**Rowan Mellor**

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**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

**University of Toronto**

Leverhulme postdoctoral fellow, 2021-23

**University College London**

Associate Lecturer in Political Philosophy, 2020-2021

**EDUCATION**

**UCL**

PhD Philosophy, 2016-21

**Dissertation title:** What Does Justice Require of Me? The Individual Demands of Social Justice, and the Paradox of Collective Harm

**Abstract:** I argue that lawmakers have a special obligation to combat structural injustice. People’s positions within a social structure can rationalise behaviour which, when performed on a large scale, collectively reproduces social injustice. But a given individual’s contribution to this process can be negligible, and so it can seem that no one has a reason to act differently. I argue that lawmakers are uniquely positioned to intervene in the reproduction of structural injustice, since changes in legislation can give individuals reasons to alter their behaviour which they would otherwise lack.

**Stanford University**

Visiting research student, 2019

**École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris**

Visiting research student, 2018

**UCL**

MPhil Philosophy,2014-16

BA (Hons) Philosophy, First Class Honours, 2011-14

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

**Areas of specialisation:** Normative ethics, political philosophy, practical rationality

**Areas of competence:** Philosophy of law, environmental ethics, philosophy of action, social ontology, philosophy of social science

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Published**

‘Faces of Vicarious Responsibility’ *The Monist* 104 (2), April 2021, 238–250: <https://doi.org/10.1093/monist/onaa035>

**Under review**

‘Joint Ought’

Argues that there are joint ‘oughts’ which apply irreducibly to pluralities of agents.

Available on request.

‘Scepticism About the No-Difference Challenge’

Defends the sceptical view that individuals have no reason to avoid collectively harmful acts.

Available on request.

**In preparation**

‘Clumping Failures’ (co-authored with Margaret Shea)

Argues that ‘*x* ought *φ*’ and ‘*y* ought to *φ*’ do not always entail ‘*x* and *y* ought to *φ*’. Argues that the best explanation of this is that ‘ought to *φ*’ can be used as a plural predicate.

‘Team Reasoning: A Dilemma’

Argues that theories of team reasoning in non-standard game theory face a dilemma if they are interpreted as normative theories: either they will sometimes tell an agent to pick the worst option open to her, or they will collapse into the standard theory of rational choice.

‘Choice, Alienation, and the Value of Autonomy’

Argues that the value of autonomy consists neither in the value of choice, nor in that of non-alienation, but rather in the importance of being guided by certain reasons for action.

**AWARDS**

2021-23 Leverhulme Study Abroad Studentship to undertake 2 years of fully funded postdoctoral research

2019-20 Aristotelian SocietyStudent Bursary, valued at £3,000

2016-19 London Arts and Humanities PartnershipDoctoral Scholarship to undertake 3 years of fully funded doctoral research

2015-16 Society for Applied Philosophy Doctoral Scholarship, valued at £10,000

2015-16 UCL Departmental Scholarship, valued at £6,014

2014-15 UCL Jacobsen Scholarship in Philosophy, contribution to tuition fees

2013-14 Richard Murphy Memorial Prize,awarded for best performance in the final year examinations of the UCL BA Philosophy programme, valued at £100

**TALKS AND RESPONSES**

(\* indicates refereed talk)

(† indicates invited talk)

† ‘Joint Ought’, Berkeley Workshop in Law, Philosophy, and Political Theory, November 2022, University of California Berkeley, USA

\* ‘Joint Ought’, Humboldt Normativity Conference 2022, September 2022, Humboldt University, Germany

\* ‘Team Reasoning: A Dilemma’, Social Ontology and Collective Intentionality 2022, August 2022, University of Vienna, Austria

\* ‘Joint Ought’, Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress 2022, poster session, August 2022, University of Colorado Boulder, USA

\* ‘Sovereignty and Non-Alienation’, UCL Graduate Conference, September 2021, UCL

† ‘It Makes No Difference: Collective Harm and the Law’, UCL Departmental Symposium June 2021, UCL

