Rowan Mellor

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Toronto
Leverhulme postdoctoral fellow, 2021-23

University College London
Associate Lecturer in Political Philosophy, 2020-2021

EDUCATION

UCL
PhD Philosophy, 2016-21

Dissertation title: What Does Justice Require of Me? The Individuals Demands of Social Justice and the Paradox of Collective Harm
Abstract: I argue that lawmakers have a special obligation to combat structural injustice. People's positions within a social structure can rationalize behavior which, when performed on a large scale, collectively reproduces social injustice. But a given individual's contribution to this process can be negligible, and so it can seem that no one has a reason to act differently. I argue that lawmakers are uniquely positioned to intervene in the reproduction of structural injustice, since changes in legislation can give individuals reasons to alter their behavior which they would otherwise lack.

Stanford University
Visiting research student, 2019

École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris
Visiting research student, 2018

UCL
MPhil Philosophy, 2014-16

BA (Hons) Philosophy, First Class Honors, 2011-14

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of specialization: Normative ethics, political philosophy, practical rationality

Areas of competence: Philosophy of law, environmental ethics, philosophy of action, social ontology, philosophy of social science

PUBLICATIONS

Published

'Faces of Vicarious Responsibility' *The Monist* 104 (2), April 2021, 238–250: https://doi.org/10.1093/monist/onaa035

Forthcoming pending review

'What Are We to Do? The Semantics and Ethics of the Joint Ought' (co-authored with Margaret Shea), *Philosophical Studies* (special issue dedicated to papers presented at the Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop 2023)

Under review

'Joint Ought'
Argues that there are joint 'oughts' which apply irreducibly to pluralities of agents.
Available on request.

In preparation

'Skepticism About the No-Difference Challenge'
Defends the skeptical view that individuals have no reason to avoid collectively harmful acts.
Available on request.

'Team Reasoning: A Dilemma'
Argues that theories of team reasoning in non-standard game theory face a dilemma if they are interpreted as normative theories: either they will sometimes tell an agent to pick the worst option open to her, or they will collapse into the standard theory of rational choice.

'Choice, Alienation, and the Value of Autonomy'
Argues that the value of autonomy consists neither in the value of choice, nor in that of non-alienation, but rather in the importance of being guided by certain reasons for action.

AWARDS

2021-23   Leverhulme Study Abroad Studentship to undertake 2 years of fully funded postdoctoral research

2019-20   Aristotelian Society Student Bursary, valued at £3,000

2016-19   London Arts and Humanities Partnership (branch of the Arts and Humanities Research Council) Doctoral Scholarship to undertake 3 years of fully funded doctoral research

2015-16   Society for Applied Philosophy Doctoral Scholarship, valued at £10,000

2015-16   UCL Departmental Scholarship, valued at £6,014

2014-15   UCL Jacobsen Scholarship in Philosophy, contribution to tuition fees

2013-14   Richard Murphy Memorial Prize, awarded for best performance in the final year examinations of the UCL BA Philosophy programme, valued at £100

TALKS
(* indicates refereed)
(† indicates invited)

* 'What Are We to Do? The Semantics and Ethics of the Joint Ought' (co-authored with Margaret Shea), Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop, April 2023, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, USA

† 'Joint Ought', Berkeley Workshop in Law, Philosophy, and Political Theory, November 2022, University of California Berkeley, USA

* 'Joint Ought', Humboldt Normativity Conference 2022, September 2022, Humboldt University, Germany

* 'Team Reasoning: A Dilemma', Social Ontology and Collective Intentionality 2022, August 2022, University of Vienna, Austria

* 'Joint Ought', Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress 2022, poster session, August 2022, University of Colorado Boulder, USA

† 'Joint Ought' University of Toronto Ethics Group, May 2022, University of Toronto, Canada

* 'Sovereignty and Non-Alienation', UCL Graduate Conference, September 2021, UCL

† 'It Makes No Difference: Collective Harm and the Law', UCL Departmental Symposium, June 2021, UCL

