

Nilanjan Das

Department of Philosophy
University College London
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Areas of specialization

Epistemology • Indian Philosophy in Sanskrit • Moral Philosophy

Areas of competence

Philosophy of Language • Philosophy of Mind • Philosophical Logic

Employment

2018- Lecturer, University College London
2016-2018 Assistant Professor Faculty Fellow, New York University Shanghai
2016-2017 Postdoctoral Fellow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Education

2016 PhD in Philosophy (with minor in Linguistics), MIT
Dissertation Topic: *Epistemic Stability*
Committee: Roger White (Chair), Julia Markovits, Robert Stalnaker and Stephen Yablo

2011 MA in Philosophy (with specialization in Mathematical Logic), Jadavpur University, Kolkata
(First Class)

2009 BA (Honours) in Philosophy (with minor in Sanskrit and Mathematics), Jadavpur University, Kolkata
(First Class)

Selected grants, honours & awards

2014 The Taraknath Das Foundation Fellowship, Columbia University
2011-2012 Presidential Fellowship, MIT
2011 Rhodes Scholarship (Declined)
2011 University Medal, Gopinath Bhattacharyya Medal and Satish Chandra De Medal, Jadavpur

- University
(for scoring highest marks in M.A. Examinations in Philosophy and across all humanities courses)
- 2010-2011 SYLFF (The Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund) Fellowship
(selected on the basis of open competition in Jadavpur University)
- 2010 Pranab Kumar Sen Memorial Scholarship, Jadavpur University
(for scoring highest marks in M.A. 1st year Examinations in Philosophy)
- 2009 University Medal and Pandit Panchanan Sastri Medal, Jadavpur University
(for scoring highest marks in B.A. Examinations in Philosophy)

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2020 “Externalism and Exploitability,” forthcoming in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*
- 2020 “Vātsyāyana’s Guide to Liberation,” forthcoming in *Journal of Indian Philosophy*
- 2020 “The Value of Biased Information,” forthcoming in *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*
- 2020 “Accuracy and Credal Imprecision,” *Noûs* 54 (3): 666-703. (Co-authored with Dominik Berger)
- 2019 “Accuracy and Ur-Prior Conditionalization,” *The Review of Symbolic Logic* 12 (1): 62-96.
- 2018 “Object Reidentification and the Epistemic Role of Attention” *Ratio* 31 (4): 402-414.
- 2018 “Transparency and the KK Principle,” *Noûs* 52 (1): 3-23. (Co-authored with Bernhard Salow)
- 2011 “Lakṣaṇā as Inference,” *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, 39 (4-5): 353-366.

BOOK CHAPTERS/ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES/TRANSLATIONS

- forthcoming “Classical Indian Epistemology,” commissioned for Kurt Sylvan (ed.) *The Blackwell Companion to Epistemology* (Oxford: Blackwell).
- forthcoming “Transformative Experience” (with L.A. Paul), commissioned for *Oxford Bibliographies Online*.
- forthcoming “Vācaspati on Aboutness and Decomposition”, in Chris Meyns (ed.), *Information and the History of Philosophy* (London: Routledge).
- 2020 “Transformative Choice and the Non-Identity Problem” (with L.A. Paul), in A. Sauchelli (ed.), *Derek Parfit’s Reasons and Persons: An Introduction and Critical Inquiry* (London: Routledge).
- 2020 “Udayana’s *The Flower-Offering of Reason*,” in M. Keating (ed.), *Controversial Reasoning in Indian Philosophy: Major Texts and Arguments on Arthâpatti* (London: Bloomsbury).
- 2020 “Raghunātha on *Arthâpatti*,” in M. Keating (ed.), *Controversial Reasoning in Indian Philosophy: Major Texts and Arguments on Arthâpatti* (London: Bloomsbury).
- 2018 “Śrīharṣa,” in E. Zalta (ed.) *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2018 edition).
- 2018 “Vasubandhu’s *Twenty Verses* with Auto-Commentary,” in G. Rosen, A. Byrne, E. Harman, J. Cohen, and S. Shiffrin (eds.), *The Norton Introduction to Philosophy* (New York: W. W. Norton).

CRITICAL NOTICES/BOOK SYMPOSIA

- forthcoming “Critical Notice on Richard Pettigrew’s *Choosing for Changing Selves*,” *Analysis*.
forthcoming “A Problem for Ganeri’s Buddhaghosa,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.
2019 “The Importance of Being Modest,” *Philosophy East and West* 69 (3): 870-879.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

- “Knowledge and Independent Checks in Mīmāṃsā” submitted upon invitation to *Oxford Studies in Epistemology*.
“Gaṅgeśa on Epistemic Luck” submitted upon invitation to *Journal of Indian Philosophy*.

