

Alan Thomas
Chair of Ethics
Tilburg University

1 Personal Details

Date of Birth: 16/01/1964

Nationality: U.K.

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AOS: Moral and political philosophy, epistemology, philosophy of mind.

AOC: History of Modern Philosophy.

2 Professional History

- 2010 - present** Professor of Ethics and Director of the Centre for Ethics, (THESP), Tilburg University, The Netherlands.
- 2009-10** Fellow of the Center for Ethics and Public Affairs (Visiting Research Professor), Murphy Institute, Tulane University.
- 2007-8** Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.
- 1998 - 2010** Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Kent. Graduate supervision at Ph.D., M. Phil and M. A. by Research level. Full UG teaching load: mind, ethics, political philosophy.
External Examiner for Reading University PhD 2003, 2009; Melbourne University PhD 2006; Leuven PhD, 2008; two London University M. Phil theses 2001, 2003.
- 1993-8** Appointed Lecturer in Philosophy, King's College, London.
Supervised two PhD theses to completion and two M.Phil theses.
Taught intercollegiate M. A. seminar 1996-1998.
- 1991-3** College Lecturer in Philosophy, Balliol, Corpus Christi, St. Hilda's

and St. Hugh's Colleges. I gave university lecture courses for the Sub-faculty of Philosophy on the moral and political philosophy of Mill and Wittgenstein.

- 1990-91** Visiting Lecturer, Universities of Keele and Birmingham.
1989-93 External tutor in Philosophy for Balliol, Exeter, Hertford, Lincoln, Lady Margaret Hall, Manchester, New, University, St. Anne's, Worcester Colleges, University of Oxford.

3 Educational History

- 1990-5** D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford, 'A Contextual Theory of Moral Justification'. (July 1995.) Thesis supervisor: Professor Bernard Williams. Examiners: Professor Charles Taylor (McGill) and Dr Roger Crisp (Oxford). (1990-92 Balliol College.)
1992 Senior Jubilee Scholar, St. Hugh's College, Oxford.
1987-88 Kennedy Scholar, Harvard University and M. I. T.
1984-87 Scholar of King's College Cambridge.
 First Class Honours Philosophy B.A. June 1987.
 First in all three parts of the Philosophy Tripos, IA, IB, II.
 Entrance Scholar and twice Senior Scholar of King's.
 Awarded Richards Prize for finals result

4 Administrative Experience

- 2010 - present** Director, Tilburg Hub for Ethics and Social Philosophy (THESP)
2003 - 2009 Head of Department University of Kent.
2006 - 2009 External Examiner, University of London BA.
1998 - 2002 Tutor for Admissions, Library Liaison.
2002-5 External Examiner, the Open University.
2001 Prepared Departmental RAE submission and Curriculum Design section of QAA document.

5 Research and Publications

5a Research Activities

- Awards** Faculty Fellow, Center for Ethics and Public Affairs, Murphy Institute, Tulane University 2009 – 2010.
Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy, University of British Columbia, 2007-2008.
Arts and Humanities Research Council study leave award in 2001.
- Invited Papers** I have given papers to departments at Birmingham, British Columbia, Cork, Durham, Hertfordshire, Miami, Open University, St.Louis-Missouri, Sussex, Tulane, Vanderbilt University, Welsh Philosophical Society, Western Washington. Invited seminars at the City University of New York Graduate Center (2004), and at CAPPE (ANU) (2008), Fribourg (2009). Invited seminars at the AHRC Projects at Reading, Southampton and Hertfordshire, (2005, 2009 and 2010). Invited keynote presentation (University of Aberdeen, 2006) and a plenary talk (Dundee, 2006).
- Reviewing** I was an associate Editor for the journal *Mind* from 1990-93, and have refereed papers for *Dialectica*, *Mind*, *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, *Philosophy*, *Politics and Economics*, *Res Publica*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *the Kantian Review*, *the Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *the Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *Synthese*, *South African Journal of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, and the *European Journal of Philosophy*.
Reviewed manuscripts and proposals for Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Basil Blackwells, Acumen Press, Polity Press, and Edinburgh University Press.
Peer reviewed a project proposal for the AHRC; adviser on senior appointments Manchester Metropolitan and Exeter.
- Editorial Work** Edited special issues of *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* (2003) and *Philosophical Topics* (2009).
- Conference** Organized the conferences at Kent 'Having the World in View',

