
Dissertation: *On the Normativity of Epistemic Rationality*
Committee: Ernest Sosa (chair), Alvin Goldman, Ruth Chang, Susanna Schellenberg, and Jonathan Dancy (external)
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
B.A., Philosophy, May 2008
Summa cum laude and with distinction in the major
Honors Thesis: *Laws of Nature and the Traditional Problem of Induction*
- PUBLICATIONS/
FORTHCOMING
- Books*
2021. *The Routledge Handbook of Practical Reason*, co-edited with Ruth Chang.
- Articles and Book Sections*
- Forthcoming. "On the Autonomy of (Some) Knowledge". *Analysis*.
- Forthcoming. "Evidence and Virtue (and Beyond)." In Lasonen-Aarnio, M. and Littlejohn, C. (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of Evidence*. Routledge.
- Forthcoming. "The Possibility of Internalist Epistemology" in Roeber, B., Sosa, E., Steup, M., and Turri, J. (eds.) *Contemporary Debates in Epistemology (Third Edition)*. Blackwell.
- Forthcoming. "Beginning in Wonder: Suspensive Attitudes and Epistemic Dilemmas" (with Errol Lord) in Hughes, N. (ed.) *Essays on Epistemic Dilemmas*. Oxford University Press.
2022. "Suspending Properly" (with Errol Lord) in Oliveira, L. and Silva, P. (eds.) *Propositional and Doxastic Justification*. Routledge.
2021. "Respect and the Reality of Apparent Reasons." *Philosophical Studies* 178: 3129–3156.

2021. “Suspension, Higher-Order Evidence, and Defeat” (with Errol Lord) in Brown, J. and Simion, M. (eds.) *Reasons, Justification, and Defeat*. Oxford University Press.
2020. “An Epistemic Non-Consequentialism.” *Philosophical Review* 129(1): 1-51.
2020. “Reliabilism without Epistemic Consequentialism.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 100: 525–555.
2020. “The Eclipse of Instrumental Rationality” in Chang, R. and Sylvan, K. (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Practical Reason*.
2020. “An Introduction to the Philosophy of Practical Reason” (with Ruth Chang) and “Appendix” in Chang, R. and Sylvan, K. (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Practical Reason*.
2020. “Non-Epistemic Perception as Technology.” *Philosophical Issues* 30: 324–345.
2020. “Responsibilism within Reason” in Greco, J. and Kelp, C. (eds.) *Virtue-Theoretic Epistemology: New Methods and Approaches*. Cambridge University Press.
2020. “Prime Time (for the Basing Relation)” (with Errol Lord) in Bondy, P. and Carter, J. A. (eds.) *Well-Founded Belief: New Essays on the Epistemic Basing Relation*. London: Routledge.
2020. “Can Performance Epistemology Explain Higher Epistemic Value?” *Synthese* 197: 5335–5356.
2019. “Epistemic Consequentialism and its Aftermath.” *Analysis* 79(4): 773-783.
2019. “Reasons: Right, Wrong, Normative, Fundamental” (with Errol Lord). *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 15: 43-74.
2018. “Veritism Unswamped.” *Mind* 127: 381–435
2018. “Knowledge as a Non-Normative Relation.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 97: 190–222.
2018. “The Place of Reasons in Epistemology” in Star, D. (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Reasons and Normativity* (with Ernest Sosa).
2017. “Responsibilism out of Character” in Alfano, M. and Fairweather, A. (eds.) *Epistemic Situationism*. Oxford University Press.
2017. “Contextualism about Epistemic Reasons” in Ichikawa, J. (ed.) *The Routledge Handbook of Epistemic Contextualism* (with Daniel Fogal).
2016. “Skorupski on Spontaneity, Apriority, and Normative Truth.” *Philosophical Quarterly* 66: 617–628.
2016. “The Illusion of Discretion.” *Synthese* 193: 1635–1665.
2016. “Epistemic Reasons I: Normativity.” *Philosophy Compass* 11: 364–376.
2016. “Epistemic Reasons II: Basing.” *Philosophy Compass* 11: 377–389.
2015. “What Apparent Reasons Appear to Be.” *Philosophical Studies* 172: 587–606.
2012. “How to Be a Redundant Realist.” *Episteme* 9: 271–282.
2012. “Truth Monism without Teleology.” *Thought* 1: 161–169.

Under Contract

Forthcoming. *The Blackwell Companion to Epistemology (Third Edition)*, co-edited with Jonathan Dancy, Ernest Sosa, and Matthias Steup.

