

# PEKKA VÄYRYNEN

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Professor of Moral Philosophy, University of Leeds (2013-)
- Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Leeds (2008-13)
- Docent [Adjunct Professor] of Practical Philosophy, University of Helsinki (2008-)
- Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of California, Davis (2002-08)

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Moral Philosophy (in particular Metaethics)

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

- Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics, Epistemology

## EDUCATION

- Cornell University, PhD in Philosophy (Aug. 2002), MA in Philosophy (May 2000)  
PhD thesis: *Ruling Reasons: A Defense of Moral Generalism*
- University of Helsinki, Master of Social Sciences, major: Philosophy (April 1997)

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Book**

- *The Lewd, the Rude and the Nasty: A Study of Thick Concepts in Ethics* (Oxford University Press, 2013; paperback 2015; pp. xi + 271).

### **Research Papers**

- “Doubts about Moral Perception”, forthcoming in *Evaluative Perception*, ed. Anna Bergqvist and Robert Cowan (Oxford University Press, 2017). [Invited; refereed.]
- “Essential Contestability and Evaluation”, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 92 (2014), 471-88.
- “Shapelessness in Context”, *Noûs* 48 (2014), 573-93.
- “Grounding and Normative Explanation”, *Aristotelian Society Supplementary Volume* 87 (2013), 155-78. [Invited.]

- “Thick Concepts and Underdetermination”, in *Thick Concepts*, ed. Simon Kirchin (Oxford University Press, 2013), 136-60. [Invited; refereed.]
- “Thick Concepts: Where's Evaluation?”, *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*, vol. 7, ed. Russ Shafer-Landau (Oxford University Press, 2012), 235-70.
- “Thick Concepts and Variability”, *Philosophers' Imprint* 11.1 (2011).
- “A Wrong Turn to Reasons?”, in *New Waves in Metaethics*, ed. Michael Brady (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), 185-207. [Invited.]
- “Objectionable Thick Concepts in Denials”, *Philosophical Perspectives* 23 (2009), 439-69. [Invited.]
- “A Theory of Hedged Moral Principles”, *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*, vol. 4, ed. Russ Shafer-Landau (Oxford University Press, 2009), 91-132.
- “Normative Appeals to the Natural”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 79 (2009), 279-314.
- “Slim Epistemology with a Thick Skin”, *Philosophical Papers* 37 (2008), 389-412. (Special issue: *Epistemology Through Thick & Thin.*)
- “Some Good and Bad News for Ethical Intuitionism”, *Philosophical Quarterly* 58 (2008), 489-511.
- “Usable Moral Principles”, in *Challenging Moral Particularism*, ed. Mark Lance, Matjaz Potrc, and Vojko Strahovnik (Routledge, 2008), 75-106. [Invited.]
- “Moral Generalism: Enjoy in Moderation”, *Ethics* 116 (2006), 707-41.
- “Ethical Theories and Moral Guidance”, *Utilitas* 18 (2006), 291-309.
- “Resisting the Buck-Passing Account of Value”, *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*, vol. 1, ed. Russ Shafer-Landau (Oxford University Press, 2006), 295-324.
- “Particularism and Default Reasons”, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 7 (2004), 53-79.

### Handbook and encyclopedia articles

- “Reasons and Moral Principles”, forthcoming in *Oxford Handbook of Reasons and Normativity*, ed. Daniel Star (Oxford University Press, 2017).
- “The Supervenience Challenge to Non-Naturalism”, in *Routledge Handbook of Metaethics*, ed. Tristram McPherson and David Plunkett (Routledge, 2017), 170-84.
- “Thick Ethical Concepts”, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ed. Edward N. Zalta. [Refereed.] URL= <<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/thick-ethical-concepts/>>
- “Moral Particularism”, in *Continuum Companion to Ethics*, ed. Christian B. Miller (Continuum Press, 2011), 247-60.
- “Moral Realism”, *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, ed. Donald Borchert (Macmillan Reference USA, 2006), vol. 6, 379-82.