- Organization** (2007), 'Consciousness from a Historical Perspective', 2002; 'Kant's Practical Philosophy Reconsidered' 2004; 'Moral Particularism', 2004. (Papers from the 2002, 2004 and 2007 conferences published as special issues of journals.) I organized the open sessions of the Joint Session, Kent, 2004.
- Membership of Associations** Member of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, American Philosophical Association, British Philosophical Association.

5b Publications

Books

- 2011/12** *Republic of Equals: Rawls, Meade and Property-Owning Democracy*, publisher tbc.
- 2009** *Thomas Nagel*, Acumen Press and McGill/Queen's University Press.
- 2007** *Bernard Williams* (editor and contributor), Cambridge University Press.
- 2006** *Value and Context: the Nature of Moral and Political Knowledge*, Oxford University Press. pp. 352. ISBN 0198250177.

Papers

- 2011** 'Is Practical Reasoning "Essentially First Personal"?' in *Partiality and Impartiality in Ethics*, (eds.) John Cottingham, Brian Feltham, Philip Stratton-Lake, Oxford University Press.
- 2010/11** 'Nietzsche and Moral Fictionalism' in C. Janaway and S. J. Robertson, (eds.) *Nietzsche, Naturalism and Normativity*.
- 2011** 'Sartre on Alienation, Objectification and the Primacy of Virtue', in J. Webber (ed.), *Sartre and Phenomenology*, Routledge.
- 2011** 'Thick Concepts, Analysis and Reduction' (with Edward Harcourt) in S. T. Kirchin (ed.) *Thick Concepts*, publisher tbc.
- 2010** 'Another Particularism: Reason, Status and Defaults', *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*.

- 2010** 'Liberalism, Republicanism and the Idea of an Egalitarian Ethos', in Martin O'Neill and Thad Williamson, (eds), *Rawls on Property Owning Democracy*, Blackwell-Wiley.
- 2009** 'Perceptual Knowledge, Representation and Imagination' in 'Perception and Intentionality', a special issue of *Philosophical Topics*, Spring, 2009.
- 2009** 'Consequentialism, Integrity and Demandingness' in *Ethical Demandingness*, (ed.) Tim Chappell, Macmillan-Palgrave.
- 2008** 'The Genealogy of Epistemic Virtue Concepts', in 'Epistemology Through Thick and Thin', *Philosophical Papers*, vol. 37, no. 3, pp. 345-369.
- 2007** 'Practical Irrationality, Reflexivity and Sartre's Regress Argument', *Teorema*, XXIV / 3 October. ISSN: 0210-1602
- 2007** 'Practical Reasoning and Normative Relevance', *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, vol. 4 no. 1, April.
ISSN: 1740-4681
- 2007** 'Introduction' and 'Non-Objectivism and the Critique of Moral Knowledge', in *Bernard Williams*, (ed.) Alan Thomas, CUP.
- 2005** 'The Permissibility of Prerogative Grounded Incentives in Liberal Egalitarianism', 'Straight to the Point', *Ethics and Economics*:
http://mapage.noos.fr/Ethique-economique/html_version/
- 2004** 'Reasonable Partiality and the Agent's Point of View', *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, vol. 8, nos 1-2, April, pp. 25-43.
ISSN: 1386-2820
- 2003** 'Nagel's Paradox of Liberty and Equality', *Res Publica*, 2003, 9 (3), pp. 257-284.
ISSN: 1356-4765
- 2003** 'An Adverbial Theory of Consciousness', *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, vol. 2, no. 3 pp. 161-185.
ISSN: 1568-7759
- 2002** 'Internal Reasons and Contractualist Impartiality', *Utilitas*, vol. 14, number 2 July pp. 135-154.
ISSN: 0953-8208

