

Nilanjan Das

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Areas of specialization

Epistemology • South Asian Philosophy

Areas of competence

Philosophy of Language • Philosophy of Mind • Philosophical Logic

Employment

- 2023- Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto Mississauga, and the Graduate Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto
- 2018-2022 Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, 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

2023-24	Jackman Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship, University of Toronto
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
2010-2011	SYLFF (The Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund) Fellowship
2010	Pranab Kumar Sen Memorial Scholarship, Jadavpur University
2009	University Medal and Pandit Panchanan Sastri Medal, Jadavpur University

Publications

MONOGRAPHS

The Instability of Reason: Śrīharṣa on the Foundations of Epistemology (under contract with Oxford University Press)
Prajñākaragupta on What Exists (joint work with Davey Tomlinson and Cat Prueitt, under contract with Oxford University Press)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Forthcoming	“Uddyotakara on Universals I: Against Resemblance Nominalism,” to appear in <i>The Journal of Hindu Studies</i> .
Forthcoming	“Śrīharṣa on Two Paradoxes of Inquiry,” to appear in the <i>Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society</i> .
2023	“Vasubandhu on the First Person” <i>Royal Institute of Philosophy</i> 93: 23-53.
2023	“The Search for Definitions in Early Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika,” <i>Journal of Indian Philosophy</i> 51 (1):133-196.
2023	“Pratibhā, Intuition, and Practical Knowledge,” <i>British Journal for the History of Philosophy</i> 31 (4): 630-656.
2023	“Credal Imprecision and the Value of Evidence,” <i>Noûs</i> 57(3): 684-721.
2023	“The Value of Biased Information,” <i>The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science</i> 74(3): 25-55.
2022	“Knowledge and Independent Checks in Mīmāṃsā,” <i>Oxford Studies in Epistemology</i> 7: 15-47.
2022	“Externalism and Exploitability,” <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i> 104 (1):101-128.
2021	“Gaṅgeśa on Epistemic Luck,” <i>Journal of Indian Philosophy</i> 49 (2):153-202.
2020	“Vātsyāyana’s Guide to Liberation,” <i>Journal of Indian Philosophy</i> 48 (5): 791-825.
2020	“Accuracy and Credal Imprecision,” <i>Noûs</i> 54 (3): 666-703. (Co-authored with Dominik Berger)
2019	“Accuracy and Ur-Prior Conditionalization,” <i>The Review of Symbolic Logic</i> 12 (1): 62-96.
2018	“Object Reidentification and the Epistemic Role of Attention” <i>Ratio</i> 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

- 2024 “Śrīharṣa on the Indefinability of Knowledge-Events,” to appear in Artūrs Logins Jacques Henri Vollet (eds.) *Putting Knowledge to Work: New Directions in Knowledge-First Epistemology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).
- 2021 “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

- 2022 “Persons, Context, and Eliminativism,” *Philosophy East and West* 72 (2):548-561.
- 2022 “Against Irrealism,” *Analysis* 82 (1): 101–114.
- 2020 “A Problem for Ganeri’s Buddhaghosa,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 101 (2): 481-488.
- 2019 “The Importance of Being Modest,” *Philosophy East and West* 69 (3): 870-879.

WORK SUBMITTED/IN PROGRESS

- In progress Transformative Experience. Revise and resubmit at *Oxford Bibliographies Online*. (With L. A. Paul)
- Submitted “Maṇḍana’s Theory of Practical Motivation” commissioned for Elisa Freschi (ed.), *Maṇḍana on Commands*. (Revise and resubmit at Oxford University Press).
- Submitted “Indian Epistemology,” commissioned for Kurt Sylvan (ed.) *The Blackwell Companion to Epistemology* (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell).
- Submitted “Udayana on the Indefinability of Distinctness,” commissioned for Matthew Dasti and Malcolm Keating (eds.) *Vindicating the World: Essays in Honour of Stephen Phillips* (London; New York: Routledge).
- Submitted “How to Speak of Non-Existents,” commissioned for Matthew Mackenzie (ed.) *Thinking Across Borders: Essays in Honour of Arindam Chakrabarti* (London: Bloomsbury).