### Book reviews

- *Ethical Intuitionism: Re-evaluations*, ed. P. Stratton-Lake. *European Journal of Philosophy* 14 (2006), 159-63.
- Christian Illies, *The Grounds of Ethical Judgement*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2004.03.11. <<http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=1399>>
- *Moral Particularism*, ed. Hooker & Little. *Philosophical Review* 111 (2002), 478-83.

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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- Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures Study Leave Award, University of Leeds (Autumn 2017)
- AHRC Early Career Fellowship, grant agreement no. H038035. Project: “The Lewd, the Rude, and the Nasty: A Study of Thick Concepts”; total award £64,813 (2010-11)
- Faculty of Arts Study Leave Award, University of Leeds (Spring 2010)
- Marie Curie International Reintegration Grant, European Community FP7/2007-2013; project: “Thick Value Concepts”; total award €100,000 (2009-12)
- Faculty Research Development Award, UC Davis, March-June 2008
- UC Davis Small Grant in Aid of Research (2004-06, 2005-07, 2006-08, 2007-09)
- UC Davis Faculty Research Travel Grant (July 2003, Oct. 2004, Aug. 2006, July 2007)
- UC Davis New Faculty Research Grant (2002-03)
- Graduate Student Presentation Award, The Creighton Club (Oct. 2001)
- Dissertation Grant, Finnish Cultural Foundation (1999-2000)

## PRESENTATIONS

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### Papers

- “TBA”, University of St. Andrews (April 2018)
- “TBA”, Metaethics conference, NYU Abu Dhabi (Feb. 2018)
- “TBA”, Moral Philosophy Seminar, Oxford University (Nov. 2017)
- “TBA”, University of Virginia (Oct. 2017)
- “TBA”, Stockholm University (Oct. 2017)
- “Evaluative Terms and Normative Role”, University of Geneva (April 2017); Humboldt University, Berlin (June 2017); Uppsala University (Oct. 2017); New York Philosophy of Language Workshop (Nov. 2017)
- “Normative Assumptions in the Metasemantics of Evaluatives”, workshop on Evaluatives, San Raffaele University-Milan (Jan. 2017)
- “Normative Challenges within Metaethics”, The New Methods of Ethics, conference 2, University of Birmingham (Jan. 2017)
- “Might Thin Terms Not Be Semantically Evaluative?”, workshop on Normativity, University of Fribourg (June 2016)
- “Pejoratives and Evaluatives”, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa (April 2016).
- “Metaethics and Normative Explanation”, Freie Universität Berlin (Oct. 2014); Metaethics conference, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Jan. 2015); Normativity: New Directions conference, Institute of Philosophy, University of London (Feb. 2015); University of Glasgow (March 2016); Lund University (May 2016); The Language and Metaphysics of Normativity conference, Uppsala University (May 2016)
- “Normative Dependence and Explanation”, Normative Supervenience/Grounding workshop, University of Oslo (Sept. 2015)
- “Reduction and Normative Explanation”, Grounding and Fundamentality in Metaphysics and Ethics conference, Bogazici University, Istanbul (Oct. 2013)
- “Essential Contestability and Evaluation”, University of East Anglia (Oct. 2013)
- “Doubts about Moral Perception”, Evaluative Perception conference, Glasgow (Sept. 2013); Moral Perception workshop, University of Cardiff (Nov. 2014)
- “Evaluation, Multidimensionality and Context”, Values in Context workshop, Lisbon