- 2000** 'Consequentialism and the Subversion of Pluralism' in Brad Hooker, Elinor Mason and Dale Miller (eds) *Morality, Rules and Consequences*, Edinburgh U.P. 2000.
- 1999** 'Values, Secondary Qualities and the Challenge of Non-Objectivism' in P. Kampits and A. Weinberg (eds.) *Proceedings of the International Wittgenstein Symposium*, Holder-Pichler-Tempsky, Vienna.
- 1998** 'Remorse and Reparation' in Murray Cox, (ed) *Remorse and Reparation*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- 1997** 'Kant, McDowell and the Theory of Consciousness' *European Journal of Philosophy*, (December) pp. 283-305.
- 1997** 'Minimalism and Quasi-Realism', *Philosophical Papers*, (November), pp. 233-239.
- 1997** 'Liberal Republicanism and the Role of Civil Society', *Democratisation*, (August), pp. 26-44.
- 1996** 'Values, Reasons and Perspectives', *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 1996-7.

Conference and Seminar Papers

- 2010** 'Principle Monism, Particularism and Justification', forthcoming at the conference *Intuition, Theory and Anti-Theory in Ethics*, 1-4 July, 2010.
- 2010** 'Phenomenal Qualities and Conscious Unity', forthcoming at the AHRC Project conference *Phenomenal Qualities*, University of Hertfordshire.
- 2009** 'Another Particularism' and 'Is Practical Reasoning Essentially First Personal?', Epistemology of Normativity Workshop, Fribourg, August.
- 2009** 'Nietzsche and Moral Fictionalism', *Nietzsche, Naturalism and Normativity*, University of Southampton.
- 2009** 'Another Particularism', *British Society for Ethical Theory* conference, Reading, June.

- 2009 'Thick Concepts and Analysis', with Edward Harcourt, *Thick Concepts*, University of Kent.
- 2009 Respondent, Pacific APA: 'Agent-relativity and Second Personality', Vancouver, April.
- 2008 'Another Particularism', Paris-Sorbonne Conference, May.
- 2008 'Self-Ascription, HOT Theory and the Unity of Consciousness', *Toward a Science of Consciousness*, April.
- 2007 'Imagination in Perception', Workshop on *Having the World in View*, University of Kent, May.
- 2006 'Inferential Contextualism and Moral Cognitivism', (Invited Keynote Address) Conference on *Moral Contextualism*, University of Aberdeen, July 3-5.
- 2006 'Context-relative Standards, Consequentialism and Ethical Demandingness', (Invited Plenary Address), Conference on *Ethics and Demandingness*, University of Dundee, July 14-16.
- 2006 'Cohen's Critique of Rawls: A Double Counting Objection', Association for Social and Legal Philosophy Conference, *Social Justice*, Dublin.
- 2006 'Reconciling Conscious Absorption with the Ubiquity of Self-Awareness', *Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness 10*, Oxford.
- 2005 'Reasonable Partiality and the Agent's Personal Point of View', seminar as part of the AHRC project on *Partiality and Impartiality*, University of Reading, Oct. 27.
- 2005 Maxims and Thick Concepts' Respondent at the Central Division of the A. P. A., Chicago. (Paper delivered in absentia.)
- 2004 'Practical Reasoning and Normative Relevance', presented to the conference *Moral Particularism* at the University of Kent.
- 2004 'Perceptual Knowledge, Representation and Imagination' presented to the conference, *Knowledge and Imagination*, Free University of Amsterdam June.
- 2003 'Reasonable Partiality and the Agent's Point of View' presented to the conference *Reasonable Partiality*, organised by the Netherlands School for Research in Practical Philosophy,

