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# Dr Justin Cruickshank

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## About

Justin entered higher education as a mature student studying an interdisciplinary social science foundation course with the Open University and then went to the University of Kent as a full time student to study for a degree in Politics and Sociology. After that he went to the University of Warwick to study for an MA in Philosophy and Social Theory followed by a PhD in Sociology.

He researches and teaches in the areas of classical and contemporary social and sociological theory, the philosophy of the social sciences and the sociology and politics of knowledge production.

He welcomes applications from people seeking to undertake doctoral research in the areas of:

- social theory
- the philosophy of the social sciences
- the application of theory to empirical research
- the sociology and politics of knowledge, especially as applied to the issues of public intellectuals, higher education and the democratisation of the public sphere.

A full list of publications is available at Academia.edu:

**https://bham.academia.edu/JustinCruickshank (https://bham.academia.edu/JustinCruickshank)**

## Qualifications

- PhD (Warwick) Sociology (Awarded 2000)
- Warwick Teaching Certificate in Post-Compulsory Education (Awarded 1999)
- MA (Warwick) Philosophy and Social Theory (Awarded with Distinction 1995)
- BA (Hons) (Kent) Politics and Government and Sociology (Awarded with First Class Honours 1994)
- Rotary International Prize Awarded Summer 1994

## Biography

Justin Cruickshank's research interests concern the development of post-positivist theorising in social and political theory. Specific topics engaged with include concept formation, the justification strategies of different meta-theories and the role of normative commitments in theorising.

He was a Visiting Scholar at the Department for the History and Philosophy of Science at Cambridge in 2008 and was invited to give a presentation at a conference on Popper and objective knowledge in the social sciences at the European University Institute in 2009. Justin's research began with adapting the critical realist tradition by emphasising the need for conceptual development in empirical research with this being applied to empirical research into unemployment. He subsequently moved away from critical realism, taking more of an interest in debates about fallibilistic models of science, pragmatism and Popper's philosophy. He has published a monograph with Routledge, an edited book with Routledge, journal articles in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences, the Sociological Review, Health, Res Publica and the Journal of Critical Realism, together with review articles in Sociology and the Journal of Critical Realism, and a variety of chapters in edited collections

## Teaching

Justin teaches social theory and the philosophy of social science.

He currently teaches on the following modules:

Social Theory: Contested Knowledges (core course on the MA in Social and Political Theory) [convenor]

This modules address post-positivist conceptions of knowledge and the relationship of science to critical social theory and democracy.

Contemporary Social Theory (core yr 3 course on the Sociology BA programme) [convenor]

Justin teaches the final section of this module which deals with two questions, namely, should the social sciences be modelled on the natural sciences and should the social sciences seek knowledge of objective structures or not?

Modern Social Theory (core yr 2 course on the Sociology BA programme)

Justin lectures on Systems Sociology and Micro Sociology for this course and runs seminars throughout the year.

Social Worlds and the Sociological Imagination (core yr 1 course on the Sociology BA programme) [convenor]

This covers the following questions: what is society ? (conceived of in normative terms about the 'good' society' in relation to private property); what is sociology? and the 'structure - agency problem'.

Sociology of Self and Everyday Life (core yr 1 course on the Sociology BA programme)

Here Justin gives 5 lectures on elites, knowledge and democracy dealing with questions such do expert elites undermine democratic dialogue? and do economic and political elites undermine democracy by manipulating public opinion?.

## Research

### Research and academic interests

- Philosophy of the Social Sciences
- Social Theory
- Pragmatism
- Critical Realism

## Publications

***2014***

Cruickshank, J. In press: 2015. 'Anti-Authority: Comparing Popper And Rorty On The Dialogic Development Of Beliefs And Practices', *Social Epistemology: A Journal Of Knowledge, Culture And Policy*. First published online in July 2013. DOI:10.1080/02691728.2013.782589.

**See the replies:**

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Sassower, R. 2014. 'A Bridge Over Turbulent Waters: A Reply To Justin Cruickshank On Comparing Popper And Rorty', *Social Epistemology Review And Reply Collective* 3 (3): 57-59. Available at: **http://social-epistemology.com/2014/02/19/a-bridge-over-turbulent-waters-a-reply-to-justin-cruickshank-on-comparing-popper-and-rorty-raphael-sassower/ (http://social-epistemology.com/2014/02/19/a-bridge-over-turbulent-waters-a-reply-to-justin-cruickshank-on-comparing-popper-and-rorty-raphael-sassower/)**

Sassower, R. 2014. 'Problem-Solving Critical Contingencies: Popper And Rorty According To Cruickshank', *Social Epistemology Review And Reply Collective* 3(6): 30-32. Available at: **http://social-epistemology.com/2014/05/05/problem-solving-critical-contingencies-popper-and-rorty-according-to-cruickshank-raphael-sassower/ (http://social-epistemology.com/2014/05/05/problem-solving-critical-contingencies-popper-and-rorty-according-to-cruickshank-raphael-sassower/)**

