

Dr. Ethan Nowak

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Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Language • Linguistic Justice • Formal Semantics

Areas of Competence / (Teaching)

Social Epistemology • Philosophy of Mind • (Philosophy of Race and Gender) • (Logic)

Employment

Umeå Universitet Associate Professor	UMEÅ, SWEDEN 2020–contintuing
King’s College London Leverhulme Early Career Fellow	LONDON, UK 2019 – 2020
Umeå Universitet Research Fellow	UMEÅ, SWEDEN 2019
University College London Teaching Fellow and MA Tutor	LONDON, UK 2016 – 2019

Education

University of California, Berkeley PhD in Philosophy Dissertation: <i>Two Dogmas about Demonstratives</i> Supervisors: John MacFarlane and Seth Yalcin	BERKELEY, CA May 2016
University of Oxford BPhil in Philosophy	OXFORD, UK June 2006
Reed College BA in Politics and Philosophy	PORTLAND, OR June 2004

Papers

Published — Single Author

- [Language extinction](#) (2021). In Khoo, J. and Sterken, R., editors, *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language*.
- [Language loss and illocutionary silencing](#) (2020). *Mind*.
- [No context, no content, no problem](#) (2020). *Mind and Language*.
- [Really complex demonstratives](#) (2020). *Erkenntnis*.
- [Complex demonstratives, hidden arguments, and presupposition](#) (2019). *Synthese*.
- [Multiculturalism, autonomy, and language preservation](#) (2019). *Ergo*.
- [Demonstratives without rigidity or ambiguity](#) (2014). *Linguistics and Philosophy*.

Published — Co-Authored

- [Meta-meta-semantics](#) (2021). With Eliot Michaelson. *The Philosophical Quarterly*.
- [On salience-based theories of demonstratives](#). With Eliot Michaelson, forthcoming in Archer, S., editor, *Salience: A Philosophical Inquiry*.
- [Who’s your ideal listener?](#) (2020). With Eliot Michaelson. *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- [Discourse and method: why appeals to context won’t go away](#) (2019). With Eliot Michaelson. *Linguistics and Philosophy*.

Published — General Audiences

- ‘Language Pains’ to appear in *The Philosophers’ Magazine*.

Books

Philosophy of Language: The Basics

(Under contract with Routledge.)

The basic aim of *Philosophy of Language: The Basics* is to provide a broad introduction to the philosophy of language for beginning university students or the interested layperson. As I see the philosophy of language, the field can be usefully seen as being organized around two fundamental projects. The first is the project of explaining how we are able to exchange information with one another, simply by producing speech, signs, and so on. The second is the project of explaining how we are able to use words to perform actions, that is, to do things to (and for) one another.

In the first 4 chapters of the book, I focus on the first explanatory project, using classic philosophical work on proper names, definite descriptions, and quantifiers to show how semantic, metasemantic, and pragmatic components fit together to provide a theory of communication. In the second 4 chapters, I survey a number of topics in what we might think of as applied speech act theory, showing how the basic perspective sketched by J.L. Austin throws light on socially significant questions concerning various forms of discursive injustice, slurs and reclamation, and linguistic diversity.

Recent Presentations (* refereed, † invited)

Urban dialects and linguistic representation

† Linguistic Justice Conference

KU Leuven / September 2021

Into the pluriverse

† Language Working Group

University of Warsaw / June 2021

Speech, skill, and the significance of style

† Jowett Society

University of Oxford / May 2021

† Research presentation

University of Pittsburg / March 2021

† Research presentation

Uppsala University, Sweden / February 2021

† Research presentation

University of Glasgow / October 2019

† Research presentation

University of Manchester / August 2019

† Language, Cognition, and Context Conf.

Córdoba, Argentina / August 2019

* Swedish Congress of Philosophy

Umeå University, Sweden / June 2019

† Berkeley-London Grad. Conf. (keynote)

UC Berkeley / May 2019

Poetic Injustice

† Research presentation

University of Leeds / March 2021

† Language Beyond Truth Conditions Workshop

Umeå University, Sweden / December 2019

Climate change and the loss of history

† Research seminar in philosophy

Umeå University, Sweden / December 2020

Meta-metasemantics

† Linguistics and Philosophy Colloquium

University of California, San Diego / November 2020

Definite descriptions are always referential

† Institute of Philosophy

University of London / January 2020

Humor, personal style, and self-cultivation

* British Society for Aesthetics Synergy Conference

University of Kent / October 2019

Skill, recognition, and respect: new work on how speech matters

† Research seminar in philosophy

Umeå University, Sweden / April 2019

'Can ϕ easily' can easily mean 'can easily ϕ '

