

VANESSA CARR

CURRICULUM VITAE

Post-Doctoral Fellow

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- AOS Philosophy of Action and Mind, Metaphysics
- AOC Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Epistemology, Early
Modern Philosophy, Wittgenstein's Philosophy

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2018 - **Post-Doctoral Fellow, Humboldt Project, University of Leipzig**
Present Independent research; teaching seminars; organising talks.

EDUCATION

- 2014 - 2019 **PhD Philosophy, UCL**
(expected) Thesis: *Movers and Makers*
When we act, changes and states of the world come about, and they come about as a result of our actions. We bear a particular kind of responsibility for those changes and states that come about as a result of our actions, which I call *agential responsibility*. But what more can be said about what it is to be agentially responsible for a change or states of the world? That is the question that this thesis addresses. It is argued here that, contrary to a favoured view, it is not an essential part of what it is to be agentially responsible for a change or state that the agent causes that change or state. It is put forward that *agential* responsibility is, instead, a primitive form of responsibility, independent of *causal* responsibility. The concept of *agential responsibility*, along with the concepts of *agency* and *action*, is a primitive concept, not to be elucidated in non-agential terms. What can be said is simply that for a change or state to be such that one is agentially responsible for it is for its coming about to be explicable in terms of one's acting.
Primary Supervisors: Professor Michael Martin, Dr Rory Madden
- 2012 - 2014 **MPhilStud Philosophy (Informal Distinction), UCL**
Thesis: *The Causal Efficacy of Inanimate Composite Objects*
Supervisor: Dr Luke Fenton-Glynn
- 2009 - 2012 **BA (Hons) Philosophy, Psychology, and Physiology (First Class), University of Oxford**
Thesis: *Anosognosia as a Two-Factor Delusion*
Supervisor: Professor Martin Davies

PUBLICATIONS

- 'Created, Changeable, and Yet Acausal?' *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* (forthcoming).

AWARDS

Aristotelian Society Student Bursary (2017).

Full AHRC Doctoral Award, London Arts and Humanities Partnership (2014 - 2017).

Durham Emergence Project Scholarship to participate in Durham Emergence Project Summer School (2014).

Wollheim Prize for most promising MPhilStud thesis, based on thesis outline, draft chapter, and oral examination, UCL (2014).

Jacobsen Scholarship for MPhilStud fees, UCL (2012 & 2013).

St Anne's College Vacation Laboratory Studentship to develop a research project with Dr Anne Aimola-Davies' Neuropsychology team, at University of Oxford Psychology Department (2011).

International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) Scholarship for Summer School at University of Copenhagen: 'Kierkegaard - The Individual in Global Society' (2011).

College Scholarship, for distinction in Part 1 examinations, St Anne's College, University of Oxford (2011).

TALKS

Are Two-Way Powers Causal Powers?

'Two-Way Powers', Action-Network Annual Meeting, University of Leipzig (Jul 2019).

No Objection to Object-Causation

Humboldt Seminar, University of Leipzig (Nov 2018)

The Importance of Being Creative

Humboldt Colloquium, University of Leipzig (Feb 2018).

Agency Workshop, University of Tübingen (Apr 2019).

Created, Changeable, and Yet Acausal?

Postgraduate Session, Joint Session of Aristotelian Society & Mind Association (Jul 2018).

The Causal Interaction Problem for Abstracta

Departmental Symposium, UCL (Nov 2017).

Agency, Causation, and Deviance

UCL-Leipzig Workshop, Leipzig University (Jun 2017).

The Cognitive Science Research Group, New College of the Humanities (Jun 2017).

Movement of the Body and Causation by the Agent

Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of London (Mar 2017).

Davidson's Challenge for Irreducible Agent-Causation

Workshop on Agency and Causation: Formal and Conceptual Issues, Ghent University (Oct 2016).

Demystifying the Agent-Causation Debate

Cumberland Lodge Graduate Conference, UCL (Oct 2016).

