Tim Smartt

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Areas of Specialization

Epistemology, Ethics, Decision Theory

Areas of Competence

Social & Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Language, Logic

Employment

University of Notre Dame Australia, Sydney
  Senior Lecturer, Institute for Ethics & Society, 2026–*present*
  Lecturer, Institute for Ethics & Society, 2019–2025
  Associate Lecturer, Institute for Ethics & Society, 2016–2018

University of Sydney
  Anderson Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Philosophy, 2025

Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Sydney, 2025
  Thesis: "The Demands of Rationality: Epistemology & Normative Guidance"
  Supervisors: Brian Hedden (primary), Mark Colyvan, Philip Pettit
  Examiners: Daniel Greco, Jessica Brown — *thesis passed with no corrections*

M.Phil. in Philosophy, University of Sydney, awarded with *High Distinction*, 2011

B.A. in Philosophy, University of Sydney, awarded with *First Class Honours*, 2008

Publications

Papers (continued on next page)

"More Scepticism about Epistemic Blame"
  Philosophical Studies. Forthcoming.

"Formal Epistemology without Demandingness"
  Synthese. Forthcoming.

"Do Conspiracy Theory Interventions Rest on a Mistake?" (with Mark Colyvan and Hannah Tierney)
  Synthese. Forthcoming.

"Does *Ought* Imply *Can* in Epistemology?"
  American Philosophical Quarterly. Forthcoming.

"Scepticism about Epistemic Blame"
  Philosophical Studies vol. 180, no. 5–6 (2023): 1813–1828

"Reconsidering the Rule of Consideration: Probabilistic Knowledge and Legal Proof"
  Episteme vol. 19, no. 2 (2022): 303–318

"Arbitrariness Arguments Against Temporal Discounting"
  Australasian Philosophical Review vol. 5, no. 3 (2021): 302–308

Book Review

"Review of *Probabilistic Knowledge* by Sarah Moss"
  Ethics vol. 129, no. 2 (2019): 430–438

Edited Collections

Topical Collection on "Responsible Beliefs: Accountability Practices in Epistemology" (co-edited with Adam Piovarchy)
  Synthese. Forthcoming.

Teaching Articles

"Knowing Your Own Mind: René Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditation 2"
  The Philosophy Teaching Library (2024), edited by Wes Siscoe

Public Philosophy

"*Bugonia* and the Psychology of Belief: What Yorgos Lanthimos's Film Can Teach Us About Conspiracy Theories"
  ABC Religion & Ethics, November 21 (2025)

"Where There's Smoke, There's Conspiracy Theorists" (with Mark Colyvan and Hannah Tierney)
  ABC Religion & Ethics, November 3 (2020)

"Compulsory COVID-19 Vaccination Makes Sense"
  Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, Brisbane Times, WA Today, August 10 (2020)

Talks

"More Scepticism about Epistemic Blame"
> Epistemic Accountability Workshop, University of Notre Dame Australia. August 2024.

"Scepticism about Epistemic Blame"
> Notre Dame/Northwestern Graduate Epistemology Conference, Notre Dame (USA). April 2022.
> Mark L. Shapiro Graduate Philosophy Conference, Brown University. April 2022.
> Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder. April 2022.
> Humboldt-Southampton Normativity Conference, University of Southampton. December 2021.

"Do Conspiracy Theory Interventions Rest on a Mistake?" (with Mark Colyvan and Hannah Tierney)
> Utrecht-Sydney Conspiracy Theories Workshop, University of Sydney. April 2021.
> UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Centre, University of California, Davis. March 2021.

"Reconsidering the Rule of Consideration: Probabilistic Knowledge and Legal Proof"
> UT Austin Philosophy Graduate Conference, University of Texas at Austin. May 2020.
> SLLERG Seminar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. October 2019.

"Does *Ought* Imply *Can* in Epistemology?"
> 2019 Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, University of Wollongong. July 2019.
> Goethe Epistemology Meeting, Goethe University Frankfurt. May 2019.
> Current Projects Seminar, University of Sydney. May 2018.
> Formal Methods Research Seminar, King's College London. February 2018.
> Vienna Forum for Analytic Philosophy, University of Vienna. June 2017.
> CUNY Graduate Conference, City University of New York Graduate Centre. March 2017.

