

Professor Kristján Kristjánsson

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About

Kristján Kristjánsson's research orientation can best be summed up as that of Aristotle-inspired philosophical scrutiny of theories in educational psychology and values education, with special emphasis on the notions of character and emotional virtue. He has written extensively on themes in general education, moral education, educational psychology, moral philosophy and political philosophy, and sees himself essentially as a bridge-builder between philosophy and social science. Kristjánsson is the author of *Social Freedom: The Responsibility View* (C.U.P., 2006), *Justifying Emotions: Pride and Jealousy* (Routledge, 2002), *Justice and Desert-Based Emotions* (Ashgate, 2006), *Aristotle, Emotions and Education* (Ashgate, 2007), *The Self and Its Emotions* (C.U.P., 2010) and *Virtues and Vices in Positive Psychology* (C.U.P., 2013). Kristjánsson has published over 70 articles in international journals and is an editorial board member of the *Journal of Moral Education*. He has been a Visiting Fellow at Cornell University, University of Konstanz, St. Edmund's College (Cambridge University) and Institute of Education (University of London). In 1997, he was elected the Young Humanities Scholar of the Year by the Icelandic Council of Science, and in 2011 he was presented with the Ása Guðmundsdóttir Wright Award, the most prestigious scholarly award given to an Icelandic academic across the Sciences and Humanities.

Qualifications

- University of St. Andrews, Scotland, 1987-1990: PhD in Moral Philosophy
- University College of Teaching, Reykjavík, Iceland (part-time), 1984-1986: Teacher's Diploma
- University of Iceland, 1980-1983: B.A.-degree in Philosophy and German

Biography

Kristján Kristjánsson has teaching experience at junior and senior high-school level before embarking on a university career. He was Lecturer, Reader and finally Professor in the School of Education, University of Akureyri (Iceland) from 1991–2008 (where he was also for a long time Vice-Dean, and Acting Head of Department for one year); and Professor of Philosophy of Education, School of Education, University of Iceland, from 2008. He was appointed Professor of Character Education and Virtue Ethics in the School of Education, University of Birmingham, with effect from September 1, 2012.

Postgraduate supervision

Kristján Kristjánsson has wide experience of working with postgraduate students and would be interested in supervising doctoral students across a large area of concerns and interests, having to do with moral education, virtue ethics, well-being, educational values, teacher/student emotions and self-concepts.

Doctoral research

PhD title Freedom as a Moral Concept. University of St. Andrews, 1990.

Research

- Positive psychology and positive education, with special emphasis on Peterson and Seligman's theory of virtue
- Well-being and education
- Selfhood, self-concepts (self-esteem, self-respect, self-efficacy, etc.) and education
- The nuances of character and personality, and their moral and educational relevance
- Professional and personal virtues and education
- The nature, scope and aims of moral/character education
- The situationist challenge to character and character education
- Virtue ethics and education
- Emotions as potential virtues and vices
- Aristotle's theory of moral development, moral virtues and phronesis
- Justice and justice-related emotions
- The nature of so-called negative emotions such as jealousy
- Freedom as a moral concept

Other activities

Other activities

1992-1995: Chairman, University of Akureyri Research Institute
1994-2002: Vice-Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Akureyri
1997-1998: Acting Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Akureyri
1999 (spring semester): Visiting Scholar, University of Konstanz, Germany
1999-2002: Chairman, Society of Professors in Iceland
1999-2008: Chairman, University of Akureyri Evaluation Committee for Promotions and Recruitment
2000-2011: Member of the Akureyri District Hospital Ethical Committee
2001 (spring semester): Visiting Research Fellow, Cornell University, U.S.A.
2002 (spring semester): Visiting Scholar, Faculty of Education, Cambridge University, England; Visiting Fellow St. Edmund's College
2004 (spring semester): Visiting Fellow, St. Edmund's College, Cambridge University
2005-: Member of the Editorial Board, *Journal of Moral Education*
2006 (spring semester): Visiting Fellow, St. Edmund's College, Cambridge University
2009-2012: Member of the Editorial Board, *Icelandic Journal of Educational Research*
2009-2012: Chairman, School of Education University of Iceland Evaluation Committee for Promotions and Recruitment
2009 (spring semester): Visiting Fellow, Institute of Education, University of London
2012 (spring semester): Visiting Fellow, Institute of Education, University of London

