

Christopher Woodard

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Nottingham. My research and teaching are mainly in the areas of normative ethics and political philosophy. I have been Head of the Department of Philosophy and I am currently Director of the British Society for Ethical Theory.

Education and employment

PhD Political Philosophy, University of Warwick, 1997. Supervised by Prof. S. L. Hurley

PG Certificate in Post-Compulsory Education, University of Warwick, 2003

BA History and Politics, First Class, University of Warwick, 1992

Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Nottingham, 2010—

Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Nottingham, 2002–2010

Temporary Lecturer in Political Philosophy, University of Warwick, 2000–2002

Leverhulme Special Research Fellow, University of Warwick, 1998–2000

Temporary Lecturer in Political Philosophy, University of Warwick, 1997–1998

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Warwick, 1993–1997

Teaching experience

I have extensive experience of teaching, examining, and curriculum design at all levels in ethics and political philosophy. I enjoy teaching, put a great deal of effort into it, and consistently receive student evaluation scores better than the Departmental average. In July 2016 I received a University of Nottingham Lord Dearing Award for ‘outstanding contribution to the development of teaching and student learning’. I have been Director of Teaching for Philosophy and for the School of Humanities.

Research overview

I have developed distinctive views about justice, reasons, rightness, and well-being. My current research integrates these views in a defence of Utilitarianism.

Books

1. *Reasons, Patterns, and Cooperation* (New York: Routledge, 2008). Presents my distinctive theory of pattern-based reasons, i.e. reasons for or against performing some action, *X*, because of the rightness or goodness of some pattern of action, *P*, of which *X* is a part. I claim that the existence of pattern-based reasons does not depend on the willingness of others to realise their parts in *P*.

Prof. Tim Mulgan (Auckland) wrote in *Mind*:

This is an excellent, sophisticated, thought-provoking book. It makes a real contribution to a central issue in teleological ethics. Anyone interested in teleological ethics will learn a great deal from this book.

Dr. Rob Lawlor (Leeds) wrote in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*:

[The] focus on pattern-based reasons (and also on the pluralist approach) seems to me to be an important contribution to moral theory . . . *Reasons, Patterns, and Cooperation* offers a new theory that could be a candidate for the title of most plausible version of consequentialism.

Dr. Mitch Parsell (Macquarie) wrote in the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*:

This beautifully concise monograph is an invaluable resource for those interested in pattern-based reasons, cooperation and pluralistic approaches in ethics. The book contains a range of resources for categorizing and evaluating ethical positions, and some tremendously interesting extensions of traditional thought experiments to illustrate the centrality of structural claims to ethics. I highly recommend it.

2. *Applied Ethics*. Open access e-textbook, 40 000 words. Co-authored with Isabel Gois; published by the University of Nottingham, 2015; funded by JISC.

3. *Taking Utilitarianism Seriously*. In progress. Under contract with Oxford University Press. Manuscript to be completed by Autumn 2017.

Articles and chapters

Forthcoming. 'Three Conceptions of Group-Based Reasons'. *The Journal of Social Ontology*.

2016. 'Hybrid Theories'. In Guy Fletcher (ed.) *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Well-Being* (Abingdon: Routledge), 161-74.

2013a. 'The Common Structure of Kantianism and Act Utilitarianism', *Utilitas*, 25:2, 246-265.

2013b. 'Classifying Theories of Welfare', *Philosophical Studies*, 165:3, 787-803.

2013c. 'Collective Utilitarianism'. *The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Utilitarianism* (Bloomsbury Academic, ed. J. E. Crimmins), 750 words.

2011. 'Rationality and the Unit of Action', *The Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, 2: 261-277.

2009a. 'What's wrong with possibilism', *Analysis*, 69: 219-226.

2009b. 'Pedro's significance', *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 47: 301-319.

2008. 'A New Argument Against Rule Consequentialism', *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, 11: 247-61.

2005. 'Egalitarianism', *Philosophical Books*, 46: 97-112.