- (May 2013); University of Edinburgh (May 2013); University of Kent (March 2013)
- “Grounding and Normative Explanation”, Joint Session invited symposium, Exeter (July 2013); University of York (May 2012)
- “Two Sorts of 'Because' Claims in Ethics”, Ethics and Explanation conference, Nottingham (Nov. 2011)
- “Shapelessness in Context”, Pacific APA, Seattle (April 2012), Kings College London (Jan. 2012), University of Nebraska, Lincoln (Sept. 2011), ECAP7, Milan (Sept. 2011)
- “Thick Concepts and Reasons”, Reasons for Action Seminar, London (Feb. 2011)
- “Thick Concepts and Presupposition”, University of Reading (Oct. 2010), 7th Wisconsin Metaethics Workshop, University of Wisconsin, Madison (Sept. 2010); Knowledge and Agency joint workshop by CMM (Leeds) and CSMN (Oslo), University of Leeds (Sept. 2010); 11th Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University (Aug. 2010); Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder (Aug. 2010), University of Stirling (April 2010)
- “Thick Concepts and Variability”, BSET conference, Nottingham (July 2010); University of Manchester (Dec. 2009); University of Sheffield (Dec. 2009)
- “Objectionable Thick Concepts in Denials”, University of Nottingham (April 2009); Thick Concepts conference, Canterbury (July 2009); Boston University (Sept. 2009)
- “Conditions of Moral Perception”, keynote address at the Varieties of Experience graduate conference, University of Glasgow (July 2009)
- “A Wrong Turn to Reasons?”, University of Birmingham (Feb. 2009); Moral Philosophy Seminar, University of Oxford (March 2009)
- “Thick Evaluative Terms and Gradability”, Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder (Aug. 2008); Leonard Lecture, University of Nevada, Reno (April 2008); University of California, Davis (Feb. 2008)
- “Reasons and Evaluative Properties”, Reasons and Value workshop, Leeds (May 2008)
- “Explaining Exceptions in Ethics”, Ethics Without Principles conference, University of Paris (May 2008); University of Stockholm (Sept. 2007); University of Turku (Sept. 2007); University of Oxford (Jan. 2007)
- “A Theory of Hedged Moral Principles”, 4th Wisconsin Metaethics Workshop, University of Wisconsin, Madison (Sept. 2007)
- “What Properties Count as Evaluative?”, Joint Session, Bristol (July 2007)
- “Normative Appeals to the Natural”, 7th Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University (Aug. 2006); University of Edinburgh (Nov. 2005)
- “Is Goodness Just a Great Pretender?”, SPAWN (Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop and Network), Syracuse University (July 2006)
- “The Buck-Passing Account of Value (Almost) Refuted”, 1st Wisconsin Metaethics Workshop, University of Wisconsin, Madison (Oct. 2004); Practical Reason and Moral Motivation meeting, Rome (Sept. 2004)
- “Particularism and Default Reasons”, BSET conference, Queens University, Belfast (July 2003); Lewis & Clark College (April 2003)
- “Correct Reasoning and Normative Force”, Joint Session, Belfast (July 2003)
- “Why Epistemic Norms Are Not Hypothetical Imperatives”, The Creighton Club meeting, Cornell University (Oct. 2001)
- “Epistemic Basicness and the Epistemology of Moral Belief”, Epistemology of Basic Belief conference, the Free University of Amsterdam (June 2001)

**Invited comments**

- “Comments on Louise Hanson”, Companions in Guilt conference, the Rome Centre of Australian Catholic University (Sept. 2017)
- “Robert Audi’s ‘Moral Perception and Moral Knowledge’”, Pacific APA (April 2009)
- “Douglas Portmore’s ‘Imperfect Reasons and Rational Options’”, 9th Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University (Aug. 2008)
- “Comments on R. Jay Wallace’s ‘Reasons, Values, and Agent-Relativity’”, Reason and Value conference, University of California, Santa Barbara (Feb. 2008)
- “Heathwood on Reducing Sensory Pleasure to Desire”, 6th Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University (Aug. 2005)
- “Modest, All Too Modest: McKeever and Ridge on Guiding Moral Principles”, APA Central Division meetings, Chicago, IL (April 2004)
- “Miller on Motivational Internalism and Reliably Connected Agents”, APA Pacific Division meetings, San Francisco, CA (March 2003)
- “Comments on Peacocke’s ‘Moral Rationalism’”, Cornell University (Oct. 2001)

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE**University of Leeds***Graduate level*

- Ethics and Metaethics; Analytic Philosophy A/B (taught MA seminars)
- PhD supervision: Wouter Kalf (PhD 2013), Marc Wilcox (2013-17), Adina Covaci (2015-), Olof Leffler (2015-), Alexios Brehier-Stamatiadis (2017-), Andreas Brun (2017-)

