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

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

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

Journal articles

2. "Explanatory Pluralism in Normative Ethics", forthcoming in *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics* 14 (2024).
3. "Practical Commitment in Normative Discourse", *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 21 (2022): 175-208.
4. "Normative Naturalism on Its Own Terms", *Organon F* 28 (2021): 505-530. Special Issue: *Value in Language*. [Invited] (A minor erratum: https://bit.ly/3EcEhMy.)
5. "Against Moral Contingentism", *Thought* 10 (2021): 209-17.

6. "Normative Explanation Unchained", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 103 (2021): 278-97.
7. "Normative Explanation and Justification", *Noûs* 55 (2021): 3-22.
8. "Reasons Why in Normative Explanation", *Inquiry* 62 (2019): 607-23.
9. "A Simple Escape from Moral Twin Earth", *Thought* 7 (2018), 109-18.
10. "Essential Contestability and Evaluation", *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 92 (2014), 471-88.
11. "Shapelessness in Context", *Noûs* 48 (2014), 573-93.
12. "Grounding and Normative Explanation", *Aristotelian Society Supplementary Volume* 87 (2013), 155-78. [Invited]
13. "Thick Concepts: Where's Evaluation?", *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 7 (2012): 235-70.
14. "Thick Concepts and Variability", *Philosophers' Imprint* 11.1 (2011).
15. "Objectionable Thick Concepts in Denials", *Philosophical Perspectives* 23 (2009), 439-69. [Invited]
16. "Normative Appeals to the Natural", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 79 (2009), 279-314.
17. "A Theory of Hedged Moral Principles", *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 4 (2009): 91-132.
18. "Slim Epistemology with a Thick Skin", *Philosophical Papers* 37 (2008), 389-412. Special issue: *Epistemology Through Thick & Thin.*
19. "Some Good and Bad News for Ethical Intuitionism", *Philosophical Quarterly* 58 (2008), 489-511.
20. "Moral Generalism: Enjoy in Moderation", *Ethics* 116 (2006), 707-41.
21. "Ethical Theories and Moral Guidance", *Utilitas* 18 (2006), 291-309.
22. "Resisting the Buck-Passing Account of Value", *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 1 (2006): 295-324.
23. "Particularism and Default Reasons", *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 7 (2004), 53-79.

Research articles in edited volumes

24. "Normative Commitments in Metanormative Theory", in *Methodology and Moral Philosophy*, ed. J. Suikkanen & A. Kauppinen (Routledge 2018), 193-213.
25. "Doubts about Moral Perception", in *Evaluative Perception*, ed. A. Bergqvist and R. Cowan (Oxford University Press, 2018), 109-28.
26. "Thick Concepts and Underdetermination", in *Thick Concepts*, ed. S. Kirchin (Oxford University Press, 2013), 136-60.
27. "A Wrong Turn to Reasons?", in *New Waves in Metaethics*, ed. M. Brady (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), 185-207.
28. "Usable Moral Principles", in *Challenging Moral Particularism*, ed. M. Lance, M. Potrç, and V. Strahovnik (Routledge, 2008), 75-106.

Contributions to handbooks and encyclopedias

29. "Varieties of Normative Explanation", forthcoming in *Oxford Handbook of Metaethics*, ed. D. Copp and C. Rosati (Oxford University Press).

30. "Moral Generalism and Moral Particularism", in *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Ethics,* 2nd edition, ed. C. Miller (Bloomsbury Academic, 2024), 381-396. [A revised and updated version of #34.]
31. "Thick Ethical Concepts", *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ed. E. N. Zalta. [Refereed. First published 09/2016; substantive revision 02/2021.] URL= <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/thick-ethical-concepts/>
32. "Reasons and Moral Principles", in *The Oxford Handbook of Reasons and Normativity,* ed. D. Star (Oxford University Press, 2018), 839-61.
33. "The Supervenience Challenge to Non-Naturalism", in *Routledge Handbook of Metaethics,* ed. T. McPherson and D. Plunkett (Routledge, 2017), 170-84.
34. "Moral Particularism", in *Continuum Companion to Ethics*, ed. C. Miller (Continuum Press, 2011), 247-60.
35. "Moral Realism", *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2nd edition, ed. D. Borchert (Macmillan Reference USA, 2006), vol. 6, 379-82.

Book reviews

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

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 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

Papers

- "TBD", Reasons and Explanation workshop, University of Tübingen (Dec 2023).
- "Not Perfectly Good, Not Completely Rational", Evaluative Language workshop,

University of Graz (Sept 2023)

