

Lucy McDonald

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Employment

Aug 2023– Lecturer, King's College London

Oct 2020–Jul 2023 Title A Fellow, St John's College, University of Cambridge

Education

Oct 2017–Jul 2020 PhD in Philosophy, Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge (no corrections)
Thesis: 'Speech, Sex, and Social Norms'
Supervisors: Rae Langton and Clare Chambers
Examiners: Sally Haslanger and Richard Holton

Oct 2015–Jul 2017 BPhil in Philosophy, St Peter's College, University of Oxford

Oct 2012–Jul 2015 BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (1st class), St Peter's College, University of Oxford

Research Areas

Ethics, feminist philosophy, philosophy of language, philosophy of technology

Publications

Articles and Chapters

1. 'Power and Personal Relationships' for the *Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Personal Relationships*, eds. M. Betzler and S. Stroud, Oxford University Press, forthcoming
2. 'Language in Social Construction', with Rae Langton, for the *Oxford Handbook of Social Ontology*, eds. S. Haslanger, B. Epstein, H.B. Schmid, and S. Collins, Oxford University Press, forthcoming
3. 'Communicative Gaslighting', *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 103 (2025): 178-194
4. 'Context Collapse Online', for *Conversations Online*, eds. S. Goldberg, J. Saul, and P. Connolly, Oxford University Press, forthcoming
5. 'Feminism and Gender', with Clare Chambers, for *Issues in Political Theory* (5th edition), eds. R. Jubb and P. Tomlin, Oxford University Press, forthcoming
6. 'Making Sense of Emoji', *Philosophy*, 99 (2024): 413–436
7. 'Dehumanising Speech', for *Harmful Speech and Contestation*, ed. M. Popa-Wyatt, Palgrave Macmillan, 2024
8. 'Flirting', in *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Sex*, eds. by C. Chambers, B. D. Earp, and L. Watson, Routledge, 2022
9. 'Two-Faced Compliments', *Analysis*, 82 (2022): 255–263

10. 'Reimagining Illocutionary Force', *The Philosophical Quarterly*, 72 (2022): 918–939
11. 'Cat-Calls, Compliments, and Coercion', *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 103 (2022): 208–230
12. 'Please Like This Paper', *Philosophy*, 96 (2021): 335–358
[Winner of 2021 Royal Institute of Philosophy Essay Prize]
13. 'Your Word Against Mine: The Power of Uptake', *Synthese*, 199 (2021): 3505–3526
14. 'Shaming, Blaming, and Responsibility', *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 18 (2021): 131–155

Replies and Reviews

15. 'The Trouble with Bubbles: Reply to Xin', *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*, 2024
16. Review of *An Intersectional Feminist Theory of Moral Responsibility* by Michelle Ciurria, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 2022

Public Writing

17. 'Messages', *The Times Literary Supplement*, 2024
18. 'Go Forth and Multiply', *The Times Literary Supplement*, 2024
19. 'The Magic of the Mundane', *Aeon*, 2024
20. 'Identity Crisis', *The Times Literary Supplement*, 2023
21. 'Context Needed', *Open for Debate*, 2022
22. 'The Return of Humpty Dumpty', *Oxford University Press Blog*, 2022
23. 'Limits of an Examined Life', *The Times Literary Supplement*, 2022
24. 'Death by a Thousand Cat Calls', *Public Ethics Blog*, Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace, 2021
25. 'Blame Without Shame', *The Times Literary Supplement*, 2021
26. 'Reading is Fundamental' [about LGBTQ+ slang] in *RuPaul's Drag Race and Philosophy*, edited by H. Kempert and M. Volpert, Open Court Press, 2019

Work in Progress

1. A paper on romantic relationships and power
2. A paper on love and knowledge (with Cathy Mason)
3. A paper on speech and normativity
4. A paper on catfishing, for a volume on the ethics of online dating
5. An empirical paper on the leaky pipeline for BAME students in philosophy

Presentations

Keynotes

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| 2025 | [Title TBC], Stockholm Graduate Conference
[Title TBC], Practical Philosophy at Institutional Intersections, King's College London |
| 2024 | 'Rehumanising Speech', The Language of Moral Repair Conference, Lund University
'Love and Lies', Graduate Political Theory Conference, London School of Economics
'Intimacy and Abuse', Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs Graduate Conference, |
| 2023 | University of St Andrews |