Comments

Wes Siscoe, "The Structure of Justice"
> Character & Moral Responsibility, University of Notre Dame Australia. October 2023.

Tyler Paytas, "The Redundancy of Anger"
> Good Feelings: Virtues, Vices & Emotions, University of Notre Dame Australia. October 2022.

Christian Miller, "Honesty: The Philosophy and Psychology of a Neglected Virtue"
> Notre Dame School of Virtue & Character, University of Notre Dame Australia. October 2020.

Amia Srinivasan, "Genealogical Scepticism and Genealogical Luck"
> Workshop on Amia Srinivasan's *The Contingent World*, University of Basel. June 2018.

Visiting Positions

Visiting Graduate Student, University of Chicago, Autumn 2018.

Visiting Graduate Student, King's College London, February–March 2018.

Visiting Graduate Student, Princeton University, Spring 2010.

Teaching

Primary Instructor and Coordinator

PHIL2140/6140 Contemporary Philosophy	Notre Dame Australia	2022, 2021
PHIL3950/6950 Philosophy as a Way of Life	Notre Dame Australia	2020
PHIL3613 Philosophy of Human Rights	University of Sydney	2019
MED5003 Bioethics (School of Medicine)	Notre Dame Australia	2019
PHIL2070 Philosophy of Language	Notre Dame Australia	2018
PHIL6020 Practical and Professional Ethics	Notre Dame Australia	2016–2022 (x6)
PHIL132 Philosophy, Morality, and Society	Macquarie University	2011

Guest Lectures

"Bayes' Theorem and Conditionalization"

PHIL2620 Probability and Decision Theory	University of Sydney	2018

"Interpretations of Probability"

PHIL2620 Probability and Decision Theory	University of Sydney	2018

"Expected Utility Theory"

PHIL2620 Probability and Decision Theory	University of Sydney	2018

Tutor/TA

PHIL2620 Probability and Decision Theory	University of Sydney	2018, 2017
GOVT2112 Modern Political Thought	University of Sydney	2017
PHIL3613 Philosophy of Human Rights	University of Sydney	2016
PHIL2642 Critical Thinking	University of Sydney	2015, 2010
PHIL1012 Introductory Logic	University of Sydney	2016, 2015
PHIL1011 Reality, Ethics, Beauty	University of Sydney	2012, 2011, 2009
PHIL1013 Society, Self, Knowledge	University of Sydney	2011, 2010, 2009
PHL137 Critical Thinking	Macquarie University	2012
PHL132 Philosophy, Morality, and Society	Macquarie University	2012, 2011
PHL131 Mind, Meaning, and Metaphysics	Macquarie University	2012, 2010
PHIL106 Media, Ethics, and Law	University of Wollongong	2011

Awards

Research Grants

Early Career Researcher Award, Notre Dame Australia, 2023, **$3,633**. "Responsible Beliefs: Accountability Practices in Epistemology" (Co-PI with Adam Piovarchy)

Research Development Grant, Notre Dame Australia, 2023, **$7,500**. "Becoming Good: Virtue & Moral Development in Ancient Ethics" (Co-PI with David Bronstein)

Industry Research Grant, The Scots College, 2020–2021, **$20,000**. "Developing Virtuous Character in Educational Institutions" (Co-PI with Annette Pierdziwol and John Lippitt)

Sydney-Utrecht Partnership Collaboration Award, University of Sydney & Utrecht University, 2019–2020, **$30,000**. "Conspiracy Theories in the Information Age" (PIs: Mark Colyvan & Daniel Cohnitz)

Australian Research Theology Foundation, 2018–2019, **$5,000.** "Enriching Professional Ethics Education at University with the History of Ethics" (Co-PI with Annette Pierdziwol)

Teaching Awards & Honours

Member, *Mellon Philosophy as a Way of Life Network*, University of Notre Dame (USA), 2019–2022

Instructor, *Teaching Development Program*, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, University of Sydney, 2019