- "Normative Explanatory Pluralism", 2023 Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics (Jan 2023); Arizona State University (Jan 2023); keynote at the 4th Cyprus Metaethics Workshop (May 2023)
- "Make It Right", Virtual Metaethics Colloquium (March 2022, online); Humboldt Normativity Conference 2022 (Sept 2022)
- "Normative Naturalism on Its Own Terms", Value in Language workshop, The Slovak Academy of Sciences (March 2021, online)
- "Normative Explanation and the Structure of Moral Theories", Humboldt Normativity Conference 2020 (Dec 2020, online)
- "Moral Theories, Relevance, and Explanation", Relevance, Grounding, and Normativity workshop, University of Hamburg (Oct 2020, online)
- "Thick Terms and Experimental Philosophy: Some Pleas and Complications", Experimental Philosophy of Language and Metaethics workshop, Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Jan 2020)
- "Evaluative Properties, Determination, and Realization", University of Barcelona (March 2019)
- "Practical Commitment in Normative Discourse", Normativity and Reasoning VII at NYU Abu Dhabi (Jan 2019); Cambridge Moral Sciences Club (May 2019); 'What Is Normativity?' workshop, Frankfurt School of Finance & Management (Sept 2019)
- "Normative Explanation and Justification", keynote at the Philosophical Society of Finland Conference (Jan 2018); Normativity and Reasoning VI at NYU Abu Dhabi (Feb 2018); Metaethics seminar, École Normale Supérieur and Institut Jean Nicod (April 2018); University of St. Andrews (April 2018); Bled Philosophical Conference (June 2018); Central European University, Budapest (Nov 2018); Durham University Normativity Seminar (Dec 2018)
- "Normative Explanation Unchained", Stockholm University (Oct 2017); University of Virginia (Oct 2017); Moral Philosophy Seminar, University of Oxford (Nov 2017); Explanation in Philosophy conference, Wuhan University (May 2019); Moral Epistemology workshop, University of Helsinki (June 2019); University of Bristol (Oct 2019); keynote at Second Groningen Metaethics Workshop (Nov 2019); Humboldt Normativity Conference (June 2020 – cancelled due to COVID-19).
- "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)
- "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 (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)
- "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 (MA seminars)
- Former PhD students: Wouter Kalf (completed 2013), Marc Wilcox (2017), Adina Covaci (2019), Olof Leffler (2019), David Heering (2020), Alexios Stamatiadis-Brehier (2021), Andreas Bruns (2021). Samuel Mason (2023)
- Current PhD students: Rodrigo Valencia (2019-), Barton Smith-Johnson (2023-)

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; an invited instructor in a summer seminar for early career researchers)
- Ethical Naturalism, graduate seminar, University of Helsinki (May 2006)

SERVICE ACTIVITY

Service to University of Leeds

- Deputy Head of School (Philosophy/History of Science), School of PRHS (2022-25)
- Director of Research and Innovation, School of PRHS (2014-21)
- Director, Centre for Aesthetic, Moral, and Political Philosophy [formerly: Centre for Ethics and Metaethics] (2009-21, apart from periods of research leave)
- Postgraduate Research Tutor for Philosophy (2014-16)
- Director, MA Philosophy (2019-21)
- Member of Internal Peer Review College, School of PRHS (2016-20)
- Web Liaison Director, School of Philosophy, Religion & History of Science (2011-13)
- Leader, Curricular Stream in Value Philosophy (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

Editorial and refereeing activities

- Associate Editor, *Ethics* (March 2016-)
- Area editor (Ethics), *Ergo* (2014-)
- Section co-editor (Ethics), *Philosophy Compass* (2014-17)
- Member of Editorial Panel, *Thought* (2013-2022)
- Journal referee: *American Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, Analytic Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Cognitive Science, dialectica, Ergo, Erkenntnis, Ethical Perspectives, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Ethics, European Journal of Philosophy, Hume Studies, Inquiry, Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy, Journal of Moral Philosophy, Journal for Philosophical Research, Journal of Philosophy, Metaphilosophy, Mind, Noûs, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophical Papers, Philosophical Perspectives, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Review, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophy Compass, Ratio, Southern Journal of Philosophy, The Age of Human Rights Journal, Thought, tiede & edistys, Utilitas*
- Monograph referee: Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Routledge
- Book proposal referee: Oxford UP, Blackwell, Routledge, Bloomsbury

Assessment and advisory activities

- Output Assessor for Sub-Panel 30: Philosophy, Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021
- Expert evaluator, European Commission Horizon 2020 (2014, 2016, 2017)
- External grant reviewer: Leverhulme Trust (2023); A.G. Leventis Foundation Funding Programme, University of Cyprus (2021); Academia Sinica, Taiwan (2020); Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies (2018); Early Career Research Fellowship scheme, Cambridge (2017); National Science Center, Poland (2016); Swedish Research Council (2015)
- Mock research assessment evaluator, University of Hong Kong (2023)
- Tenure/promotion reviews: 6x tenure with promotion, 1x Full Professor
- Member of appointing committee (Professorship in Practical Philosophy), University of Helsinki (Nov 2019-March 2020).
- Member of appointing committee (3-year lectureship in Moral and Political Philosophy), University of Helsinki (Oct-Nov 2018).
- 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)
- Member of Review Panel, The Sanders Prize in Metaethics (2013; inaugural prize)
- Program Committee Member, Wisconsin Metaethics Workshop (2008, 2011, 2012)
- Member of Advisory Committee, British Society for Ethical Theory (2011-)
- External PhD Examiner: Uppsala (Sept 2018); Warwick (Aug 2017); Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa (Jan 2017), 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, University of Helsinki (2003-05); funding: Academy of Finland