2003. 'Group-Based Reasons for Action', *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, 6: 215-229.

2000a. 'Cohen and the Basic Structure Objection', *Acta Politica*, 35: 275-301.

2000b. 'The Concept of Acquiescence', *The Journal of Political Philosophy*, 8: 409-432.

2000c. 'Egalitarianism, Responsibility, and Desert', in P. Grim, K. Baynes, P. Ludlow, and G. Mar (eds.) *The Philosopher's Annual*, Volume XXI (Atascadero: Ridgeview). This is a reprint of (1998), selected as 'one of the ten best articles of the year' in philosophy.

1998. 'Egalitarianism, Responsibility, and Desert', *Imprints*, 3: 25-48.

Talks

'Value and Meaning in Life', Umeå University, 30 November 2016.

'Rightness, Virtue, and Decisions', presented at the XIVth Conference of the International Society for Utilitarian Studies, Lille Catholic University, 6-8 July 2016.

'Idealising Forms of Utilitarianism', session at the International Society for Utilitarian Studies Summer School, Lille Catholic University, 4-5 July 2016.

'Blame and error: some ethical distinctions', presented at the symposium on Philosophy, Ergonomics and Applications in Complex Human Systems, University of Nottingham, 6th June 2016.

'Well-being Subjectivism', Open University, 9 September 2015.

'Group Reasons in Uncooperative Contexts', Cooperation and Equality seminar, University of Manchester, 27 January 2015.

'Group Reasons in Uncooperative Contexts', invited presentation at Collective Intentionality IX, Indiana University, 10-13 September 2014.

'Welfare Subjectivism, Valuing, and Desire', presented at the XIIIth Conference of the International Society for Utilitarian Studies, Yokohama National University, 20-22 August 2014.

'A Utilitarian Theory of Rights', Nottingham Centre for Normative Political Theory, University of Nottingham, 13 May 2014.

‘Welfare Subjectivism, Valuing, and Desire’, Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs, University of Warwick, 4 March 2014.

‘Promoting Health vs. Promoting Wellbeing’, Nottingham Health Humanities Showcase, University of Nottingham, 28 June 2013.

‘How can we make progress in the philosophy of welfare?’, Oxford Brookes University, 20 February 2013.

‘Collective Memory, Identities and Communities’, invited panel member, launch event of the Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Nottingham, 10 October 2012.

‘Philosophical Theories of Wellbeing’, invited speaker at the Philosophy of Medicine, Health, and Wellbeing Interest Group 2nd Annual Meeting, University of Nottingham, 19 September 2012.

Invited commentator on a paper by Jennifer Hawkins (Duke), at the conference Measures of Subjective Well-Being for Public Policy, University of Leeds, 13-15 July 2012.

‘The Common Structure of Kantianism and Act Utilitarianism’, invited speaker at the Research Seminar, Department of Philosophy, University of Manchester, 12 October 2011.

‘Uncooperative Collective Reasons’, presented at the 4th Joint Action Meeting, EUCogII, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 7-9 July 2011.

‘Prospects for Hybrid Theories of Welfare’, presented at the XIth Conference of the International Society for Utilitarian Studies, Lucca, 23-25 June 2011.

‘The Common Structure of Kantianism and Act Consequentialism’, presented at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 7 2009.

‘Utilitarianism and equality’, presented at the conference Two Centuries of Utilitarianism, Université de Rennes 2, June 4-5 2009.

‘Enumerative and Explanatory Theories of Welfare’, presented at the Work In Progress seminar, University of Nottingham, February 12 2009.

‘What Pedro Could Do’, presented in the Royal Institute of Philosophy Seminar Series, Nottingham, November 14 2007.

‘A New Argument Against Rule Consequentialism’, presented at the Annual Conference of the British Society for Ethical Theory, University of Bristol, June 9-11 2007.

‘Pragmatism and Teleology’, invited speaker at the Seminar in Moral Philosophy, Oxford University, October 24 2005.