Reviews

- Forthcoming. *Fitting Things Together* by Alex Worsnip. *Philosophical Review*.
2023. *Realisms Interlinked* by Arindam Chakrabarti. *Mind* 132: 278–287.
2019. *Knowing Better* by Daniel Star. *The Journal of Moral Philosophy* 16: 97–100.
2018. *The Logic of Commitment* by Gary Chartier. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
2017. *Naturalizing Epistemic Virtue* eds. Fairweather, A. and Flanagan, O. *Analysis* 77: 663–667.
2016. *The Oxford Handbook of Value Theory* eds. Hirose, I. and J. Olson. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (with Errol Lord).

Bibliographies

“Reasons in Epistemology” in *Oxford Bibliographies Online*.

OTHER WORK IN PROGRESS

Respect for the Truth: A Kantian Account of Theoretical Normativity
“Presentation and the Ways of Knowing”
“Deep Foundationalism and the Varieties of Epistemic Building”
“Inferential Apprehension and Epistemic Immediacy in *Statement and Inference*”
“Against Epistemic Inequality”
“Reasonable Adjustments in Epistemology” (with Claire Field)

TALKS

“Deep Foundationalism and the Varieties of Epistemic Building”
Cologne Epistemology Winter Workshop (University of Cologne) December 2023

“Inferential Apprehension and Epistemic Immediacy in *Statement and Inference*”
Oxford Realism in Context (TU Dortmund) November 2023

“Knowledge and the Presentation of Reality in Nyāya, Advaita Vedānta,
and Traditional Epistemology”
British Society for the History of Philosophy March 2023

“Inference, Epistemic Priority, and the Presentational Account of Knowing”
Oxford University January 2023

“A Kantian Account of Theoretical Normativity”
Normativity and Reasoning, NYU Abu Dhabi January 2023
New Directions in Epistemology, Glasgow December 2022
The Power and Limits of Rational Reflection, Luxembourg September 2022
Inquiry and its Norms, Madrid June 2022

“From Epistemic Kantianism to Transcendental Idealism”
Online Workshop on Epistemic Pluralism (Organized by Ylwa Wirling) Nov. 2021

“Theoretical Normativity”
Online Workshop on Inquiry (Organized by Anthony Booth) September 2021

“Respect for Truth and Epistemic Autonomy: Resolving a Tension”
Epistemic Autonomy in Kant and Beyond (Online) August 2021

“A Kantian Account of Epistemic Worth” <i>University of Glasgow (COGITO Epistemology Research Centre)</i>	March 2021
“The Non-Instrumental Structure of Practical Reason” <i>University of Texas, Austin</i>	February 2020
“Knowledge and the Presentation of Reality” <i>University of Warwick</i>	January 2020
“Respect for the Truth and the Normativity of Epistemic Rationality” <i>University of Helsinki</i>	December 2019
“From Conceptual to Doxastic Pragmatism?” <i>University of Zurich</i>	March 2019
“Respect and the Reality of Apparent Reasons” <i>Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop</i>	March 2019
“Respect for the Truth and the Normativity of Epistemic Rationality” <i>University of St. Andrews</i>	December 2018
“Evidence and Virtue (and Beyond)” <i>New Directions in Virtue Epistemology, Glasgow</i>	September 2018
“Knowledge and the Presentation of Reality” <i>Freiburg Normative Epistemology Workshop</i>	July 2018
<i>Bloomsbury Epistemology Group</i>	March 2018
<i>University of Stirling (Speaker Series)</i>	February 2018
“An Epistemic Non-Consequentialism” <i>UNC Chapel Hill (Normativity Reading Group)</i>	September 2017
“Can Performance Epistemology Explain Reflective Epistemic Value?” <i>Bled 2017: Epistemic Virtues and Epistemic Skills</i>	June 2017
“The Theaetetus Thesis” <i>Second Southampton-Leuven Epistemology Conference</i>	April 2017
“Respect for the Truth and the Normativity of Epistemic Rationality” <i>Sole Keynote Speaker, Second Cologne-Leuven Epistemology Workshop</i>	May 2016
“Reasons: Right, Wrong, Normative, Fundamental” (with Errol Lord) <i>The Language and Metaphysics of Normativity, Uppsala</i>	May 2016
“Knowledge as a Non-Normative Relation” <i>The Normativity of Attitudes, Saarbrücken</i>	December 2015
<i>2015 European Normativity Network Conference, Berlin</i>	November 2015
<i>Bled 2015: The Intersection of Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind</i>	June 2015
“Against Full Aptness” <i>Symposium on Sosa’s Judgment and Agency, KU Leuven</i>	September 2015
“The Achievements of Reason: A Rationalist Virtue Epistemology” <i>Virtue Epistemology Conference, KU Leuven</i>	September 2015
“Reasons: Right, Wrong, Normative, Fundamental” (with Errol Lord)	