Refereed Presentations

- 2022 “Mahimabhaṭṭa on Aesthetic Experience” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics, Portland
- 2022 “*Tarka* as Theory Choice” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver
- 2021 “Uddyotakara on Universals,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio
- 2021 “Udayana on Distinctness,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio
- 2020 “Mereology and the Representational Turn,” Yogācāra Text Panel, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston
- 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

Invited Presentations/Comments

- 2024 “Artifice and Inference: Mahima Bhaṭṭa on a Puzzle about Aesthetic Pleasure,” Rasa Fest, University of British Columbia
- 2024 TBA, Department of Asian Studies, University of Texas at Austin
- 2024 TBA, Philosophy Colloquium, University of Texas at Austin
- 2023 “Jayanta Bhaṭṭa on Non-Conceptual Content,” Varieties of Ineffability Conference, Oxford, KCL and University of Toronto
- 2023 “Śrīharṣa on Two Paradoxes of Inquiry,” Aristotelian Society
- 2023 “Śrīharṣa on Non-Distinctness,” Philosophy of Religions Workshop, University of Chicago
- 2023 “Śrīharṣa on the Indefinability of Knowledge,” Seminar on Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University
- 2023 “Śrīharṣa on Two Paradoxes of Inquiry,” Invited Colloquium, Columbia University
- 2023 “Imprecision, Dominance, and Information Aversion,” MITing of the Minds, MIT
- 2023 “Illusions of Novelty in Early Modern India,” Practices of Commentary Group, University of Toronto
- 2022 “Śrīharṣa on Self-Knowledge,” Invited Colloquium, New York University
- 2022 “Imprecision, Ambiguity and Information Aversion,” Invited Colloquium, Zhejiang University, China
- 2022 “Imprecision, Ambiguity and Information Aversion,” Invited Colloquium, Zhejiang University, China
- 2022 “Udayana on Learning from Memory,” Invited Colloquium, University of British Columbia
- 2022 “Credal Imprecision and the Value of Evidence,” Ranch Metaphysics Workshop
- 2021 “The First Person in Buddhism,” Royal Institute of Philosophy, London
- 2021 “Vasubandhu on the First Person,” Invited Lecture, Institute of Classical Studies, University of London
- 2021 “The KK Principle in Early Nyāya,” Keynote Address, University of London Undergraduate Conference
- 2021 “Śrīharṣa on the Presuppositions of Inquiry,” Invited Colloquium, University of Southampton
- 2021 “Belief as Practical Certainty,” Invited Colloquium, University of Bristol
- 2021 “Uddyotakara on Universals,” Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- 2021 “Belief as Practical Certainty,” The London Mind Group
- 2021 Comments on Jan Westerhoff’s *The Non-Existence of the Real World*, Author-Meets-Critics Session, Eastern APA, New York
- 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

Winter 2023

Universals (graduate seminar), University of Toronto
 Winter 2023 The Self in Classical South Asia (undergraduate seminar), UTM
 Winter 2023 Human Nature (undergraduate lecture course), UTM
 Fall 2022 Epistemology (undergraduate seminar), UTM
 Spring 2022 Changing Beliefs (graduate seminar, taught with Daniel Rothschild), UCL
 Winter 2022 Knowledge and Reality (undergraduate lecture course), UCL
 Winter 2021 Knowledge and Reality (undergraduate lecture course) and Practical Criticism (graduate seminar), UCL
 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

Research Supervision

AT UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

2022-23 Member of Ph. D. Dissertation Committee (for Jack Beaulieu, Vincent Lee, and Tim McKee)

AT UCL

2019-22 PhD Primary Supervisor at UCL (for Oushinar Nath)
2018-22 PhD Co-supervisor at UCL (for Thomas Avery, Charles Neil, Alex Murphy and Michael Markunas)
2018-22 M.Phil. Co-supervisor at UCL (for Peter Ngan and Lizzy Hold)
2018-22 MA Dissertation Supervisor at UCL (for Minping Huang, Felix La Cumber, and Athénaïs Gagey)
2018- BA dissertation supervisor at UCL (for Silvana Denton, Hanning Wang, Liane Wergen, Emilie Dufwa, Keith Chan, and Jared Tang)

Academic Service

2023 Co-Organizer, Conference on “Varieties of ineffability in Ancient Philosophy,” Oxford, KCL and University of Toronto
2023- Associate Editor, *Philosopher’s Imprint*
2023 External Member, Hiring Committee, University of Oxford
2023- Member, Tenure Committee, Graduate Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto
2023 Member, Admissions Committee, Graduate Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto
2022-23 Member, Graduate Executive Committee, Graduate Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto
2022- Editor, *Philosophy Across Borders* Series, Oxford University Press
2022 Departmental Tutor, UCL
2021- Associate Editor, *MIND*
2021 Workshop on Continuing Study for BAME (Black, Asian, minority ethnic) Students, King’s College London
2019-21 Graduate Admissions Tutor, UCL
2019-2020 Departmental Placement Tutor, UCL
2019-22 Departmental Representative, Library Committee, UCL
2018-20 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*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *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, reading, and writing), Hindi (competent speaking and reading), Bengali (native), German (basic speaking and reading), Classical Tibetan (intermediate reading), Colloquial Tibetan (intermediate speaking and writing)

References

Roger White

Professor

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Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor Emeritus

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L. A. Paul

Millstone Family Professor

Departments of Philosophy and Cognitive Science

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Parimal G. Patil

Professor of Religion and Indian Philosophy

Departments of Philosophy and South Asian Studies

Harvard University

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