

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 Director of Teaching for the School of Humanities, and I am currently Director of the British Society for Ethical Theory.

Education and employment

PG Certificate in Post-Compulsory Education, University of Warwick, 2001–03

PhD Political Philosophy, University of Warwick, 1993–97. Supervised by Prof. S. L. Hurley

BA History and Politics, First Class, University of Warwick, 1989–92

Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Nottingham, 2010–

Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Nottingham, 2002–2010

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

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

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

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Warwick, 1993–1997

Teaching overview

I have extensive experience of teaching, examining, and curriculum design in ethics and political philosophy at all levels, and significant experience of teaching leadership. I enjoy teaching and I consistently receive excellent student evaluation scores. In July 2016 I received a University of Nottingham Lord Dearing Award for ‘outstanding contribution to the development of teaching and student learning’.

Research overview

I have developed distinctive views about justice, reasons, rightness, and well-being. I have recently completed a book manuscript for OUP integrating these views in a defence of utilitarianism. My next research project will be on civic virtues and vices. I hope to collaborate with others on this project, and to consider both epistemic and practical civic virtues and vices. Since, in my view, which traits are virtues and which are vices is in part an empirical matter, there is considerable scope for interdisciplinary work in this area.

Books

Taking Utilitarianism Seriously. Under contract with Oxford University Press. 100 000 word manuscript completed in September 2017; currently with reviewers.

Reasons, Patterns, and Cooperation. New York: Routledge, 2008. Presented 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 claimed 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.

Papers and chapters

Forthcoming. 'Accessing Online Data for Youth Mental Health Research: Meeting the Ethical Challenges', *Philosophy and Technology*, co-authored with Elvira Perez Vallejos, Ansgar Koene, Christopher James Carter, Daniel Hunt, Lachlan Urquhart, Aislinn Bergin and Ramona Statache.

2017a. 'What Good Is Meaning in Life?' *De Ethica*, 4:3, 67-79.

2017b. 'Three Conceptions of Group-Based Reasons'. *The Journal of Social Ontology*, 3:1, 107-127.

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.

Teaching book

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

Talks

Discussant at a workshop on Helen McCabe’s book manuscript on J. S. Mill and Socialism, University of Nottingham, 15 January 2018.

‘Legitimacy as a Non-Normative Property’, workshop on Legitimacy, University of East Anglia, 23-4 November 2017.

‘Knowing What is Good for You’, University of Nottingham, 8 February 2017.

‘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’, invited 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 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.

Funding

I have been successful as sole applicant in funding applications twice for Leverhulme Research Fellowships (1998-2000 and 2016-17), and once for AHRB matching research leave (2004-5). I have been successful as joint applicant for JISC funding to write an e-textbook (2014) and for University of Nottingham HERMES funding to develop training resources for SMEs (2015). I was awarded funding from the ESRC to undertake an MPhil in Politics at the University of Oxford (1992), but I declined it.

Research students

I currently have five PhD students (Joseph Adams, Thomas Crawley, Samaneh Keshavarz, Marcus Lee, Katrina O’Keefe). I supervised David Beesley to successful completion of his PhD in 2011 and Milo Nanni to successful completion of his PhD in 2018.

Other professional activities

British Society for Ethical Theory: Director, 2015–18; member of the Advisory Committee 2009–; co-organiser of the Annual Conference, 2010.

External advice: External Adviser for the revalidation of BA and MA programmes, Department of Philosophy, University of Southampton, January 2018; External Examiner for the modules in political theory in the School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds, 2012–2016.

PhD examining: external examiner for Joseph Kisolo-Ssonko, *On Collective Action*, University of Sheffield, February 2014; and Fiona Kay, *Political Equality: A Defence*, University of Lancaster, July 2017. Internal examiner for Nicholas Shackel, *On the Obligation to be Rational*, University of Nottingham, May 2004; and Mark Dimmock, *In Defence of Moral Error Theory and Moral Abolitionism*, University of Nottingham, December 2015.

Refereeing and reviewing: *American Philosophical Quarterly*; *Analysis*; *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*; *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*; *Ethics*; *Journal of Philosophical Research*; *Journal of Political Philosophy*; *Mind*; *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*; *Philosophical Quarterly*; *Philosophical Studies*; *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*; *Political Studies*; *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*; *Synthese*; *Utilitas*. Manuscript reviewer for OUP. Reviewer for the European Research Council (ERC).

Other: Editor of the PhilPapers category ‘Hybrid Theories of Well-Being’. Member of the scientific committee of *Revue Interdisciplinaire des Etudes Utilitaristes*. 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 and Sutton Trust 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

Senior Tutor, Philosophy, 2018

Assistant Assessment Officer, Philosophy, 2017–18
Nottingham Health Humanities Steering Group, 2014–16
University Gifts Acceptance Committee, 2013–
Study Abroad Officer, Philosophy, 2014–16
Academic Offences Officer, Philosophy, 2014–15
Director of Graduate Studies, Philosophy, 2013
Extenuating Circumstances Officer, Philosophy, 2013
Equality and Diversity Committee, Philosophy, 2013
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Philosophy, 2008–10
Assessment Officer, Philosophy, 2004–07
Admissions Officer, Philosophy, 2003–04