

Robert Knowles

Curriculum Vitae

Flat 1, 152 Woodsley Road
Leeds LS2 9LZ
United Kingdom
☎ +44 7789996021
✉ r.knowles@leeds.ac.uk

AOS: Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics

AOC: Logic, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Religion

Education

- 2011–2015 **PhD**, *University of Manchester*, No Corrections.
Thesis Title: Towards a Fictionalist Philosophy of Mathematics
Examiners: Mary Leng, Anthony Everett
- 2010–2011 **MRes Philosophy**, *University of Manchester*, Distinction.
Courses: Meta-Ethics, Philosophy of Emotion, Philosophy of John McDowell, Logical Properties
Dissertation Title: Analysis of Stephen Yablo's Work on Presupposition
- 2007–2010 **BA(hons) Philosophy**, *University of Manchester*, *Distinction*.
Dissertation: Is an Intuitionistic Interpretation of the Logical Constants Plausible?

Employment

- 2017– **British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow**, *University of Leeds*.
- 2016–2017 **Teaching Fellow**, *University of Leeds*.

Publications

- 2016 **Semantic Assumptions in the Philosophy of Mathematics**. In F. Boccuni, A. Sereni (eds.), *Objectivity, Realism, and Proof. FilMat Studies in the Philosophy of Mathematics*, Boston Studies in the Philosophy and History of Science. Springer.
- 2015 **What 'The Number of Planets is Eight' Means**, *Philosophical Studies*, 172: 2757-2775.
- 2015 **Heavy Duty Platonism**, *Erkenntnis*, 80: 1255-1270.
- 2015 **Good Weasel Hunting**, *Synthese*, 192: 3397-3412, (with David Liggins).

Work in Progress

1. **The Non-Optimal Road to Platonism**, under review at *Mind*.
2. **Mathematics, Explanatory Generality, and Ontological Commitment**, under review at *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, (with Juha Saatsi).
3. **The Uncanny Accuracy of God's Mathematical Beliefs**, under review at *Analysis*.
3. **One Direction: Explanation and Explanatory Generalisations**, in preparation.
4. **In Conversation with 'The King of France'**, in preparation.
5. **Naturalism and the Benacerraf-Field Challenge**, in preparation, (with Juha Saatsi).
6. **Hi Hungry, I'm Dad: Bad Jokes and Linguistic Liability**, in preparation.

Grants and Awards

- 2017–2020 **British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship**, £319,196 over 3 years.
- 2015 **Manchester Doctoral College Best Outstanding Output Award 2015**, *Faculty of Humanities, University of Manchester*.
- 2014–2015 **Royal Institute of Philosophy's Jacobsen Studentship**, for 1 year.
- 2011–2014 **AHRC Studentship**, for 3 years.
- 2013 **Mind Association Minor Conference Grant**, *Open Minds VIII Graduate Conference, University of Manchester*.
- 2013 **Analysis Trust Conference Grant**, *Open Minds VIII Graduate Conference, University of Manchester*.

Teaching

Module Leader, Lecturer, Tutor.

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| PHIL2521 | Realism and Antirealism,
<i>University of Leeds</i> | 2016–2017. |
| PHIL2542 | Introduction to Metaphysics,
<i>University of Leeds</i> | 2015–2016. |
| PHIL2532 | Philosophy of Religion,
<i>University of Leeds</i> | 2015–2016. |
| | Tutor. | |
| PHIL2422 | Topics in Epistemology: Knowledge and Justification,
<i>University of Leeds</i> | 2016–2017. |

PHIL1250	How to Think Clearly and Argue Well, <i>University of Leeds</i>	2016–2017.
PHIL1140	I Think Therefore I Am: The Philosophy of Descartes, <i>University of Leeds</i>	2015–2016.
PHIL1005	The Mind, <i>University of Leeds</i>	2015–2016.
PHIL10021	Introduction to Ethics, <i>University of Manchester</i>	2015–2016.
PHIL10401	History of Philosophy, <i>University of Manchester</i>	2014–2015.
PHIL10641	Philosophy and Social Science, <i>University of Manchester</i>	2014–2015.
PHIL10622	Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology, <i>University of Manchester</i>	2013–2014.
PHIL20021	Philosophy of Religion, <i>University of Manchester</i>	2013–2014.
PHIL10041	Critical Thinking, <i>University of Manchester</i>	2012–2016.

Selected Presentations

- Dec 2017 **Mathematics, Explanatory Generality, and Ontological Commitment.**
Applicability of Mathematics: Explanation and Representation
University of Leeds
- March 2017 **Non-Optimal Support for Mathematical Platonism.**
The Explanatory Function of Abstract Objects
University of Santiago de Compostela
- Oct 2016 **In Conversation with *The King of France*.**
Philosophy Research Seminar Series
University of Leeds
- May 2016 **Non-Optimal Support for Mathematical Realism.**
FilMat: Philosophy of Mathematics: Truth, Existence, and Explanation
University of Chieti-Pescara
- Oct 2014 **The Indispensability Argument Dispensed With.**
Philosophy Research Seminar Series
University of Manchester
- July 2014 **The Indispensability Argument Dispensed With.**
88th Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association
University of Cambridge
- May 2014 **What *The Number of Planets is Eight* Means.**
FilMat: Philosophy of Mathematics: Objectivity, Cognition, and Proof
Vita-Salute San Raffaele University

- Jan 2014 **Heavy Duty Platonism.**
Sixth Conference of the Dutch-Flemish Association for Analytic Philosophy
University of Groningen
- June 2013 **The Problem of Mathematical Communication.**
Graduate Conference on Ontology
University of Warsaw
- Jan 2013 **Mathematical Explanation and Program Properties.**
Sixth Graduate Conference on the Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics
University of Cambridge
- Jan 2013 **Reply to Liggins.**
Ethics and Explanation
University of Nottingham
- Jan 2013 **Mathematical Explanation and Program Properties.**
Open Minds Graduate Conference
University of Manchester
- Dec 2011 **When Compassion Fails.**
Workshop on Emotion, Character, and Virtue
University of Manchester

Academic Service

Referee.

Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Erkenntnis, Synthese, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Religious Studies

Organiser.

Applicability of Mathematics: Explanation and Representation Dec 2017
University of Leeds

Open Minds VIII Graduate Conference in Philosophy July 2013
University of Manchester

Graduate Representative.

Department of Philosophy *University of Manchester* 2012–2013

Referees

Teaching: **Prof. Matthew Kieran.**
Professor of Philosophy and the Arts
University of Leeds
m.l.kieran@leeds.ac.uk
+44 113 343 3270

Research: **Dr. Anthony Everett.**
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy
University of Bristol
PhD External Examiner
anthony.everett@bristol.ac.uk
+44 117 954 6796

Research: **Dr. Juha Saatsi.**
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Leeds
J.T.Saatsi@leeds.ac.uk
+44 113 343 3383

Research: **Dr. Mary Leng.**
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy
University of York
PhD External Examiner
mary.leng@york.ac.uk
+44 190 432 3256