

Dr Jussi Suikkanen PhD, Dr Soc Sc, M Soc SC

Lecturer

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About

I have been a lecturer in philosophy here at the University of Birmingham since September 2010. I have a wide range of interests in philosophy. Whilst my own research (described below) mainly focuses on the theoretical side of moral philosophy, I am also very keen on philosophy of language, epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, and history of philosophy.

The Department of Philosophy here at Birmingham offers me a great place to talk about all these areas with my colleagues and students.

Qualifications

I did my PhD in philosophy at the University of Reading where I was supervised by Professors Brad Hooker and Philip Stratton-Lake. I graduated from Reading in June 2008. The title of my thesis was *Contractualist Principles and Wrongness*. I also have another doctorate in philosophy from the Department of Social and Moral philosophy at the University of Helsinki where I furthermore did my masters degree.

Biography

I joined the Philosophy department at the University of Birmingham in September 2010. Before that I was a temporary lecturer at the Universities of Reading (2009-2010) and Leeds (2008-2009). I have also been a visiting scholar at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (2006-2007).

Teaching

In the academic year 2014-2015, I will be on research leave during the autumn term. In the spring term, I will teach modules on Ancient philosophy (1st year), the ethics and politics of climate change (2nd year), and philosophy of human rights (Masters students). I will also convene the global ethics placement module.

Previously I have taught courses on global ethics, contemporary political philosophy, metaethics, philosophy of mind, philosophical research methods, continental philosophy, media ethics, philosophy of sex and love, Early Modern philosophy (Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant), and philosophy of the 'self'. I have also taught general introduction courses on both philosophy and ethics.

Postgraduate supervision

I am more than happy to supervise PG students on the following areas:

- Metaethics
- Ethical theories
- Practical reason, reasons, and value theory
- Free will, moral responsibility and personal Identity
- Well-being and happiness
- Political philosophy
- Realism and anti-realism debates
- Early modern philosophy
- Some areas of applied ethics such as population ethics and the ethics of climate change

I have supervised Masters dissertations on topics such as egoism, the Euthyphro contrast, animal ethics, ethics of parenting, human enhancement and so on. I am also currently a supervisor for four PhD students: Sabrina Intelisano (happiness and imprisonment), Lauren Traczykowski (ethics of natural disaster response), Richard Pereira (universal basic income) and David Hunt (error theory and relativism).

Research

My main research interests lie in metaethics and ethical theories. I have mainly worked on the nature of moral properties, moral judgments, and truth in ethics. In normative ethics, I have defended and developed Scanlonian contractualism. I am also currently interested in the so-called consequentializing project. I have previously written on value and reasons, practical reason, and rationality. In the applied ethics, my main focus has been on aggregation and population ethics. And, I have also explored the realism vs. anti-realism debates more generally in philosophy.

I have recently completed a textbook on ethics and I am also planning to write a book about the relationship between metaethics and normative ethics after this.



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Other activities

- Personal Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/jussisuikkanen/> (<https://sites.google.com/site/jussisuikkanen/home>)
- [Posts on PEA Soup - a blog dedicated to philosophy, ethics and academia](http://peasoup.typepad.com/peasoup/jussi_suikkanens_posts/) (http://peasoup.typepad.com/peasoup/jussi_suikkanens_posts/)
- Academia.edu: <https://bham.academia.edu/JussiSuikkanen> (<https://bham.academia.edu/JussiSuikkanen>)

Publications

Books:

- [This is Ethics: an Introduction](http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-111847984X.html) (<http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-111847984X.html>), Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.
- [Essays on Derek Parfit's On What Matters](http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-140519698X.html) (<http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-140519698X.html>), Wiley-Blackwell, 2009, co-edited with John Cottingham.

Selected Articles

- 'Naturalism in Metaethics'. Forthcoming in the *Blackwell Companion to Naturalism*, edited by Kelly James Clark (Wiley-Blackwell).
- 'Contractualism and the Conditional Fallacy'. Forthcoming in *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics* 4, 2014.
- [Consequentialist Options](http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext?type=1&fid=9247551&jid=UTI&volumeId=-1&issueId=-1&aid=9247548) (<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext?type=1&fid=9247551&jid=UTI&volumeId=-1&issueId=-1&aid=9247548>). *Utilitas* 26 (3): 276-302.
- 'Moral Error Theory and the Belief Problem'. *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 8, 2013, 168-194.
- [Reason-Statements as Non-Extensional Contexts](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-9213.2012.00074.x/abstract) (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-9213.2012.00074.x/abstract>). *Philosophical Quarterly* 62, 2012, 592-613.
- [An Improved Whole Life Satisfaction Theory of Happiness](http://www.internationaljournalofwellbeing.org/index.php/ijow/article/download/7/89) (<http://www.internationaljournalofwellbeing.org/index.php/ijow/article/download/7/89>). *International Journal of Wellbeing*, 2011, 1-18.
- [The Possibility of Love Independent Reasons](http://commons.pacificu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1376&context=eip) (<http://commons.pacificu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1376&context=eip>). *Essays in Philosophy* 12, 2011, 32-54.
- 'Non-Naturalism: the Jackson Challenge'. *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 5, 2010, 87-110.
- [The Subjectivist Consequences of Expressivism](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-0114.2009.01345.x/abstract) (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-0114.2009.01345.x/abstract>). *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 90, 2009, 364-387.
- [Consequentialism, Constraints, and the Good-Relative-to: A Reply to Mark Schroeder](http://www.jesp.org/articles/download/Consequentialism.pdf) (<http://www.jesp.org/articles/download/Consequentialism.pdf>). *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy*, 2009.
- [Buck-Passing Accounts of Value](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1747-9991.2009.00253.x/abstract) (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1747-9991.2009.00253.x/abstract>). *Philosophy Compass* 4, 2009, 768-779.
- [Reasons and Value – A Defence of the Buck-Passing Account](http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10677-005-7107-6) (<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10677-005-7107-6>). *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 7, 2005, 513-535.
- [Contractualist Replies to the Redundancy Objections](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1755-2567.2005.tb01004.x/abstract) (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1755-2567.2005.tb01004.x/abstract>). *Theoria* 71, 2005, pp. 38-58.
- [What We Owe to Many](http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/23559223?uid=19232&uid=3738032&uid=2&uid=3&uid=5910784&uid=67&uid=62&uid=19230&sid=21104439660633) (<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/23559223?uid=19232&uid=3738032&uid=2&uid=3&uid=5910784&uid=67&uid=62&uid=19230&sid=21104439660633>). *Social Theory and Practice* 30, 2004, 485-506.

Selection of Recent Talks

- "Contractualism and the Conditional Fallacy". Fourth Annual Arizona Normative Ethics Workshop, Tucson, Arizona, US, 3-5. 1. 2013; The British Society for Ethical Theory Conference, University of Stirling, Stirling, UK, 9-11. 7. 2012.
- "Moral Error Theory and the Belief Problem". Eight Annual Metaethics Workshop, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA, 16-18. 9. 2011.
- "Reason-Statements as Non-Extensional Contexts". St Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality, University of Missouri-St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, 22-24. 5. 2011.
- "Restricted Constructivism". Workshop on Constructivism and Practical Reason, Philosophy department, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK, 20. 6. 2009.
- "Non-Naturalism: the Jackson Challenge". Fifth Annual Metaethics Workshop, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA, 12-14. 9. 2008.
- "Minimalist Contractualism". Monday moral philosophy seminar, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, 28. 5. 2007.