‘Intimacy and Abuse’, Open Minds Conference, University of Manchester

Invited Talks

- 2025 ‘Speech and Normativity’, University of Hamburg
‘Power and Romantic Relationships’, UCLA
‘Power and Romantic Relationships’, Central European University
- 2024 ‘Power and Personal Relationships’, Popper Seminar, LSE
‘The Ethics of Catfishing’, Ethical Dating Online Workshop, University of Leeds
‘Loveworthiness’, Conference on *Attitudes of the Heart* by Stephen Darwall, LMU Munich
‘The Philosophy of Flirting’, Barnes Philosophy Club
‘Love and Lies’, Department Symposium, UCL
‘Normativity and Speech’, Speech and Normativity Workshop, University of Cambridge
‘Love and Lies’, Research Colloquium, LMU Munich
‘Love and Lies’, Senior Seminar, Glasgow University
‘Art and Intimacy’, National Gallery
‘Love and Lies’, Cardiff University
‘Love and Lies’, Open University
- 2023 ‘Context Collapse Online’, Wright Center for Computation and Just Communities, Dartmouth College
‘Context Collapse Online’, Digital Harms and Rebuilding Trust Workshop, University of Manchester
- 2022 ‘Making Sense of Emoji’, Online Speech Workshop, KCL
‘Please Like This Talk’, Interact!: New Forms of Social Interaction with Intelligent Systems Seminar, Ruhr University Bochum
‘Gaslighting and Speech’, ArgLab Research Colloquium, NOVA University Lisbon
‘Context Collapse Online’, Office for Statistics Regulation
‘Gaslighting and Uptake’, The Nature of Uptake Workshop, University of Vienna
‘Context Collapse Online’, Conversations Online Book Workshop
‘Dehumanising Speech’, Lecture Series on Hate Speech, University of Hamburg
‘Why Pornography Matters’, Philosophy Society/Self Defence Society, KCL
‘Intimacy: A Closer Look’, Guest Seminar, Queen’s University, Belfast
- 2021 ‘Intimacy: A Closer Look’, Visiting Speaker Session, University of Reading
‘Intimacy: A Closer Look’, Peterhouse Perne Club, University of Cambridge
‘Cat-Calling and Coercion’, Arché Feminist Philosophy and Social Theory Seminar, University of St Andrews
‘Reimagining Illocutionary Force’, New York Philosophy of Language Workshop
‘Reimagining Illocutionary Force’, Mark of the Mental project, San Raffaele University
‘Your Word Against Mine: The Power of Uptake’, Philosophy of Language Graduate Seminar, Humboldt University of Berlin
‘The Philosophy of Flirting’, Moral Sciences Club, University of Cambridge
‘How to Woo Things With Words’, Oppressive Speech, Societies & Norms, ZAS Berlin
- 2020 ‘The Philosophy of Flirting’, Peterhouse Theory Group, University of Cambridge
- 2018 ‘Catcalls and Compliments’, Just Words: Early Career Workshop, UCL

Invited Comments

- 2024 Art, Imagination and Morality, University of Oxford
2023 Guilt, Shame, and Regret, University of Oxford
2022 Workshop on Bernard Williams, University of Oxford

Refereed Talks

- 2021 ‘Policing Speech’, Hate Speech: What It Is and How It Works, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
2019 ‘Cat-Calls and Accommodation’, Philosophy Graduate Conference, University of Oxford
‘Online Speech’, Sixth International Conference on Philosophy of Language and Linguistics, University of Lodz
‘Shaming Speech’, The Social Institution of Norms Conference, University of Vienna
2018 ‘Shaming Speech Acts’, Speech As Action Conference, University of Trieste
‘Sluts and Slurs’, Context, Cognition & Communication Conference, University of Warsaw
2017 ‘Hermeneutical Resources’, Philosophy Graduate Conference, University of Oxford
2016 ‘Revenge Pornography’, Open Minds Conference, University of Manchester
‘Bathroom Bills’, Centre for Gender Studies Biennial Gender Research Conference, University of Hull

Teaching

King’s College London

Module Convenor

[4: first year courses, 5: second year courses, 6: third year courses, 7: MA courses]

- 4AANA002 Ethics (2023, 2024)
- 4AANA102 Introduction to Philosophy I: Ethics (2023, 2024)
- 5AANA005 Ethics IIA (2024)
- 6AANA038 Philosophy of Love (2025)
- 6AANC000 Dissertations (2023, 2024)
- 7AAN6000 Dissertations (2024)
- 7AAN6009 Ethics I (2024)

Postgraduate Research Supervision

- MPhilStud (2023–)
- PhD (2023–)

Teaching Awards

- 2024 Nominated for Supervisory Excellence Award

University of Cambridge

[IA: first year courses, IB: second year courses, II: third year courses]