	<i>St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality</i>	May 2015
	“Respect and the Reality of Apparent Reasons” <i>Normativity of Rationality Conference, Cardiff University</i>	May 2015
	“Explaining the Significance of the Internal in Epistemology” <i>University of California, San Diego</i>	January 2015
	“How to Be an Epistemic Non-Consequentialist” <i>Second Southampton Normativity Workshop</i>	January 2015
	“Rationality and Fundamental Epistemic Value: What’s the Connection?” <i>University of Graz</i>	June 2014
	“Veritism, Epistemic Virtue, and Hurka’s Principle” <i>NYU Value and Virtue in Ethics and Epistemology Conference</i>	May 2014
	“The Objective Significance of the Subjective” <i>University of Pennsylvania (Epistemic Normativity Graduate Seminar)</i>	April 2014
	“Reasons: Right, Wrong, Normative, Fundamental” <i>Southern Normativity Conference, University of Kent</i>	March 2014
	“Apparent Reasons and the Fragmentation of Epistemic Evaluation” <i>Harvard University</i>	January 2014
	“Rationality and Justification: Reasons to Divorce?” <i>University of Edinburgh (Early Career Forum, Research Talk)</i>	November 2013
	“Why Be Rational?” <i>University of Edinburgh (Early Career Forum, Public Talk)</i>	November 2013
	“How to Divorce Rationality and Justification in Epistemology” <i>University of Southampton</i>	October 2013
	“The Place of Reasons in Epistemology” <i>St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality</i>	May 2013
	“Reasons and the Metaphysics of Epistemology” <i>Northwestern–Notre Dame Epistemology Conference</i> <i>Georgetown Reasons and Reasoning Conference</i>	April 2013 April 2013
	“On How Groups Possess Evidence” <i>Princeton-Rutgers-Penn Social Epistemology Workshop</i>	April 2013
	“What Isn’t the Swamping Problem?” <i>USC-UCLA Graduate Conference</i>	February 2013
COMMENTS	On J. Adam Carter’s <i>Autonomous Knowledge</i> <i>Pacific APA</i>	March 2022
	On Chris Blake Turner’s ‘What Basing Must Be’ <i>Eastern APA</i>	January 2019

On Ernest Sosa's <i>Epistemic Explanations</i> <i>COGITO Symposium, University of Glasgow</i>	September 2018
On Peter Klein's "Certain Knowledge from Fallible Foundations" <i>Episteme Conference, Tenerife, Canary Islands</i>	July 2018
On Jonathan Ichikawa's <i>Contextualizing Knowledge</i> <i>Pacific APA</i>	March 2018
On Daniel Greco's "On the Very Idea of an Epistemic Dilemma" <i>Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference</i>	August 2017
On Elizabeth Harman's "When Is a Failure to Realize Exculpatory?" <i>Responsibility—The Epistemic Dimension II, Amsterdam</i>	May 2015
On Juan Comesaña's "Can We Believe for Practical Reasons?" <i>SOFIA Conference, Huatulco, Mexico</i>	January 2015
On Maria Alvarez's "Reasons for Action as Reasons for Belief" <i>First Southampton Normativity Workshop</i>	June 2014
On Ryan Walsh's "A Hard Problem for Schroeder's Analysis of Knowledge" <i>Pacific APA</i>	April 2014
On Daniel Fogal's "Rational Requirements and the Primacy of Pressure" <i>Princeton–Rutgers Graduate Conference</i>	April 2013
On Mark Phelan's "Believing <i>Qua</i> Member" <i>Pacific APA</i>	March 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Lecturer (at Southampton)	
	Epistemology	Spring 2015, 2017, Fall 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023
	Philosophy of Mind	Fall 2015, Fall 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
	MA Seminar on Foundationalism	Fall 2023
	Appearance and Reality (Small Group Tutorials)	Fall 2022, 2023
	Truth, Opinion, and Ideology	Spring 2023
	Classical Indian Philosophy	Spring 2023
	Political Philosophy	Fall 2015, Spring 2022, Spring 2023
	Kant's Copernican Revolution in Philosophy	Spring 2022
	Ethics	Spring 2018, Spring 2021
	MA Seminar on the Metaphysics and Epistemology of Categories	Fall 2021
	Classical Indian Philosophy (co-taught with Chris Janaway)	Fall 2019, Fall 2020
	Moral Philosophy	Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2019, Fall 2020
	MA Seminar on the Metaphysics of Knowledge	Fall 2019
	The Ethics of Belief	Spring 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019
	Knowledge and Mind (Small Group Tutorials)	Fall 2018, Spring 2019
	Scepticism	Fall 2018
	MA Seminar on the Epistemology of Perception	Fall 2017
	Reasons, Rationality, and Ethics	Fall 2014
	Ethics (Small Group Tutorials)	Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Spring 2018, Fall 2018
	Advisor (at Southampton)	
	Countless undergraduate dissertations	Ongoing since 2014
	MA dissertations (Sam Jones, Jack Maden, David Field, Charlotte Bonar, Josef Nickerson, Kirsty Bishop,	