Dean's Teaching Award, School of Medicine, University of Notre Dame Australia, 2019

Dean's Citation for Excellence in Tutorials with Distinction, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, University of Sydney, 2017, **$500**

Student Teaching Commendations, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, University of Sydney (x35)

> PHIL3613 Philosophy of Human Rights, 2019 (x24) – *Lecturer*
> PHIL2620 Probability and Decision Theory, 2018 (x9) – *Tutor*
> GOVT2112 Modern Political Thought, 2017 (x2) – *Tutor*

Dean's Letter of Commendation for Teaching Evaluation, University of Notre Dame Australia (x5)

Tutor for PHIL3613 Philosophy of Human Rights, University of Sydney which was awarded the *2017 Australasian Association of Philosophy Prize for Innovation in Inclusive Curricula.*

Prizes etc.

Travel Grant, The Honesty Project, Wake Forest University & Carnegie Mellon University, 2023, **$9,000**

Paulette Isabel Jones Scholarship, University of Sydney, 2023, **$7,000**

David Harold Tribe Research Fellowship, University of Sydney, 2021, **$12,000**

Travel Grant, Goethe University Frankfurt, 2019, **$1,699**

Postgraduate Research Travel Award, Society for Applied Philosophy, 2019, **$1,237**

Lucy Firth Prize in Philosophy (x3), University of Sydney, **$4,500 (total)**

Postgraduate Research Support Grant (x3), University of Sydney, **$7,750 (total)**

Research Incentive Scheme Prize, University of Notre Dame Australia, 2018, **\$750**

Travel Grant, Princeton University Centre for Human Values, Princeton University, 2010, **US\$1,000.**

Australian Postgraduate Award, 2009–2011, **\$61,500**

Academic Service

Refereeing

Mind, Ethics, Philosophical Studies, Philosophical Quarterly, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Episteme, Synthese, Inquiry, Asian Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Value Inquiry

University of Notre Dame Australia

Academic Council (elected member), 2023–*present*
University Research Committee, 2020–2021, 2025–*present*
University Research Degrees and Scholarships Committee, 2025–*present*
Admissions interviewer, School of Medicine, 2017–2019
Capstone thesis supervisor, Master of Liberal Arts, 2019–*present* (x4)

Graduate Coursework

Perception, John Hawthorne and Mark Johnston, Princeton University*

Probabilistic Knowledge Masterclass, Sarah Moss, King's College London

Moral Epistemology, Thomas Kelly, Sarah McGrath, and Michael Smith, Princeton University*

New Work in Formal Epistemology, Mark Colyvan, University of Sydney

Modal Logic, Mark Colyvan, University of Sydney*

Decision Theory and Vagueness, Nicholas J. J. Smith, University of Sydney

Foundations of Decision Theory, Nicholas J. J. Smith, University of Sydney*

Historical Origins of Probability Theory, Nicholas J. J. Smith, University of Sydney

Character and Commerce: Practical Wisdom in Economic Life, Candace Vogler, University of Chicago*

Problems of Political Philosophy, Philip Pettit, Princeton University*

Reimagining Epistemology, Moira Gatens, University of Sydney*

Philosophy of Action, Sam Shpall, University of Sydney

Naturalism Without Mirrors Masterclass, Huw Price, University of Sydney*

New Work in Expressivism and Pragmatism, Huw Price, University of Sydney*

John Rawls and *Political Liberalism*, Thomas Besch, University of Sydney

The Later Wittgenstein, Warren Goldfarb, University of Sydney

*denotes audit

Other Research Experience

University of Sydney

Research Assistant, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), July–December 2019
Project: "Ethics Education in Interdisciplinary and Industry Project-Based Contexts"

Research Assistant for Alexandre Lefebvre and Danielle Celermajer, September–December 2018
Project: *The Subject of Human Rights*, eds., Lefebvre & Celermajer (Stanford University Press, 2020)

Research Assistant for Alexandre Lefebvre, July 2017–January 2018
Project: *Liberalism as a Way of Life* by Alexandre Lefebvre (Princeton University Press, 2024)

References

References available upon request.

Last updated: December 3, 2025