Refereed Presentations

- 2020 “Transformative Choice and the Non-Identity Problem” (with L. A. Paul), Symposium, Eastern APA, Philadelphia
2018 “Persistence, Object Reidentification, and the Epistemic Role of Attention,” AAS-in-Asia, New Delhi
2017 “Memory, Knowledge Transmission, and Diachronic Rationality” (joint work with Carla Merino Rajme), Issues in Philosophy of Memory Conference, University of Cologne
2017 “Externalism and the Value of Information,” Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Washington, Seattle
2017 “Knowledge Defeat and Self-Locating Belief” (joint work with Carla Merino-Rajme), Latinx Philosophy Conference, Rutgers
2016 “Fragmented Evidence,” Humboldt Normativity Conference, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
2016 “Fragmented Evidence,” St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality, University of Missouri, St. Louis, and WUSTL
2016 “Knowledge and Moral Worth,” NYU General Colloquium
2016 “Immortality, Speech, and Inquiry,” 13th South Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago
2015 “Transparency and the KK Principle” (joint work with Bernhard Salow), Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association (presented by B. Salow)
2015 “Transparency and the KK Principle,” Edinburgh Graduate Epistemology Conference, University of Edinburgh
2015 “Knowledge and Safety from Future Defeat,” MIT Alumni Conference (MITing of the Minds), MIT
2014 “A Problem for Radical Probabilism,” UT Austin Graduate Conference in Philosophy, UT Austin
2014 “The Zero Denominator Problem,” Formal Epistemology Workshop (Poster Session), Caltech
2014 “Moral Heroism,” UCLA-USC Graduate Conference in Philosophy, University of Southern California
2013 “Moral Heroism,” VIII Mark L. Shapiro Graduate Conference in Philosophy, Brown
2013 “Nyāya on Cognitive Penetrability,” Workshop on Mind and Attention in Indian Philosophy, Harvard

- 2013 “Indicative Conditionals and Epistemic Priority,” Rutgers-Princeton Philosophy Graduate Conference
- 2012 “Belief and Conceptual Structure” (co-authored with Ian Wells), Northwestern-Notre Dame Epistemology Conference

Invited Presentations/Comments

- 2021 TBA, Invited Colloquium, University of Bristol
- 2021 TBA, Invited Colloquium, University of Southampton
- 2020 “The KK Principle in Early Nyāya,” University of Toronto
- 2020 “Uddyotakara on the Persistence of the Self,” University of Hong Kong
- 2020 “Uddyotakara on the Persistence of the Self,” The Self in London, KCL
- 2020 “Uddyotakara on the Self” and “Kumārila on the External World,” Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford
- 2019 “Jayanta on Negative-Only Reasons,” Das Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens, Vienna
- 2019 “Śrīharṣa on the Unanalysability of Knowledge,” Undergraduate Philosophical Society, University of Oxford
- 2019 “Gaṅgeśa on Perceiving Absence,” University of Toronto
- 2019 “Near-Bias and Self-Locating Desires,” University of Stirling
- 2019 “Śrīharṣa on Self-Knowledge,” Presidency University, Kolkata “Uddyotakara on the Self,” Presidency University, Kolkata
- 2019 “Self-Location and Self-Manipulation,” National University of Singapore
- 2019 “Maṇḍana on Practical Motivation,” Das Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens, Vienna
- 2019 “Self-Location and Self-Manipulation,” University of Bristol
- 2019 “Śrīharṣa on the Unanalysability of Knowledge,” University of Manchester
- 2019 “Śrīharṣa on Self-Knowledge,” Conference on “Mind, World, and Attention: Themes from Indian and Buddhist Philosophical Theory,” NYU
- 2019 “Self-Location and Self-Manipulation,” Staff Seminar, KCL
- 2019 “Śrīharṣa on Self-Knowledge,” Departmental Colloquium, University of Reading
- 2018 “Jayanta on Linguistic Comprehension,” Das Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens, Vienna
- 2018 “Self-Location and Self-Manipulation,” Departmental Symposium, UCL
- 2018 “Externalism and Exploitability,” Formal Methods Seminar, KCL
- 2018 “Externalism and Exploitability,” Moral Sciences Club, University of Cambridge
- 2018 “Compassion without Selves,” Conference on Indian Ethics, Wolfson College, University of Oxford
- 2018 “Externalism and Exploitability,” Jowett Society, University of Oxford
- 2018 “Compassion without Selves,” UCL Philosophy Graduate Conference, UCL
- 2018 “Raghunātha on Postulation,” Postulation Conference, Yale-NUS College
- 2018 “The Rationality of Attention’, Virtues of Attention Workshop, NYU Shanghai
- 2018 “Transformative Speech’, Pacific APA, San Diego (Invited Symposium)
- 2018 “A Way Out for the Naïve Realist: Applying Nyāya to Total Hallucinations’, Pacific APA,