Anthony Kelly, Lily Dommett) 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022
 MA independent studies in epistemology, ethics, mind, neurodiversity,
 political philosophy, and Indian philosophy Ongoing since 2014
 Visiting PhD student (Julen Ibarrondo Murguialday (Madrid)) Spring 2019
 Visiting PhD student (Moises Barba (Madrid)) Fall 2021
 PhD: Benjamin Paget-Woods (with Conor McHugh) 2020
 PhD: Sigmund Bruno Schilpzand 2019-2022
 PhD: James Ross (with Naomi Thompson) 2020-present
 Instructor (at Rutgers)
 Introduction to Epistemology Summer 2013
 Aesthetics of Film Summer 2012
 Introduction to Metaphysics Summer 2011
 Teaching Assistant (at Rutgers)
 Introduction to Philosophy (for James Simmons) Spring 2011
 Current Moral and Social Issues (for Jeff McMahan) Fall 2010

SERVICE

Administrative Roles
 Lifelong Learning Officer Since August 2020
 Senior Tutor for Philosophy August 2021-January 2023
 Director of Undergraduate Admissions August 2017-January 2020
 Interim Director of Graduate Studies Spring and Summer 2017
 Dissertation Coordinator 2014-16
 External Examiner
 Ph.D. Thesis of Brian Pollex at UT Austin Summer 2021
 M. Phil Theses of Claire Field, Thomas Byrne,
 and Lorin Thompson at KCL Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2021
 Internal Examiner
 Ph.D. Thesis of Atus Mariqueo Russell Fall 2023
 Ph.D. Thesis of Tim Kjeldsen Winter 2024
 Editorial
 Editorial Assistant for the following books by Ernest Sosa: 2014-15
 Judgment and Agency, Oxford University Press, 2015
 Epistemology, Princeton University Press, 2017
 Editorial Manager for *PPR*, *Noûs*, and *Philosophical Issues* 2013-14
 Editorial Assistant for *PPR*, *Noûs*, and *Philosophical Issues* 2011-12
 Editor of the following PhilPapers categories: Since 2015
 Infinetism
 The Speckled Hen Problem
 Assistant Editor of the following PhilPapers categories: Since 2013
 Perception and Skepticism; Perceptual Knowledge; Perceptual Evidence
 Referee for Presses and Journals Since 2012
 OUP, CUP, Routledge, Springer, Bloomsbury, *Philosophical Review*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Mind and Language*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Analysis*, *Analytic Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Dialogue*, *Episteme*, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Inquiry*, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Organon F*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Explorations*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Ratio*, *Synthese*, *Teorema*, *Thought*
 Referee for Conferences Since 2009
 British Society for Ethical Theory, Canadian Philosophical Association, Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Conference, Southampton-Humboldt Normativity Conference, St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality, Vancouver Summer

