

Marvin Backes

University of Cologne
Department of Philosophy
Albertus-Magnus-Platz 1
50931 Cologne, Germany

mbackes4@uni-koeln.de
www.marvinbackes.com

Nationality: German

Research

Areas of Specialization: Epistemology (traditional and social), Metaphysics, Metaethics

Areas of Competence: Ethics, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind

Employment

- 2022 - present **University of Cologne**, *Department of Philosophy*
Research Fellow
- 2020 - 2022 **Uppsala University**, *Department of Philosophy*
Wenner-Gren Research Fellow
- 2020 (spring) **University of St Andrews**, *Department of Philosophy*
Associate Lecturer
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Education

- 2015 - 2019 **University of St Andrews/Stirling**
PhD Philosophy
Supervisors: Patrick Greenough and Crispin Wright
- 2014 - 2015 **University of St Andrews/Stirling**
MLitt Philosophy
Supervisor: Jessica Brown
- 2009 - 2013 **Westminster College**, *Salt Lake City, USA*
BA Philosophy and Economics (with honours)
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Publications

- Forthcoming "Should Moral Intuitionism Go Social? (with Matti Eklund and Eliot Michaelson)", *Noûs*.
- Forthcoming "Epistemic Justification: Probability, Normalcy, and the Functional Theory", *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- 2021 "Can Groups be Genuine Believers? The Argument From Interpretationism", *Synthese* 199: 10311–10329.
- 2020 "Epistemology and the Law: Why There is No Epistemic Mileage in Legal Cases", *Philosophical Studies* 177: 2759-2778.
- 2019 "Normalcy, Justification, and the Easy-Defeat Problem", *Philosophical Studies* 176: 2877-2895.
- 2019 "A Bitter Pill for Closure", *Synthese* 196: 3773-3787.
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In Progress

- Under Review Moderate Moral Intuitionism and Arguments From Reliability.
- Advanced Draft On Inferential Moral Knowledge and Hume's Law

Selected Talks

Moderate Moral Intuitionism and Arguments From Reliability

- (Sept. 2022) GAP.11 (German Society for Analytic Philosophy), *Humboldt University Berlin*
Apr. 2021 Stockholm/Uppsala Joint Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy, *Stockholm University*

On Inferential Moral Knowledge: A Defence of Hume's Law

- (Jun. 2022) The Swedish Congress of Philosophy, *Lund University*
Apr. 2022 Stockholm/Uppsala Joint Seminar in Practical Philosophy, *Stockholm University*

Justification Pluralism and Epistemic Paradoxes: New Solutions

- May. 2022 Brown Bag Seminar Series, *University of Cologne*
Sept. 2021 Epistemic Pluralism Workshop, *Yonsei University/ University of Gothenburg/ Uppsala University*

Epistemic Justification: Monism, Pluralism, and the Functional Theory

- Jun. 2020 Higher Seminar for Theoretical Philosophy, *Uppsala University*

Epistemology and the Law: Why There is No Epistemic Mileage in Legal Cases

- Nov. 2019 Epistemology Research Group, *University of Edinburgh*
Apr. 2019 Evidence in Law and Ethics, *Jagiellonian University (Kraków)*

Normalcy Views of Justification and the Easy-Defeat Problem

- Sept. 2018 GAP.10 (German Society for Analytic Philosophy), *University of Cologne*
Jun. 2018 European Epistemology Network, *University of Amsterdam*
Apr. 2018 XIX Taller d'Investigació en Filosofia, *University of Barcelona*

Justification from Statistical Evidence: A Defence

- May 2018 Arché Epistemology Group, *University of St Andrews*

Justification as Multiply Realizable (invited talk)