- San Diego (Invited Symposium)
- 2018 “Comments on Jennifer Lackey’s ‘The Duty to Object’,” Ranch Metaphysics Workshop, Tucson, Arizona
- 2017 “Persistence, Object Reidentification, and the Epistemic Role of Attention,” Virtues of Attention Workshop, NYU Abu Dhabi
- 2017 “Tolerance and Pluralism in Classical India,” SYLFF Lecture, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.
- 2017 “Comments Jennifer Lackey’s ‘Punishment and Transformation’,” Pacific APA Pre-Conference, Seattle
- 2017 “Buddhist Arguments against Inferentialism about Self-Knowledge,” Central APA, Kansas City
- 2013 “Knowledge from Falsehood,” Presidency University, Kolkata

Teaching

AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

- Autumn 2020 Changing Beliefs (graduate seminar) and The Self in Classical Indian Philosophy (advanced undergraduate and graduate seminar), UCL
- Spring 2020 Topics in Classical Indian Epistemology (graduate seminar), UCL
- Winter 2020 Knowledge and Reality (undergraduate lecture course) and Recent Philosophical Writings (graduate seminar), UCL
- Autumn 2019 The Self in Classical Indian Philosophy (advanced undergraduate and graduate seminar) and Decision and Game Theory (undergraduate lecture course), UCL
- Spring 2019 Time and Rationality (graduate seminar), UCL
- Winter 2019 Knowledge and Reality (undergraduate lecture course), UCL
- Autumn 2018 Recent Philosophical Writings (graduate seminar), UCL
- Autumn 2018 The Self in Classical Indian Philosophy (advanced undergraduate and graduate seminar), UCL
- Spring 2018 Indian Buddhist Philosophy (undergraduate lecture course), NYU Shanghai
- Fall 2017 Epistemology (undergraduate seminar) and Ethics (undergraduate lecture course), NYU Shanghai

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

- Spring 2015 Teaching Assistant, *Bioethics* (for Professor Valentia Urbanek)
- Fall 2014 Teaching Assistant, *Ethics* (for Professor Kieran Setiya)
- Spring 2014 Teaching Assistant, *Paradox and Infinity* (2 sections, for Professor Agustin Rayo)
- Spring 2013 Teaching Assistant, *Minds and Machines* (for Professor Alex Byrne)
- Fall 2012 Teaching Assistant, *Problems of Philosophy* (for Professor Caspar Hare)

AS WRITING ADVISOR

- Fall 2014 Writing Advisor, *Minds and Machines* (for Professor Alex Byrne)

AS GUEST LECTURER

- Fall 2015 Guest Lecture, Boyd's "How to be a Moral Realist," *Metaethics* (for Professor Justin Khoo)
Fall 2014 Guest Lecture, "The Problem of Old Evidence," *Foundations of Probability* (for Professor Roger White)
Spring 2014 Guest Lecture, "Surprise Examination Paradox," *Paradox and Infinity* (for Professor Agustin Rayo)

AS INSTRUCTOR IN INDEPENDENT COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

- Winter 2014 Joint Instructor, *A Primer on Bayesian Epistemology*, MIT (co-taught with Ian Wells to graduate students)
Winter 2014 Principal Instructor, *Workshop on Evidence*, MIT

Academic Service

- 2019- Graduate Admissions Tutor, UCL
2019-2020 Departmental Placement Tutor, UCL
2019- Departmental Representative, Library Committee, UCL
2018- Mentor, Undergraduate Philosophy Society, UCL
2017-18 Co-Organizer, Epistemology Reading Group, NYU Shanghai
2017-18 Mentor, Undergraduate Philosophy Society, NYU Shanghai
2017- Member, Committee on Critical Inquiry, NYU Shanghai
2016- Referee for *Analysis*, *Analytic Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Erkenntnis*, *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Ratio*, *Synthese*, and *Theoria* and the British Society for Ethical Theory.
2017 Co-organizer, The Chapel Hill Workshop on Transformative Experience
2017 Co-organizer, UNC Transformative Experience Reading Group
2014-2015 Organizer, MIT Dissertation Workshop
2014 Co-organizer, The 2014 Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference in Philosophy
2013-2015 Co-organizer, MIT Epistemology Reading Group
2012-2013 Co-organizer, MIT Work-in-Progress Reading Group
2012 Co-organizer, MITing of the Minds (the MIT Philosophy Alumni Conference)

Languages

Sanskrit (competent speaking and reading), Hindi (competent speaking and reading), Bengali (native), German (basic speaking and reading), Classical Tibetan (basic reading)

References

Julia Markovits
Associate Professor, Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell University

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Agustín Rayo (teaching)
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