* 'Injustice, Excuse and Laundry', 2nd POLEMO Symposium, September 2019, Central European University, Budapest

* 'Social Holism without Social Ontology', 6th Biennial ENSO Conference, August 2019, University of Tampere, Finland

'Social Holism without Social Ontology', London Intersubjectivity Workshop, June 2019, UCL

* 'Injustice, Excuse and Laundry', X Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy, June 2019, University of Minho, Portugal

* 'Does Joint Agency Exist?' London Graduate Philosophy Workshop, November 2018, University of London

* 'Does Joint Agency Exist?' London - Warwick Mind Forum, November 2018, UCL

* 'Must the Proletariat Sell their Labour?' IX Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy, June 2018, University of Minho, Portugal

'Scanlon on Equality of Opportunity' (with Véronique Munoz-Dardé), workshop on TM Scanlon's *Why Does Inequality Matter?* November 2017, EHESS, France

* 'Are the Proletariat Forced to Sell their Labour?' UCL Philosophy Graduate Conference, September 2017, UCL

* 'What is Collective Responsibility?' Manchester Centre for Political Theory Brave New World Conference, April 2016, University of Manchester

RESPONSES
(* indicates refereed)

'Threats, Protests and the Possibility of Forgiveness' Kirstine La Cour, UCL Graduate Conference, September 2019, UCL

* Epistemic Coercion' Sophia Dandelet, London - Berkeley Philosophy Graduate Conference, May 2019, University of California Berkeley, USA

'Joint Action and Dependent Actions' Catherine Dale, London Intersubjectivity Workshop, February 2019, UCL

'Who Are You Calling Repugnant?' Nikhil Venkatesh, UCL Philosophy Graduate Conference, September 2018, UCL

'Is all Moral Responsibility Ultimately Individual Responsibility?' Russell Child, University of London Graduate Philosophy Conference November 2017, University of London

'Fichte and Davidson on Intersubjectivity' Rory Phillips, UCL Philosophy Graduate Conference, September 2016, UCL

* 'Two Ways to Want' Ethan Jerzak, London - Berkeley Philosophy Graduate Conference, May 2016, University of London

TEACHING

Primary instructor, University of Toronto at Scarborough

Philosophy of Law, Winter Term 2023

Environmental Ethics, Fall Term 2022

Primary instructor, UCL

Law, Freedom and Morality, Spring Term 2021

Philosophy and Public Policy, Spring Term 2021

Why Democracy? Autumn Term 2020

Introduction to European History, Law, Politics and Philosophy (Philosophy component), Autumn Term 2020

Advanced Tutorials: The Philosophy of Social Science, Spring Term 2019

Teaching assistant, UCL

Philosophy and Public Policy (with Sarah Richmond) Spring Term 2020

20th Century Philosophy: Iris Murdoch's *The Sovereignty of Good* (with Mark Kalderon) Autumn Term 2019

Advanced Topics in Moral Philosophy: Responsibility, Luck and Excuses (with Ulrike Heuer) Autumn Term 2018

Why Democracy? (with Amanda Greene) Spring Term 2018

Topics in Political Philosophy (with Joe Horton) Autumn Term 2017

Regulation of Intimacy: The Politics of Sex (with Véronique Munoz-Dardé) Spring Term 2017

History of Philosophy I: Ancient Philosophy (with Simona Aimar) Autumn Term 2016

SERVICE

Degree Coordinator, BA European Social and Political Studies, UCL, 2020-2021

Personal tutor, European and International Social and Political Studies, UCL, 2020-2021

Co-convener for Departmental Symposium, UCL, 2019-2020

Co-convener for Philosophy PhD Work in Progress seminars, UCL, 2017-2018

Reviewer for *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies* and *Utilitas*

REFERENCES

Véronique Munoz-Dardé
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University of Oxford
Corpus Christi College
Merton Street, Oxford OX1 4JF
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