

Nilanjan Das

Department of Philosophy
University College London
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Areas of specialization

Epistemology • Classical 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

- Forthcoming “Accuracy and Ur-Prior Conditionalization”, in *The Review of Symbolic Logic*.
- Forthcoming “Vasubandhu’s *Twenty Verses* with Auto-Commentary’ (translated from Sanskrit), in G. Rosen, A. Byrne, J. Cohen, & S. Shiffin (eds.) *The Norton Introduction to Philosophy*.
- Forthcoming “Transparency and the KK Principle” (with Bernhard Salow), in *Noûs*.
- 2018 “Śrīharṣa”, in E. Zalta (ed.), *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2018 edition).
- 2011 “Lakṣaṇā as Inference”, *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, 39: 4-5, pp. 353-366.

Under Review or Commissioned

- “Accuracy and Credal Imprecision” (with Dominik Berger), R&R at *Noûs*.
- “Epistemic Fragility” (with Carla Merino Rajme).
- “Externalism and the Value of Information”.
- “Memory as a Source of Knowledge in Classical Indian Philosophy”, commissioned for C. Meyns (ed.), *Information and the History of Philosophy*, (London: Routledge, 2019).
- “Transformative Choice and the Non-Identity Problem” (with L.A. Paul), commissioned for A. Sauchelli (ed.), *Derek Parfit’s Reasons and Persons: An Introduction and Critical Inquiry* (London: Routledge, 2019).
- “Transformative Experience” (with L. A. Paul), commissioned for *Oxford Bibliographies Online*.

Refereed Presentations

- 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

- 2019 TBA, National University of Singapore
- 2019 TBA, Conference on “Mind, World, and Attention: Themes from Indian and Buddhist Philosophical Theory”, NYU
- 2019 “Śrīharṣa on Self-Knowledge”, Departmental Colloquium, University of Reading
- 2018 “Self-Location and Self-Manipulation”, Departmental Symposium, UCL
- 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 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

Coursework

(Courses marked with ‘^A’ are audited courses, while those marked with ‘^H’ are courses taken at Harvard.)

Proseminar I: Frege to Carnap (Rayo, Holton)
 Proseminar II: Quine to Kripke (Stalnaker, Yablo)
 Aristotle’s Ethics (Korsgaard)^H
 Topics in Moral Philosophy: How To Be Good (Markovits)
 Topics in the Philosophy of Law (Markovits)^A
 Philosophy of Religion (Byrne, Langton)
 Modal Logic (Stalnaker)
 Logic II: Incompleteness Theorems (McGee)
 Topic in Philosophy of Logic: Truth (McGee)
 Epistemology Survey (White)^A
 Foundations of Probability (White)
 Game Theory (Stalnaker)
 Topics in Epistemology: The Epistemic Role of Consciousness (Smithies)^A
 Topics in Metaphysics: Representation and Fragmentation (Rayo)
 Topics in Philosophy of Language: Conditionals (Stalnaker)
 Introduction to Semantics (Hackl, von Fintel)
 Advanced Semantics (Heim)
 The Linguistics of the Conversational Scoreboard (von Fintel, Iatridou, Khoo)

Teaching

AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

- Spring 2018 Indian Buddhist Philosophy (lecture course), NYU Shanghai
 Fall 2017 Epistemology (seminar) and Ethics (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

2017- Co-Organizer, Epistemology Reading Group, NYU Shanghai
2017- Mentor, Undergraduate Philosophy Society, NYU Shanghai
2017- Member, Committee on Critical Inquiry, NYU Shanghai
2016- Referee for *Erkenntnis*, *Mind*, *Philosophical Studies*, *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)

References

Julia Markovits
Associate Professor, Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell University
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L. A. Paul
Eugene Falk Distinguished Professor, Department of Philosophy, UNC Chapel Hill
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Mark Siderits
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Robert Stalnaker
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Roger White
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Stephen Yablo
David W. Skinner Professor, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, MIT
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Agustín Rayo (teaching)
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