Lucy McDonald

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Employment

Aug 2023–	Lecturer in Ethics, 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

Areas of Expertise

Ethics, feminist philosophy, philosophy of language, political philosophy

Publications

Journal Articles

1. "Romantic Domination." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 113 (2026): 394–404.
2. "Communicative Gaslighting." *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 103 (2025): 178–194.
3. "Making Sense of Emoji." *Philosophy* 99 (2024): 413–436.
4. "Two-Faced Compliments." *Analysis* 82 (2022): 255–263.
5. "Reimagining Illocutionary Force." *The Philosophical Quarterly* 72 (2022): 918–939.
6. "Cat-Calls, Compliments, and Coercion." *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 103 (2022): 208–230.
7. "Please Like This Paper." *Philosophy* 96 (2021): 335–358.
   [Winner of 2021 Royal Institute of Philosophy Essay Prize]
8. "Your Word Against Mine: The Power of Uptake." *Synthese* 199 (2021): 3505–3526.
9. "Shaming, Blaming, and Responsibility." *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 18 (2021): 131–155.

Book Chapters

10. "The Ethics of Catfishing." In *The Ethics of Online Dating*, eds. L. Brunning and N. McKeever (Bloomsbury, forthcoming).
11. "Power and Personal Relationships." In *Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Personal Relationships*, eds. M. Betzler and S. Stroud (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

12. "Language in Social Construction", with Rae Langton. In *Oxford Handbook of Social Ontology*, eds. S. Haslanger, B. Epstein, H. B. Schmid, and S. Collins (Oxford University Press, 2026), 422–443.
13. "Feminism and Gender", with Clare Chambers. In *Issues in Political Theory*, 5th ed., eds. R. Jubb and P. Tomlin (Oxford University Press, 2026), 114–138.
14. "Context Collapse Online." In *Conversations Online*, eds. S. Goldberg, J. Saul, and P. Connolly (Oxford University Press, 2025), 83–105.
15. "Dehumanising Speech." In *Harmful Speech and Contestation*, ed. M. Popa-Wyatt (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), 57–81.
16. "Flirting." In *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Sex*, eds. C. Chambers, B. D. Earp, and L. Watson (Routledge, 2022), 207–217.

Replies and Reviews

17. "The Trouble with Bubbles: Reply to Xin." *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* (2024).
18. Review of *An Intersectional Feminist Theory of Moral Responsibility*, by Michelle Ciurria. *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 19 (2022): 435–443.

Public Writing

19. "Conversation and Context in an Online World", *Blog of the American Philosophical Association* (2026).
20. "Messages." *The Times Literary Supplement* (2024).
21. "Go Forth and Multiply." *The Times Literary Supplement* (2024).
22. "The Magic of the Mundane." *Aeon* (2024).
23. "Identity Crisis." *The Times Literary Supplement* (2023).
24. "Context Needed." *Open for Debate* (2022).
25. "The Return of Humpty Dumpty." *Oxford University Press Blog* (2022).
26. "Limits of an Examined Life." *The Times Literary Supplement* (2022).
27. "Death by a Thousand Cat Calls." *Public Ethics Blog*, Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace (2021).
28. "Blame Without Shame." *The Times Literary Supplement* (2021).
29. "Reading is Fundamental". In *RuPaul's Drag Race and Philosophy*, eds. H. Kempt and M. Volpert (Open Court Press, 2019), 15–28.

In Preparation

- A paper about communication and normativity
- A paper about intimate abuse
- A paper about intentions and normative powers
- Papers about love and deception, with Cathy Mason

Presentations

Keynotes

2025 "Power and Romantic Relationships", Graduate Conference, Stockholm University
"Power and Romantic Relationships", Graduate Conference, UCL

"Context Collapse Online", Practical Philosophy at Institutional Intersections, KCL

2024 "Rehumanising Speech", Language of Moral Repair Conference, Lund University
"Love and Lies", Graduate Political Theory Conference, LSE
"Intimacy and Abuse", Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs Graduate Conference, University of St Andrews

2023 "Intimacy and Abuse", Open Minds Conference, University of Manchester

Invited Talks

2028 [TBC], Aristotelian Society

2027 [TBC], John Austin Seminar, UCL
[TBC], IDEA: The Ethics Centre, University of Leeds
[TBC], The Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs, University of Warwick
[TBC], Joint Session, University of Leeds