Philosophy Conference		
Referee for Funding Bodies		Since 2017
Swiss National Science Foundation, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada		
Organizer		
The Epistemic Role of Simple Seeing Workshop, Southampton		2017
Epistemology and Normativity Workshop, Rutgers		2012
Research Circle on Epistemic Value, Rutgers		2011
Research Circle on Rationality, Coherence and Normativity, Rutgers		2010
Research Circle on the Epistemology of Perception, Rutgers		2010
Co-Organizer		
Indian Philosophy and the Historiography of Philosophy, Southampton		2024
Knowing by Looking Workshop, Southampton		2016
Attitudes and Agency: Epistemology Workshop, Southampton		2016
Three Workshops on Social and Cultural Ontology, Southampton		2015-6
Value and Virtue in Ethics and Epistemology, NYU		2014
Rutgers philosophy department colloquium series		2013
Rutgers graduate student colloquium series		2012
Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Conference		2011
Outreach and Public Engagement Talks and Events		
'How to Build a Mind', a workshop at Hands-On Humanities Day	November	2023
'The Hidden Universe of Children's Philosophy', a workshop at Hands-On Humanities Day	November	2022
'The Octopus Within' at the Southampton Arts and Humanities Festival	November	2022
'The Autobiography and Science of Neurodiversity' at the Southampton Science and Engineering Festival	March	2022
'Beyond Disorders: Neurodiversity, Radical Empathy, and the Future of Mental Health' for Disability History Month	December	2021
'Human Minds, Animal Minds, and Alien Minds' at the Southampton Arts and Humanities Festival	October	2021
'Can Ideas Have Authors?' at the Southampton City Art Gallery	March	2019
Talk on Perception at Southampton City Art Gallery	February	2017
Talk on Studying Philosophy at Farnborough Sixth Form College	July	2015
Talks at Southampton Sixth Form Conferences	2014 (x2), 2016, 2021, 2022	
Climate		
Volunteer in undergraduate mentoring program at Rutgers for underrepresented students in philosophy		2011-12
Other Administrative Roles		
Member of internationalization committee		2014-15
Manager of departmental website		2014-15

GRADUATE	Epistemology	
COURSEWORK	Proseminar (in Epistemology and Mind) with Alvin Goldman	Fall 2008
(GPA: 4.0/4.0)	Knowing How with Jason Stanley	Spring 2009
'*' = AUDITED	Methodological Naturalism and Intuitions with Alvin Goldman	Fall 2009
	Social Epistemology with Alvin Goldman	Spring 2010
	Survey in Epistemology with Ernest Sosa	Spring 2010
	*Pragmatic Encroachment with Jason Stanley	Spring 2010
	Independent Study on Epistemic Rationality with Alvin Goldman	Spring 2010
	Independent Study on Epistemology of Perception with Ernest Sosa	Spring 2010
	*Skepticism with Brian Weatherson	Fall 2010
	Ancient Skepticism with Robert Bolton	Fall 2010
	Independent Study on Epistemic Value with Ernest Sosa	Spring 2011
	*Knowledge First with Jason Stanley	Fall 2012

Ethics		
Reasons for Action with Ruth Chang and Derek Parfit		Spring 2009
Survey in Ethical Theory with Holly Smith		Spring 2010
Independent Study on Requirements of Rationality with Ruth Chang		Spring 2010
Advanced Topics in Ethics with Jeff McMahan and Derek Parfit		Spring 2011
Independent Study on Reasons and Value with Ruth Chang		Spring 2011
Mind		
Proseminar (in Epistemology and Mind) with Alvin Goldman		Fall 2008
Philosophy of Mind with Jerry Fodor and Zenon Pylyshyn		Fall 2009
Proseminar in Cognitive Science with Zenon Pylyshyn		Fall 2009
Graduate Survey in Philosophy of Mind with Carrie Figdor (Iowa)		Fall 2007
Intentionality with Francesco Orilia (Iowa)		Spring 2006
Metaphysics and Language		
Fundamentality and Metametaphysics with Ted Sider (NYU)		Spring 2009
The Metaphysics of Propositions with Jeff King		Fall 2008
Vagueness with Brian McLaughlin		Spring 2009
Other		
Hume with Martha Bolton		Fall 2008
Probability with Barry Loewer		Fall 2008
Non-Classical Logics with Brian Weatherston		Fall 2009
Dissertation Seminar with Jason Stanley		Spring 2013

REFERENCES	Ernest Sosa	
	Board of Governors Professor	
	Department of Philosophy	E-mail: ernestsosa@me.com
	Rutgers University, New Brunswick	
	Ruth Chang	
	Professor	
	Department of Philosophy	E-mail: ruthechang@gmail.com
	Rutgers University, New Brunswick	
	Jonathan Dancy	
	Professor	
	Department of Philosophy	E-mail: jdancy@austin.texas.edu
	University of Texas, Austin	
	Ram Neta	
	Professor	
	Department of Philosophy	E-mail: neta@email.unc.edu
	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	
	Duncan Pritchard	
	UC Chancellor's Professor of Philosophy	
	Department of Philosophy	E-mail: dhpritch@uci.edu
	University of California, Irvine	
	Susanna Schellenberg	
	Professor	
	Department of Philosophy	E-mail: susanna.schellenberg@rutgers.edu
	Rutgers University, New Brunswick	
	Fiona Woollard	
	Professor	
	Department of Philosophy	E-mail: f.woollard@soton.ac.uk
	University of Southampton	