- October 22 - 24.
- 2003** 'Consciousness, Reflexivity and Reduction' *Towards a Science of Consciousness*, Prague, July 6 - 10.
- 2002** 'Imagination and the Sublime in Kant: Reply to Pacholec', presented to the *Phenomenology and Cognitive Science Association Annual conference*, Richmond College (July 22-23).
- 2002** 'Kant and Shoemaker on Self-Ascription and Co-Consciousness', paper given to the Association for Scientific Study of Consciousness conference, *ASSC-6, Consciousness and Language*, Barcelona, May 31 – June 3rd, 2002.
- 2002** 'An Adverbial Theory of Consciousness', paper given to the conference *Consciousness in Historical Perspective*, University of Kent, May 16, 2002.
- 2002** 'Liberalism, Republicanism and Equality', paper given to the Association for Legal and Social Philosophy Annual Conference, *The Ethics of Altruism*, Royal Holloway, 11-13 April 2002.
- 2001** 'Kant and the Ontology of Mind', *Towards a Science of Consciousness*, Skovde, Sweden, August 2001. Abstract published in *Consciousness Research Abstracts* (2001) edited by Paavo Pylkanen and Tom Ziemke.
- 1998** 'Values, Secondary Qualities, and the Challenge of Non-Objectivism', paper given at the *International Wittgenstein Symposium*, Kirchberg, Austria,
- 1998** 'Democratic Citizenship and Civil Association', *Centre for Studies in Democratisation*, University of Warwick.
- 1997** Happiness and Meaning: A Reply to Susan Wolf', presented to the University of London Advanced Philosophy Program Conference on *Well Being*.
- 1996** 'Kant and the Theory of Consciousness', presented at the conference of the U.K. Kant Society, *Kant Our Contemporary*, University of St. Andrew's.

Contributions to Reference Works

- 2012 General editor, Oxford University Press online 'Bibliography of Normative Ethics'. (Annotated bibliography.)
- 2011 'Moral Particularism', *Reed-Elsevier Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics*, ed H. Svart.
- 2011 'Moral Contextualism', *International Encyclopedia of Ethics*, ed Hugh LaFollette, forthcoming.
- 2010 'Bernard Williams', *Encyclopedia of Utilitarianism*, ed. James Crimmins, forthcoming.
- 2000 'Bernard Williams', entry in the *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*.
- 1999 (Co-authored with Professor Barry Smith, SUNY), 'Axiology' in the *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Routledge.
- 1999 'Value' in the *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Routledge.
- 1999 'Alasdair MacIntyre' in the *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Routledge.

Reviews

- 2007 Critical Notice: Bernard Williams, *Philosophy as a Humanistic Discipline; In the Beginning was the Deed; The Sense of the Past*, in *Philosophical Quarterly*.
- 2005 Review of Michael Luntley, *Wittgenstein: Meaning and Judgement*, *Philosophical Books*.
- 2003 Onora O'Neill, *Autonomy and Trust in Bioethics*, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
<http://ndpr.icaap.org/content/archives/2003/10/>
- 1998 David Copp, *Morality, Normativity and Society*, in *Philosophical Books*.
- 1997 J.E.J. Altham and Ross Harrison: *World, Mind and Ethics: Essays on the Ethical Philosophy of Bernard Williams*, in *Philosophical Books*.
- 1996 Paul Thompson (ed.), *Issues In Evolutionary Ethics*; Michael

- Bradie, *The Secret Chain: Evolution and Ethics*, in the *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.
- 1996** Graham Priest: *Beyond the Limits of Thought*, in the *Bulletin of the Hegel Society of Great Britain*.
- 1996** Robert B. Brandom, *Making It Explicit: Representation, Commitment and Discursive Thought*, in the *European Journal of Philosophy*.
- 1996** Dieter Henrich, *The Unity of Reason*, in *Mind*.
- 1995** Jonathan Dancy, *Moral Reasons*, in *Mind*.
- 1995** Phillip Pettit, *The Common Mind*, in *The Philosophical Quarterly*.
- 1993** Robert B. Loudon, *Morality and Moral Theory*, in *The Times Literary Supplement*.

Referees

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