- Dec. 2017 The Metaphysics of Knowledge Workshop II, *University of St Andrews*

A Dilemma for Non-Probabilistic Accounts of Justification

- May 2016 Flash Epistemology Workshop, *University of St Andrews*

Finding Value in Verbal Disputes

- July 2015 Understanding Value IV, *University of Sheffield*

Awards & Grants

- 2020 - 2022 **Wenner-Gren Postdoctoral Research Fellowship**
Competitive stipend to conduct postdoctoral research in Sweden
- 2020 **University of St Andrews Outstanding Teacher Award Nomination**
Nominated by students for the annual Outstanding Teacher Award
- 2015 - 2018 **AD Links Foundation Postgraduate Scholarship**
Competitive three-year scholarship for doctoral studies, awarded by the University of St Andrews
- 2014 - 2015 **Formula Santander Postgraduate Scholarship**
Competitive scholarship for graduate studies, awarded by the University of St Andrews
- 2013 **Westminster College Outstanding Student Award (Philosophy)**
Awarded annually to final-year philosophy students in recognition of outstanding academic achievement

2009 - 2013 **Westminster College Merit Scholarship**
Merit based four-year scholarship for undergraduate studies

Teaching

Lecturing, *University of St Andrews*

Spring 2020 PY4606 Contemporary Epistemology (Social and Political Epistemology)
PY1901 Morality and Human Nature (Moral Theory)
Spring 2019 PY2903 Matters of Life and Death (Ethics)

Tutoring, *University of St Andrews*

Spring 2020 PY2012 Meaning and Knowing (Epistemology and Philosophy of Language)
Spring 2019 PY1013 The Enlightenment (History of Philosophy/Political Philosophy)
Autumn 2018 PY2011 Foundations of Western Philosophy (Ancient Philosophy)
Spring 2018 PY2011 Foundations of Western Philosophy (Ancient Philosophy)
Spring 2017 PY2013 Moral and Aesthetic Values (Metaethics and Aesthetics)
Autumn 2016 PY1010 Mind and World (Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind)
Spring 2016 PY2012 Meaning and Knowing (Epistemology and Philosophy of Language)
Autumn 2015 PY1010 Mind and World (Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind)

Instructor on the Philosophy Academic Skills Project, *University of St Andrews*

I designed and delivered two workshops aimed at making analytic philosophy more accessible to undergraduate students new to the subject and to help students develop some of the key skills required to succeed in philosophy.

Spring 2016 Philosophy Academic Skills Workshop, 'Essay Writing in Philosophy'
Autumn 2015 Philosophy Academic Skills Workshop, 'Thinking Like a Philosopher'

Professional Experience & Service

Collaborative Research

As an active member of the Arché Philosophical Research Centre for Logic, Language, Metaphysics and Epistemology at the University of St Andrews, I was affiliated with the following research groups.

2015 - 2019 **Epistemology: Current Themes**
Principal investigator: Jessica Brown
2017 - 2019 **Conceptual Engineering**
Principal investigator: Kevin Sharp
2016 - 2017 **Metaphysics: Identity, Existence & Structure**
Principal investigator: Aaron Cotnoir
2015 - 2016 **Language and Mind**
Principal investigator: Derek Ball & Simon Prosser

Conference Organising

2021 Organiser of three international workshops on Epistemic Pluralism (together with Nikolaj Pedersen and Ylwa Wirling).
2017 Organiser of the 10th Arché Graduate Conference
External funding won from the Scots Philosophical Association and Analysis.
2016 Organiser of the 9th Arché Graduate Conference
External funding won from the Mind Association, the Scots Philosophical Association, and through the CAPOD Innovation Grant.

Refereeing

Invited Referee: *Analysis*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Synthese*, *Inquiry*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Acta Analytica*

References

Patrick Greenough

Senior Lecturer
University of St Andrews
pmg2@st-andrews.ac.uk

Crispin Wright

Professor of Philosophy
NYU/University of Stirling
c.j.wright@stir.ac.uk

Jessica Brown

Professor of Philosophy
University of St Andrews
jab30@st-andrews.ac.uk

Matt McGrath

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy
Rutgers University
msm331@philosophy.rutgers.edu

Martin Smith

Reader in Philosophy
University of Edinburgh
martin.smith@ed.ac.uk

Matti Eklund

Professor of Philosophy
Uppsala University
matti.eklund@filosofi.uu.se