‘A Moderately Pragmatic Form of Consequentialism’, presented at the Annual Conference of the International Society for Utilitarian Studies, Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, August 11-14 2005.

‘Pragmatism and Pattern-Based Reasons’, invited plenary speaker at the Nottingham Graduate Conference in Philosophy, July 30 2005.

‘Group-Based Reasons and Group Agency’, presented at the Workshop on Social Cognition, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, April 1-2 2004.

‘Willingness and Reasons not to Participate in Group Action’, invited speaker at ‘Teamwork: A Multi-Professional Workshop’, St. Catherine’s College, Oxford, April 9-10 2003.

‘Actualism and Possibilism in Ethics’, presented in the Royal Institute of Philosophy Seminar Series, Nottingham, November 27 2002.

‘Group-Based Reasons for Action’, presented at the Annual Conference of the British Society for Ethical Theory, University of Reading, April 25-26 2002.

Invited speaker on a Roundtable discussion of G. A. Cohen’s book, *If You’re an Egalitarian, How come You’re So Rich?*, Annual Conference of the Political Studies Association, University of Manchester, April 10 2001.

‘Egalitarianism, Responsibility, and Desert’, invited speaker at G. A. Cohen’s political philosophy seminar, All Souls College, Oxford, May 1998.

Research students

I have supervised one PhD student to successful completion (David Beesley, 2011). I currently have six PhD students (Joseph Adams, Thomas Crawley, Samaneh Keshavarz, Marcus Lee, Milo Nanni, Katrina O’Keefe).

Funding

I have been sole applicant in successful funding applications for a Leverhulme Research Fellowship on two occasions (1998-2000 and 2016-17) and for AHRB matching research leave (2004-5). I have been joint applicant in successful applications for JISC funding to write an e-textbook (2014) and for University of Nottingham HERMES funding to develop training resources for SMEs (2015).

Other professional activities

Director of the British Society for Ethical Theory, 2015-18. Member of the Advisory Committee of the British Society for Ethical Theory, 2009-; co-organiser of the 2010 Annual Conference. Affiliate member of the Kantian Studies research centre, Universities of Keele, St. Andrews, and Oxford. Member of the Kantian Standing Group of ECPR.

External Examiner for the modules in political philosophy in the School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds, 2012-2016. External Examiner for Joseph Kisolo-Ssonko's PhD, *On Collective Action*, University of Sheffield, February 2014. Examiner for Nicholas Shackel's PhD, *On the Obligation to be Rational*, University of Nottingham, May 2004, and Mark Dimmock's PhD, *In Defence of Moral Error Theory and Moral Abolitionism*, University of Nottingham, December 2015.

Referee for *Analysis*; *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*; *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*; *Ethics*; *Journal of Philosophical Research*; *Journal of Political Philosophy*; *Mind*; *Philosophical Quarterly*; *Philosophical Studies*; *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*; *Political Studies*; *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*; *Synthese*; *Utilitas*. Editor of the PhilPapers category 'Hybrid Theories of Well-Being'.

Member of the Ethics Committee of Helen and Douglas House, a children's and young persons' hospice in Oxford, 2013-. Participant in *Philosophy in Primary Schools* programme, Nottingham, 2012. Regular participant in University of Nottingham summer schools.

Administration

Director of Teaching, School of Humanities, 2014-16

Head of Department of Philosophy, 2011-13

School of Humanities Management Committee, 2011-13, 2014-16

School of Humanities Steering Group, 2014-16

Nottingham Health Humanities Steering Group, 2014-16

University Gifts Acceptance Committee, 2013-

Study Abroad Officer, 2014-16

Academic Offences Officer, 2014-15

Director of Graduate Studies, 2013

Extenuating Circumstances Officer, 2013

Department Equality and Diversity Committee, 2013

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2008-10

Assessment Officer, 2004-07

Admissions Officer, 2003-04