The Agent's Causal Role in Action

London-Warwick Mind Forum (Nov 2015).

Open Minds Conference, University of Manchester (Jul 2015).

Getting Over the Overdetermination Argument

Philosophy Graduate Conference, UCL (Sep 2015).

RESPONSES

Response to *Is There a Feeling of Bodily Ownership?*, Annual London-Berkeley Philosophy Conference, UC Berkeley (May 2017).

Responses to *Causal Exclusion and the Limits of Proportionality* and *Causal Essentialism and Arbitrariness*, The Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference, University of Geneva (Sep 2016).

Response to *How Not to Naturalise Action*, Philosophy Graduate Conference, UCL (Sep 2014).

Response to *The Translucency of Phenomenal Character*, Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of London (Feb 2014).

OUTREACH

Presentation: *Princess Elisabeth and Me: A Feminist Doing Philosophy, or Doing Feminist Philosophy?*, Sixth Form Philosophy Society, Sevenoaks School (Nov 2017).

Presentation: *What is a Human Person?*, Year 12 Widening Participation Scheme, University College London (Jul 2015).

Presentation: *What Exists?*, Philosophy Forum, Stuart Low Trust: a charity that organises activities for Islington residents experiencing social isolation or mental distress (Jan 2015).

Facilitator, Philosophy Forum, Stuart Low Trust (2014 - 2015).

TEACHING

Mental Activity (Leipzig). Masters course. Syllabus organiser, seminar leader, marker. (2019).

The Metaphysics of Causation (Leipzig) Mixed undergraduate course. Syllabus organiser, seminar leader, marker. (2018 - 2019).

Advanced Tutorials (UCL). 3rd year undergraduate course. Syllabus organiser, tutor, marker. Syllabus: *Platonism & Dualism*. (2018).

History of Philosophy II: Early Modern (UCL). 1st year undergraduate course. Seminar leader, marker. Lecturer: Dr Rory Madden. (2016, 2017, 2018).

Essay Writing (UCL). 1st year undergraduate workshop. Co-leader. (2016, 2018).

Topics in Metaphysics: Causation and Modality (UCL). 3rd year undergraduate and graduate course. Seminar leader, marker. Lecturer: Dr Simona Aimar. (2015, 2016).

- Lecture: *Reducing F to G*. (Nov 2016).

Metaphysics (UCL). 2nd year undergraduate course. Seminar leader, marker. Lecturer: Dr Luke Fenton-Glynn. (2015).

Knowledge and Reality (UCL). 1st year undergraduate course. Seminar leader, marker. Lecturer: Dr Rory Madden. (2014).

Empathy (UCL). 3rd year undergraduate course. Seminar leader, marker. Lecturer: Dr Cressida Gaukroger. (2014).

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

Referee for: *Dialectica* (2017, 2018); *Topoi* (2017); The Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference (2016).

Co-organiser of: Humboldt Conversations Series; UCL Philosophy PhD Work in Progress Group (2015-2016); 'Language, Truth, and Reality' UCL Philosophy Reading Group (2015 - 2016); 'Objectivity, Space and Mind' BPPA Masterclass (2015); UCL Philosophy Graduate Conference (2013).

Head Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, UCL (2017 - 2018).

LANGUAGES

English (native language); Italian (advanced); German (intermediate, B1); French (elementary).

REFERENCES

Professor Michael Martin
Professor of Philosophy
University College London
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Dr Rory Madden
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy
University College London
r.madden@ucl.ac.uk

Professor Ian Phillips
Professor in Philosophy of
Psychology
University of Birmingham
(Visiting Research Scholar at
Princeton University)
ianbphillips@princeton.edu

Professor James Conant
Alexander von Humboldt-Professor
University of Leipzig
(Also Chester D. Tripp Professor of Humanities at the
University of Chicago)
james_ferguson.conant@uni-leipzig.de