*Undergraduate level*

- Metaethics (Level 3)
- Moral Philosophy (Level 2)
- Introduction to Ethics (Level 1)
- Interpreting Philosophical Texts (Level 1)

**University of California, Davis***Graduate level*

- Proseminar in Ethics
- Thick Evaluative Concepts
- Ethical Naturalism
- Moral Epistemology
- Practical Reason, Value, and Morality
- PhD supervision: Christian Coons (PhD 2006), Brooke Roberts (PhD 2008)

*Undergraduate level*

- Introduction to Ethics and Political Philosophy
- Ethical Theories
- Foundations of Ethics

- Rationality
- Topics in Ethics: Reasons and Value in the Natural World

### Other institutions

- Moral Epistemology, Central European University, Budapest (July 2014; one of nine invited instructors for a summer seminar aimed at PhD students, postdocs, etc.)
- Ethical Naturalism, a graduate seminar at University of Helsinki (May 2006)

## SERVICE ACTIVITY

### Service to University of Leeds

- Director of Research and Innovation (and an *ex-officio* member of the School Management Group), School of Philosophy, Religion & History of Science (2014-)
- Director, Centre for Ethics and Metaethics (2009, 2011-13, Jan 2014-)
- Postgraduate Research Tutor for Philosophy, School of PRHS (Jan. 2014-July 2016)
- Member of Internal Peer Review College, School of PRHS (2016-)
- Member of working group on poorly recruiting modules (2010-11)
- Web Liaison Director, School of Philosophy, Religion & History of Science (2011-13)
- Leader, Curricular Stream in Philosophy of Value (2008-09; 2012-13)
- Convenor, Philosophy Senior Seminar (2008-09)
- Workshop organization: “Normative Disagreement” (Nov. 2012); “Value Concepts” (March 2010); “Naturalism: Ethical and Metaphysical” (Sept. 2009)

### Service to University of California, Davis

- Chair, Search Committee (2 positions) (2007-08)
- Dean's Recruitment Advisory Committee, Division of Social Sciences (2005-06)
- Member, Search Committee (2003-06)
- Faculty Adviser, Colloquia Committee (2005-07)
- Member, Curriculum Committee (2002-08)
- Department representative, UC Davis Academic Senate (2002-03, 2005-07)
- Department representative, Assembly of the College of Letters & Sciences (2003-07)
- Member, Search Committee (political theory), Dept. of Political Science (2003-04)

### Service to profession

- Associate Editor, *Ethics* (March 2016-)
- Section editor (Ethics), *Ergo: An Open Access Journal of Philosophy* (2014-)
- Section editor (Ethics), *Philosophy Compass* (2014-17)
- Article referee: *Ethics*, *Philosophical Review*, *Noûs*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Mind*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ergo*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Perspectives*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Erkenntnis*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Thought*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Analytic Philosophy*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*,

*Ratio, Southern Journal of Philosophy, Utilitas, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, dialectica, Journal for Philosophical Research, Philosophical Papers*

- Monograph referee: Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Routledge
- Book proposal referee: Oxford University Press, Blackwell, Routledge, Bloomsbury
- Member of Review Panel, The Sanders Prize in Metaethics (2013; inaugural prize)
- Program Committee Member, Wisconsin Metaethics Workshop (2008, 2011, 2012)
- Expert evaluator, European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme (2014, 2016)
- External member of search committee (Assistant Professor in Philosophy), Trinity College Dublin (April-May 2016)
- External member of search committee (Assistant Professor in Philosophy), University of Cyprus (March-May 2015)
- External grant reviewer, Swedish Research Council (2015)
- External grant reviewer, National Science Center, Poland (2016)
- Member of Advisory Committee, British Society for Ethical Theory (2011-)
- External PhD Examiner: University of Warwick (Aug. 2017); Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa (Jan. 2017), University of Reading (Oct. 2009)
- External Examiner of Philosophy BA and MA: University of Reading (2011-15)
- Member of Advisory Board, *Practical Reason and Moral Motivation: Research Project in Theoretical Ethics*, University of Helsinki (2003-05); funding: Academy of Finland