Referee for journals such as *Ethics*, *Mind*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *International Philosophical Quarterly*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Philosophical Explorations*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, *Journal of Moral Education*, *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, *Alberta Journal of Education*, *Journal of Social Philosophy*, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *Journal of Philosophy of Education*, *Nursing Philosophy*, *Journal of Positive Psychology*, *Social Psychology of Education*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Emotion, Space and Society*, *Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research*, *Theory and Psychology*, *British Journal of Educational Studies*, *Educational Review*, *Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, *Review of Education*

Publications

Selected publications

Books

Kristjánsson, K. (2013) *Virtues and Vices in Positive Psychology: A Philosophical Critique*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kristjánsson, K. (2010 hb, 2012 pb) *The Self and Its Emotions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Kristjánsson, K. (1996 hb, 2007 pb) *Social Freedom: The Responsibility View*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Kristjánsson, K. (2007) *Aristotle, Emotions, and Education*. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing

Kristjánsson, K. (2006) *Justice and Desert-Based Emotions*. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing

Kristjánsson, K. (2002 hb, 2006 pb) *Justifying Emotions: Pride and Jealousy*. London: Routledge

Kristjánsson, K. (1996). *Social Freedom: The Responsibility View*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Journal Articles (most recent)

Morgan, B., Gulliford, L. & Kristjánsson, K. (2014). Gratitude in the U.K: A new prototype analysis and a cross-cultural comparison. *Journal of Positive Psychology*, in press.

Kristjánsson, K. (2014). There is Something about Aristotle: The Pros and Cons of Aristotelianism in Contemporary Moral Education. *Journal of Philosophy of Education*, in press.

Walker, D., Roberts, M. & Kristjánsson, K. (2014). Towards a New Era of Character Education in Theory and in Practice. *Educational Review*, in press.

Thórarinsdóttir, K. & Kristjánsson, K. (2014). Patients' Perspectives on Person-Centred Participation in Health Care: A Framework Analysis. *Nursing Ethics*, in press.

Kristjánsson, K. (2014). An Aristotelian Virtue of Gratitude. *Topoi*, in press.

Kristjánsson, K. (2014). *Phronesis* and Moral Education: Treading beyond the Truisms. *Theory and Research in Education*, in press.

Kristjánsson, K. (2014). Is Shame an Ugly Emotion? Four Discourses – Two Contrasting Interpretations for Moral Education. *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, in press.

Kristjánsson, K. (2014). Undoing Bad Upbringing through Contemplation: An Aristotelian Reconstruction. *Journal of Moral Education*, in press.

Kristjánsson, K. (2013) Aristotelian Motivational Externalism, *Philosophical Studies*, 164 (2), pp. 419-422.

Kristjánsson, K.(2013). Ten Myths about Character, Virtue and Virtue Education – and Three Well-Founded Misgivings, *British Journal of Educational Studies*, 61 (3), pp. 269-287

Gulliford, L., Morgan, B. & Kristjánsson, K. (2013). Recent Work on the Concept of Gratitude in Philosophy and Psychology. *Journal of Value Inquiry*, 47 (3), pp. 285-317.

Kristjánsson, K. (2012) Selfhood, Morality, and the Five-Factor Model of Personality, *Theory & Psychology*, 22 (5), pp. 591-606

 [Full Publication list \(PDF, 95.6KB\) \(/Documents/college-social-sciences/education/publications/kristjansson-kristjan.pdf\)](#)