

Rowan Mellor

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Northwestern University

Brady Faculty Fellow, 2023-25

University of Toronto

Leverhulme Postdoctoral Fellow, 2021-23

University College London (UCL)

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

[‘What Are We to Do? Making Sense of ‘Joint Ought’ Talk’](#) forthcoming *Philosophical Studies* (co-authored with Margaret Shea).

[‘Joint Ought’](#) 2024 *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 52 (1), 42–68. Selected for a discussion at [PEA Soup](#).

[‘Faces of Vicarious Responsibility’](#) 2021 *The Monist* 104 (2), 238–250.

In preparation

[A paper which develops the concept of joint reasoning, arguing that when two agents reason jointly to a conclusion C, each must take the reasons for which the other endorses C to be sufficient normative reasons]

[A paper which argues against the view that joint obligations transmit to individual obligations to do one's part]

[A paper which describes and motivates a distinctive form of forgiveness, which I call 'forgiveness as humility']

[A paper defending the view that we have no reason to avoid acts which make no difference to collective harms]

[A book review of Jessica Brown's 'Groups as Epistemic and Moral Agents' commissioned by *Mind*]

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 program, valued at £100

TALKS

(* indicates refereed)

(† indicates invited)

'Thinking Together: Shared Reasoning, Shared Reasons, and the Taking Condition'

- * Philadelphia Normative Philosophy Conference 2024, University of Pennsylvania, USA
- * Social Ontology 2024, Duke University, USA

'Why Cooperate? Team Reasons, Participation, and Unwillingness'

- * Laval Everything Agency Conference 2024, Université Laval, Canada
- * Social Ontology and Collective Intentionality 2022, University of Vienna, Austria

'What Are We to Do? The Semantics and Ethics of the Joint Ought' (with Margaret Shea)

- * Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress 2023, University of Colorado Boulder, USA
- * Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop 2023, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, USA

'Joint Ought'

- † Berkeley Workshop in Law, Philosophy, and Political Theory 2022, University of California Berkeley, USA
- * Humboldt Normativity Conference 2022, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany
- * Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress 2022, University of Colorado Boulder, USA
- † University of Toronto Ethics Group 2022, University of Toronto, Canada

'Sovereignty and Non-Alienation'

- * UCL Graduate Conference 2021, UCL, UK

'It Makes No Difference: Collective Harm and the Law'

- † UCL Departmental Symposium 2021, UCL, UK

'Injustice, Excuse and Laundry'

- * POLEMO Symposium 2019, Central European University, Hungary
- * Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy 2019, University of Minho, Portugal

‘Social Holism without Social Ontology’

- * Social Ontology and Collective Intentionality 2019, University of Tampere, Finland
- London Intersubjectivity Workshop 2019, UCL, UK

‘Does Joint Agency Exist?’

- * London Graduate Philosophy Workshop 2018, University of London, UK
- * London-Warwick Mind Forum 2018, UCL, UK

‘Are the Proletariat Forced to Sell their Labour?’

- * Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy 2018, University of Minho, Portugal
- * UCL Philosophy Graduate Conference 2017, UCL, UK

‘Scanlon on Equality of Opportunity’ (with Véronique Munoz-Dardé)

- † Symposium for TM Scanlon’s ‘Why Does Inequality Matter?’ 2017, EHESS, France

‘What is Collective Responsibility?’

- * Brave New World 2016, University of Manchester, UK

RESPONSES

(* indicates refereed)

‘Threats, Protests and the Possibility of Forgiveness’ Kirstine La Cour, UCL Graduate Conference, 2019, UCL

* ‘Epistemic Coercion’ Sophia Dandeleit, London - Berkeley Philosophy Graduate Conference, 2019, University of California Berkeley

‘Joint Action and Dependent Actions’ Catherine Dale, London Intersubjectivity Workshop, 2019, UCL

‘Who Are You Calling Repugnant?’ Nikhil Venkatesh, UCL Philosophy Graduate Conference, 2018, UCL

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

‘Fichte and Davidson on Intersubjectivity’ Rory Phillips, UCL Philosophy Graduate Conference, 2016, UCL

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

TEACHING

Primary instructor

‘The Good Society’, Northwestern University, Spring Quarter 2024, and Spring Quarter 2025

‘Topics in Social and Political Philosophy: Freedom and Autonomy’, Northwestern University, Fall Quarter 2023

‘Philosophy of Law’, University of Toronto, Winter Term 2023

‘Environmental Ethics’, University of Toronto, Fall Term 2022

‘Law, Freedom and Morality’, UCL, Spring Term 2021

‘Philosophy and Public Policy’, UCL, Spring Term 2021

‘Why Democracy?’, UCL, Autumn Term 2020

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

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

Postgraduate teaching assistant

'Philosophy and Public Policy', UCL, Spring Term 2020

'20th Century Philosophy: Iris Murdoch's *The Sovereignty of Good*', UCL, Autumn Term 2019

'Advanced Topics in Moral Philosophy: Responsibility, Luck and Excuses', UCL, Autumn Term 2018

'Why Democracy?', UCL, Spring Term 2018

'Topics in Political Philosophy', UCL, Autumn Term 2017

'Regulation of Intimacy: The Politics of Sex', UCL, Spring Term 2017

'History of Philosophy I: Ancient Philosophy', UCL, 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-convenor for Departmental Symposium, UCL, 2019-2020

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

Reviewer for *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Political Theory*, *Utilitas*, *Moral Philosophy and Politics*, and *Grazer Philosophische Studien*

LANGUAGES

English: native speaker

French: intermediate (B2); courses taken at King's College London

REFERENCES

Véronique Munoz-Dardé
UCL and UC Berkeley
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