Lecturing	IA Meaning: Intention and Convention II Political Philosophy: Topics in Feminism
Undergraduate Small Group Teaching and Examining	IA Metaphysics; IA Meaning (Philosophy of Language and Logic); IA Set Texts (Mill and Descartes); IA Ethics and Political Philosophy; IB Ethics; IB Political Philosophy; II Political Philosophy; II Ethics
Supervision	II dissertations MPhil essays and dissertations

Professional Service

Reviewing

Referee for Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, *Ethics*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Analysis*, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Hypatia*, *Synthese*, *Inquiry*, *Ergo*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Philosophy*, *Journal of Social Philosophy*, *Journal of Practical Ethics*, *Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Metaphilosophy*, *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*, *Philosophia*, *Grazer Philosophische Studien*, *Journal of Pragmatics*, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Organon F*, *Dialectica*, *Kriterion*

Editorial Boards

2024– Associate Editor, Journal of the American Philosophical Association

Associations and Memberships

2024– Centre for Data Futures, KCL
2024– Ethical Dating Online Network, Inter-Disciplinary Ethics Applied (IDEA) Centre, University of Leeds
2023– Centre for Philosophy and Art, KCL

Committee and Administrative Roles

2023– Diversity and Inclusion Lead (KCL)
2024 Steering Committee Member (KCL)
2023–2024 Moral, Legal and Political Research Cluster Lead (KCL)
2022–2023 Disciplinary Committee, St John's College (Cambridge)
2021–2022 Library and Records Committee, St John's College (Cambridge)
2017–2018 MCR Women's Officer, Trinity Hall (Cambridge)
2017–2018 Graduate Delegate, Philosophy Staff-Student Committee (Cambridge)
2018 Lead on evaluation of 'Breaking the Silence' sexual misconduct prevention programme (Cambridge)

2016–2017 Women’s Graduate Representative, Philosophy (Oxford)

External Examining

2025 Faculty PhD Examiner, Lund University

Pastoral Roles

2023– Undergraduate personal tutor (KCL)
2023– Postgraduate personal tutor (KCL)
2022–2023 Director of Studies in Philosophy, King’s College (Cambridge)
2022 Director of Studies in Philosophy, Jesus College (Cambridge)
2017 Student Support Worker, Disability Advisory Service (Oxford)

Conferences

2024 Minorities and Philosophy Conference on Philosophy and Activism (KCL)
2023–2024 Invited speaker series for Ethics Research Cluster (KCL)
2022 Speech Acts: Between Philosophy and Linguistics Conference (Cambridge)
2022–2023 St John’s Pre-Dinner Lecture Series (Cambridge)
2022 Love, Intimacy, and Relationships Conference (Cambridge)
2018–2019 Secretary, Moral Sciences Club (Cambridge)

Networks and Reading Groups

2022–2023 CRASSH Research Network, ‘Illuminating Friendship’ (Cambridge)
2021–2022 Intimacy and Relationships Reading Group (Cambridge)
2018–2023 Philosophy of Language Reading Group (Cambridge)

Admissions and Hiring

2024 Hiring panel for ethics lectureship (KCL)
2020–2022 Philosophy undergraduate admissions interviewer, St John’s (Cambridge)
2021–2022 Philosophy undergraduate admissions interviewer, Jesus (Cambridge)
2019 Philosophy undergraduate admissions interviewer, Downing (Cambridge)
2018 Philosophy undergraduate admissions interviewer, Fitzwilliam (Cambridge)
2017 Philosophy undergraduate admissions interviewer, Trinity Hall (Cambridge)
2015 Philosophy and Theology undergraduate admissions interviewer, St Peter’s (Oxford)

Outreach

While at Cambridge (2017–2023) I led numerous workshops as a session leader for the University Outreach Programme, for groups (20–100) of secondary school students. Events included KS4 Visit Days, HE+ Early Application Residentials, Cornish Schools Residentials, and the Insight Programme.

Grants and Awards

2024	KCL Race Equity & Inclusive Education Fund Project Grant
2024	KCL Faculty of Arts & Humanities Diversity & Inclusion Grant
2023	KCL Faculty of Arts & Humanities Diversity & Inclusion Grant
2022	Cambridge Faculty of Philosophy Conference Funding
2022	CRASSH Research Network Grant
2021	Royal Institute of Philosophy Essay Prize
2020	Junior Research Fellowship, St John's College, University of Cambridge
2017, 2018, 2019, 2020	Travel Awards, Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge
2017	Cambridge AHRC Full DTP Studentship
2015	MCR Award, St Peter's College, University of Oxford