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Sassower, R. 2014. 'Appealing To Academics To Become Public Intellectuals: A Reply To Justin Cruickshank And Ioana Cerasella Chis', Social Epistemology Review And Reply Collective 2 (11): 42-45. Available at: **http://social-epistemology.com/2014/10/16/appealing-to-academics-to-become-public-intellectuals-a-reply-to-justin-cruickshank-and-ioana-cerasella-chis-raphael-sassower/ (http://social-epistemology.com/2014/10/16/appealing-to-academics-to-become-public-intellectuals-a-reply-to-justin-cruickshank-and-ioana-cerasella-chis-raphael-sassower/)**

***And the responses* :**

Cruickshank, J. 2014. 'Problem-Solving And The Social Production Of Knowledge: A Reply To Isaac Reed', *Social Epistemology Review And Reply Collective* 3 (2): 24-33. Available at: **http://social-epistemology.com/2014/01/14/problem-solving-and-the-social-production-of-knowledge-a-reply-to-isaac-reed-justin-cruickshank/ (http://social-epistemology.com/2014/01/14/problem-solving-and-the-social-production-of-knowledge-a-reply-to-isaac-reed-justin-cruickshank/)**

Cruickshank, J. 2014. 'From Ex Cathedra Legislators To Dialogic Exemplars? Popper, Rorty And The Politics And Sociology Of Knowledge. A Reply To Raphael Sassower', *Social Epistemology Review And Reply Collective* 3 (5): 30-41. Available at: **http://social-epistemology.com/2014/04/03/from-ex-cathedra-legislators-to-dialogic-exemplars-popper-rorty-and-the-politics-and-sociology-of-knowledge-justin-cruickshank/ (http://social-epistemology.com/2014/04/03/from-ex-cathedra-legislators-to-dialogic-exemplars-popper-rorty-and-the-politics-and-sociology-of-knowledge-justin-cruickshank/)**

Cruickshank, J. 2014. 'Public Intellectuals, Education And The Need For Dissatisfaction: Comments On Raphael Sassower's Discussion Of Popper, Rorty And Democracy', Social Epistemology Review And Reply Collective 3 (7): 1-4. Available at: **http://social-epistemology.com/2014/06/01/public-intellectuals-education-and-the-need-for-dissatisfaction-comments-on-raphael-sassowers-discussion-of-popper-rorty-and-democracy-justin-cruickshank/ (http://social-epistemology.com/2014/06/01/public-intellectuals-education-and-the-need-for-dissatisfaction-comments-on-raphael-sassowers-discussion-of-popper-rorty-and-democracy-justin-cruickshank/)**

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Cruickshank, J. 2014. 'Democracy versus the Domination of Instrumental Rationality: Defending Dewey's Argument for Democracy as an Ethical Way of Life', *Humanities* 3 (1): 19-41. Available at: **http://www.mdpi.com/2076-0787/3/1/19 (http://www.mdpi.com/2076-0787/3/1/19)**

Cruickshank, J. 2014. 'Reply to Hartwig and Elder-Vass', *Understanding society* (blog): **http://understandingsociety.blogspot.co.uk/ (http://understandingsociety.blogspot.co.uk/)**

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Cruickshank, J. 2013. Entry for 'Epistemology', *Oxford Online Bibliography in Sociology* . Oxford University Press. [Peer reviewed; 12, 500 words.]

Cruickshank, J. 2013. Review of: I. A. Reed 'Interpretation And Social Knowledge: On The Use Of Theory In The Human Sciences', *Cultural Sociology* 7 (1): 104-105.

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Cruickshank, J. 2012. 'Positioning Positivism, Social Constructionism And Critical Realism In The Health Sciences: A Philosophical Orientation', *Nursing Inquiry: Interdisciplinary Perspectives On Policy And Healthcare* 19 (1): 71-82(special issue on critical realism). First published online in July 2011. DOI: 10.1111/j.1440-1800.2011.00558.x.

***2011***

Cruickshank, J. 2011. ' The Positive And The Negative:

Assessing Critical Realism And Social Constructionism As Post-Positivist Approaches To Empirical Research In The Social Sciences', Paper 42, International Migration Institute Working Paper Series , Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford. Available online at: **http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/publications/working_papers (http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/publications/working_papers)**

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Cruickshank, J. 2010. 'The Importance Of Nominal Problems' in C. Valentini (ed) *On Objective Knowledge In The Social Sciences And Humanities: Karl Popper And Beyond'* . European University Institute Working Papers in the Max Weber Programme (2010/37). ISSN 1830-7728. PP. 61-71. Also available online at: **http://www.eui.eu/ProgrammesAndFellowships/MaxWeberProgramme/Publications.aspx (http://www.eui.eu/ProgrammesAndFellowships/MaxWeberProgramme/Publications.aspx)**

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Cruickshank, J. 2007. 'Seeking The Tower Of Babel', *Sociology* 41 (4): 741-748.

[A review article dealing with: P. Baert 'Philosophy Of The Social Sciences'; B. Berberoglu 'An Introduction To Classical And Contemporary Social Theory'; S. Clarke 'From Enlightenment To Risk' And G. Delanty 'Social Science'.]

Cruickshank, J. 2007. Entry for 'Essentialism' in M. Hartwig (ed.) *A Dictionary Of Critical Realism* . London: Routledge. PP.180-181.

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