Response to ‘Threats, Protests and the Possibility of Forgiveness’ Kirstine La Cour, UCL Graduate Conference, September 2019, UCL

\* ‘Injustice, Excuse and Laundry’, 2nd POLEMO Symposium, September 2019, Central European University, Budapest

\* ‘Social Holism without Social Ontology’, 6th Biennial ENSO Conference, August 2019, University of Tampere, Finland

‘Social Holism without Social Ontology’,London Intersubjectivity Workshop, June 2019, UCL

\* ‘Injustice, Excuse and Laundry’, X ﻿Braga Meetings ﻿on Ethics and Political Philosophy, June 2019, University of Minho, Portugal

\* Response to ‘Epistemic Coercion’ Sophia Dandelet,London - Berkeley Philosophy Graduate Conference, May 2019, University of California Berkeley, USA

Response to ‘Joint Action and Dependent Actions’ Catherine Dale,London Intersubjectivity Workshop, February 2019, UCL

\* ‘Does Joint Agency Exist?’ London Graduate Philosophy Workshop,November 2018, University of London

\* ‘Does Joint Agency Exist?’ London - Warwick Mind Forum, November 2018, UCL

Response to ‘Who Are You Calling Repugnant?’Nikhil Venkatesh,UCL Philosophy Graduate Conference, September 2018, UCL

\* ‘Must the Proletariat Sell their Labour?’ IX ﻿Braga Meetings ﻿on Ethics and Political Philosophy, June 2018, University of Minho, Portugal

Response to ‘Is all Moral Responsibility Ultimately Individual Responsibility?’Russell Child, University of London Graduate Philosophy Conference November 2017, University of London

‘Scanlon on Equality of Opportunity’ (with Véronique Munoz-Dardé), workshop on TM Scanlon’s *Why Does Inequality Matter?* November 2017, EHESS, France

\* ‘Are the Proletariat Forced to Sell their Labour?’ UCL Philosophy Graduate Conference, September 2017, UCL

Response to ‘Fichte and Davidson on Intersubjectivity’Rory Phillips,UCL Philosophy Graduate Conference, September 2016, UCL

\* Response to‘Two Ways to Want’ Ethan Jerzak, London - Berkeley Philosophy Graduate Conference, May 2016, University of London

\* ‘What is Collective Responsibility?’ Manchester Centre for Political Theory Brave New World Conference, April 2016, University of Manchester

**TEACHING**

**Primary instructor, University of Toronto at Scarborough**

Philosophy of Law, Winter Term 2023

Environmental Ethics, Fall Term 2022

**Primary instructor, UCL**

Law, Freedom and Morality, Spring Term 2021

Philosophy and Public Policy, Spring Term 2021

Why Democracy? Autumn Term 2020

Introduction to European History, Law, Politics and Philosophy (Philosophy component), Autumn Term 2020

Advanced Tutorials: The Philosophy of Social Science, Spring Term 2019

**Teaching assistant, UCL**

Philosophy and Public Policy (with Sarah Richmond) Spring Term 2020

20th Century Philosophy: Iris Murdoch’s *The Sovereignty of Good* (with Mark Kalderon) Autumn Term 2019

Advanced Topics in Moral Philosophy: Responsibility, Luck and Excuses (with Ulrike Heuer) Autumn Term 2018

Why Democracy? (with Amanda Greene) Spring Term 2018

Topics in Political Philosophy (with Joe Horton) Autumn Term 2017

Regulation of Intimacy: The Politics of Sex (with Véronique Munoz-Dardé) Spring Term 2017

History of Philosophy I: Ancient Philosophy (with Simona Aimar) Autumn Term 2016

**SERVICE**

Degree Coordinator, BA European Social and Political Studies, UCL, 2020-2021

Personal tutor, European and International Social and Political Studies, UCL, 2020-2021

Co-convener for Departmental Symposium, UCL, 2019-2020

Co-convener for Philosophy PhD Work in Progress seminars, UCL, 2017-2018

Reviewer for *Philosophical Studies* and *Utilitas*

**REFERENCES**

Véronique Munoz-Dardé Han van Wietmarschen

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