† New Work in the Philosophy of Language

All Souls, Oxford / May 2019

<i>Language loss and illocutionary silencing</i>	
* Eastern Division Meeting of the APA	Savannah, GA / January 2018
† UCL / Oxford Semantics and Pragmatics Workshop	UCL Linguistics / November 2017
<i>Comments on U. Stojnic 'Context and the grammar of prominence'</i>	
† Context and Variables Conference	All Souls, Oxford / April 2017
<i>No context, no content, no problem</i>	
† Workshop on Contextual Indefiniteness	Institut d'Études Avancées, Paris / April 2017
<i>Mad-dog variability</i>	
* Pacific Division Meeting of the APA	Seattle, WA / April 2017
† National Research University	Moscow, Russia / September 2016
<i>Hidden arguments and selection presuppositions</i>	
† Pragmatics Workshop	UCL Linguistics / October 2016
* Definiteness Across Languages	UNAM/Colmex, México D.F. / June 2016
<i>Demonstratives are free variables</i>	
* APA Pacific Division Meeting	San Francisco, CA / March 2016

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

King's College London

Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship / GBP £374,000 (FEC) 2019-2022

University College London

Nominated for Students' Choice Award as Outstanding Personal Tutor 2019
 Nominated for Students' Choice Award as Outstanding Personal Tutor 2018
 Nominated for Students' Choice Outstanding Teaching Award 2017

UC Berkeley

APA Pacific Division Graduate Student Stipend / US \$300 2016
 APA Eastern Division Graduate Student Stipend / US \$300 2014
 US Dept. of Education Summer Fellowship (FLAS) / US \$5,000 (Moscow, Russia) 2014
 US Dept. of Education Academic Year Fellowship (FLAS) / US \$45,000 2013-14
 Graduate Division Summer Research Grant / US \$3,500 2013
 Graduate Division Travel Grant / US \$1,000 2013
 Fulbright US Student Research Grant / US \$48,000 (Moscow, Russia) 2011-12
 Philosophy Department Summer Research Grant / US \$3,500 2012
 Philosophy Department Travel Grant / US \$800 2012
 Dean's Fellowship / US \$37,000 2010-11
 US Dept. of Education Summer Fellowship (FLAS) / US \$5,500 (Saint Petersburg, Russia) 2009
 Ralph W. Church Fellowship / US \$64,200 2006-07

University of Oxford

Philosophy Faculty Graduate Scholarship / GBP £17,540 (full fees and maintenance) 2004-06
 Clarendon Bursary / GBP £17,540 (duplicated full fees and maintenance) 2004-06
 Christ Church American Friends' Scholarship / GBP £5,000 (duplicated fee payment) 2004-05

Reed College

Phi Beta Kappa 2004
 Rhodes Scholarship Trust, US Finalist (District VII) 2003
 3 Commendations for Academic Excellence 2001-04

Teaching Experience

Umeå University

Undergraduate Courses

Logic	Fall 2021
Mind and Language	Fall 2021
Formal Semantics	Fall 2021
Epistemology	Fall 2020
Philosophy of Perception	Spring 2021
Metaphysics	Spring 2021

PhD Supervision

Luise Mirow on <i>Lying and Misleading</i>	from Fall 2020
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King's College London

Undergraduate Courses

Philosophy of Race (w/ Alex Franklin)	Spring 2020
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University College London

Postgraduate Courses

MA Proseminar in Value Theory	Spring 2019
MA Proseminar in Theoretical Philosophy	Fall 2018
Advanced Topics: Linguistic Semantics and the Philosophy of Language	Spring 2018, 2017
MPhil Seminar on Strawson's <i>Individuals</i>	Fall 2016

Undergraduate Courses

Philosophy of Mind	Spring 2019
Philosophy of Language	Fall 2018, 2017
Logic 2	Spring 2018, 2017
Logic 1	Fall 2017, 2016

Training Courses

Umeå University

Research Supervision in Theory and Practice

May–August 2021

Completed term-length course for dissertation supervisors on best practices in research supervision, involving a range of readings and writing assignments based on contemporary empirical work in pedagogy, together with work placement type 'shadowing' sessions and interviews with senior university staff responsible for the development and implementation of university-wide initiatives involve equal opportunity, personnel development, improving research student outcomes, and similar.

Service

Administrative Responsibility

Umeå University, Representative for Equal Opportunities – 2021 onwards

Participate as a representative for the Department of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies in faculty and university-wide activities relating to equal opportunities, liaise with administration and student representatives, participate in committee meetings, and organize training activities for staff relating to Swedish laws regarding employment conditions, harassment and similar.

University College London, MA Tutor – 2018-2019

Administrative and pastoral responsibility for MA program, including generation of reports for university central administration, admissions decisions, exam board organization and chairing, allocation of supervisors and markers, etc.

Conference Organization

Beyond Truth Conditions, Umeå Universitet	December 2019
6th annual California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics Conference	October 2013

Refereeing

Referee for: *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *Glossa*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Mind and Language*, *Noûs*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, and *Synthese*.

Languages

- English: native speaker
- Spanish: fluent
- Russian: fluent
- Swedish: B2 (currently teaching university courses)
- French: B2
- Korean: B1
- Italian: A2
- Cornish: A1