2026 "Dehumanisation and Abuse", (De)humanization – Philosophical, Historical, and Cultural Perspectives, Linköping University
"Intimate Duties", Interpersonal Relations, University of Oxford
"Context Collapse Online", Language, Ethics, & Fiction Seminar Series, University of Milan

2025 "Power and Romantic Relationships", Philosophy Society, University of Edinburgh
"Power and Romantic Relationships", Toxic Workplaces Workshop, University of Warwick
"Promises and Normativity", Philosophy of Language Workshop, University of Hamburg
"Power and Romantic Relationships", Research Colloquium, UCLA
"Power and Romantic Relationships", Research Colloquium, CEU

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
"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", Research Colloquium, Glasgow University
"Love and Lies", Research Colloquium Cardiff University
"Love and Lies", Research Colloquium, 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
"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", Research Colloquium, Queen's University, Belfast
2021 "Intimacy: A Closer Look", Research Colloquium, 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 and Panel Discussions

2027 Author Meets Critics, *Democratic Falsehoods* (Maxime Lepoutre), Reading
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", 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", 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

Public Talks

2027 [TBC], Sir John Soane's Museum
2026 Guest philosopher, Late Event, National Gallery
2025 "Art and Change", Artists' Gallery Bankside
2024 "Art and Intimacy", Stories of Art Lecture Series, National Gallery
"The Philosophy of Flirting", Barnes Philosophy Club
2022 "Context Collapse Online", Office for Statistics Regulation

Teaching

King's College London

Convenor and Examiner

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

- 4AANA002 Ethics (2023, 2024, 2025)
- 4AANA102 Introduction to Philosophy I: Ethics (2023, 2024, 2025)
- 5AANA005 Ethics IIA (2024)
- 6AANA038 Topics in Ethics: Philosophy of Love (2025, 2026)
- 6AANC000 Dissertations (2023, 2024, 2025)
- 7AAN6000 Dissertations (2024, 2025)
- 7AAN6009 Ethics I (2024)
- MPhil Seminar (2024)

Postgraduate Research Supervision

MPhilStud - Primary
- Iain Haslam (2023–2026)
- Grace Benita (2024–2025)

PhD - Primary
- Rebecca Brione (2023–)
- Dongchen Xu (Visiting, 2026–2027)

Teaching Awards and Accreditation

2026	Nominated for King's Education Award
	Fellowship of Higher Education Academy
2025	Nominated for King's Education Award
	Nominated for King's Teaching Celebration
2024	Nominated for King's Supervisory Excellence Award

University of Cambridge

Lecturing

- IA Meaning: Intention and Convention
- II Political Philosophy: Topics in Feminism

Undergraduate Supervision

- 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 Ethics
- II Political Philosophy
- II Dissertations

Postgraduate Research Supervision

- ~10 MPhil essays and dissertations

Examining

- Extended essays
- IB Political Philosophy
- II Ethics
- MPhil essays and dissertations

Professional Service

Reviewing

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

Editorial Boards

2024–	Associate Editor, Journal of the American Philosophical Association

Associations, Boards, and Memberships

2026–	Faculty Commentator, Oxford Philosophy, Law & Politics Graduate Forum
2025–	Advisory Board, Italian Science Fund Grant, "The Pragmatics of Sexual Communication and Its Ethical Implications", University of Milan
2024–	Centre for Digital Culture, 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

2025–	Staff mentor (KCL)
2023–2026	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	MPhilStud Examiner (x2), University College London
2025	Faculty Mock 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)

Conference Organisation

2024	Minorities and Philosophy Conference: 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

2026	Hiring panel for ethics and political philosophy lectureship (KCL)
2026	Hiring panel for ethics and political philosophy lectureship (KCL)
2025	Hiring panel for political philosophy lectureship (KCL)
2024	Hiring panel for ethics lectureship (KCL)
2017–2022	Philosophy undergraduate admissions interviewer for Trinity Hall, Fitzwilliam, Downing, Jesus, St John's (Cambridge)
2015	Philosophy and Theology undergraduate admissions interviewer, St Peter's (Oxford)

Outreach

At KCL, I have regularly given talks for schools and community groups. At Cambridge I was a session leader for the University Outreach Programme, giving talks 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

2026–2027	Mind Association Research Fellowship
2025	KCL Faculty of Arts & Humanities Diversity & Inclusion Grant
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