

# Mark Bowker

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## AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

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**Broad:** Philosophy of Language and Semantics

**Narrow:** Inexplicit communication (including quantifier domain restriction, indexicals, and ellipsis), context, the role of semantic content, and the semantics/pragmatics interface.

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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Logic, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Metaethics

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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**Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, August 2016 - August 2017

Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU)

Project: Information-Dependence and Rich Semantic Content

Project Leader: Kristina Liefke

**Associate Researcher**, September 2013 - September 2014

St Leonards School, St Andrews

**Postgraduate Tutor**, September 2011 - June 2016

University of St Andrews

## EDUCATION

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**PhD in Philosophy, June 2016**

University of St Andrews and University of Stirling

Dissertation Title: *Saying Nothing: In Defence of Syntactic and Semantic Underdetermination*

Supervisors: Patrick Greenough, Andy Egan, Herman Cappelen, Josh Dever

**Master of Letters (with Distinction) in Philosophy, June 2011**

University of St Andrews and University of Stirling

Dissertation Title: *The Epistemic Significance of Disagreement*

Supervisor: Jessica Brown

**Master of Arts (with Honours of the First Class) in Philosophy, June 2010**

University of St Andrews

## ACADEMIC WORK

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### Published Papers

Rich Situated Attitudes. 2017. With Kristina Liefke. *New Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence*, edited by S. Kurahashi, Y. Ohta, S. Arai, K. Satoh, D. Bekki. Lecture Notes in Computer Science Vol. 10247, Springer, pp. 45-61.

### Dissertation

Saying Nothing: In Defence of Syntactic and Semantic Underdetermination. PhD dissertation. Available at <https://research-repository.st-andrews.ac.uk/handle/10023/8630>

### R&Rs

Domain Restriction and Underdetermination. *Mind & Language*

Saying a Bundle: Meaning, Intention, and Underdetermination. *Synthese*

## TEACHING

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### Insults, Lies, and Bullshit: Speech Acts and Content in the Philosophy of Language. LMU. 2017

We consider linguistic issues arising from ethical discourse, including ethically significant speech acts such as lying, silencing, and consenting; ethically significant words and phrases, such as slurs and generalizations; and the language of ethics itself, including terms like 'right', 'wrong', and 'murder'.

### Associate Researcher, St Leonards. 2013/14

The Associate Researcher is selected annually from all PhD students at the University of St Andrews. My primary responsibility was to devise a series of lectures and deliver them to two classes of high-school students as part of the International Baccalaureate course *Theory of Knowledge*. My Philosophy of Language course asked 'How do we know what people mean by the words they use?'

### Tutor, University of St Andrews. 2011-2016

Typical duties include convening tutorials, grading of coursework (essays or logic exercises) and exams. In the case of logic, additional duties included the running of optional logic workshops, typically opening with a small lecture and progressing into a more standard tutorial situation.

*Reasoning* (Informal logic and formal logic up to quantified natural deduction)

*Formal and Philosophical Logic*

*Reasoning and Knowledge* (Logic and Epistemology)

*Mind and Reality* (Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics)

*Metaphysics and Science*

*Moral and Political Controversies*

*Rationality and Action* (Metaethics)

*Foundations of Western Philosophy* (Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, Sceptics, and Epicureans)

**Private tutor to 2nd year undergraduate.** Formal logic: truth tables, semantic trees, and natural deduction for propositional and quantified logic.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

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**Fellowship 2016-2017.** Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität: €22,236

**Scholarship 2011-2014.** AHRC: Full scholarship. Tuition fees plus an annual stipend of £13,590

**Travel scholarship 2013.** University of St Andrews: £1600 to work with Andy Egan at Rutgers, New Brunswick, for a period of three months.

**Scholarship 2010.** University of St Andrews: Master of Letters tuition fees, plus additional contribution towards living expenses.

**The Undergraduate Internship Programme 2009.** University of St Andrews: £1800 to carry out independent research over the summer.

## PEER-REVIEWED TALKS

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Semantic Restrictivism. *Fourth Philosophy of Language and Mind Conference (PLM4)*. Ruhr-Universität Bochum. September 2017.

Reviving Semantic Descriptivism. *Ninth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP 9)*. Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich. September 2017

Locutionary and Illocutionary Denial. *Contemporary Language, Logic, and Metaphysics: African and Western Approaches*. University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. August 2017. Not delivered.

Denying Semantic Content. *Situations, Information, and Semantic Content*. Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich. December 2016

Rich Situated Propositions: The 'Right' Objects for the Content of Propositional Attitudes. *Logic and Engineering of Natural Language Semantics, (LENLS13)*. 8th JSAI International Symposium on AI. Keio University, Tokyo. November 2016

Saying Nothing. *Semantics and Pragmatics at Manchester*. University of Manchester. July 2015

Propositional Equivalence and the Referential/Attributive Distinction. *Eighth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP 8)*. University of Bucharest. September 2014

Against Syntactic and Semantic Determinacy. *Annual conference of the Israel Philosophy Society*. Tel Aviv University. February 2014

Context and Content. *9th National Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA)*. University of Padua. September 2010

Frege's Objections to Mill's Theory of Arithmetic. *British Undergraduate Philosophy Society*. The University of Warwick. May 2010

Kaplan's Framework for Indexicals and Explanations of Communication. *British Undergraduate Philosophy Society Summer Conference*. University of St Andrews. July 2009

## FURTHER TALKS

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Language Without Content. *Work-In-Progress Seminar*. Ludwig-Maximilians-University. May 2017

Towards a Rich Situated Account of Semantic Underdetermination. *Colloquium in Philosophy, Logic, and Philosophy of Science*. Ludwig-Maximilians-University. October 2016

Contrary Linguistic Theories. *Arché Language & Mind Seminar*. University of St Andrews. October 2015

Underdetermination. *Arché PITT Seminar*. University of St Andrews. May 2015

Multiplicity of Content. *Friday Seminar*. University of St Andrews. October 2014

Yablo's Aboutness. *Arché PITT Seminar*. University of St Andrews. September 2014

Lackey's Lessons From Lies and Bullshit. *Arché Evidence, Justification, and Knowledge Seminar*. University of St Andrews. June 2014

Syntactic and Semantic Determinacy. *PITT Seminar*. University of St Andrews. November 2013

How Do We Know What People Mean by the Words They Use? *Interview presentation*. St Leonard's School, St Andrews. November 2013

"That's What He Said!" *Friday Seminar*. University of St Andrews. October 2013

Semantics and Metasemantics. *Arché PITT Seminar*. University of St Andrews. October 2013

Against the Two-Step Theory. *Arché PITT Seminar*. University of St Andrews. June 2013

In Defence of the Standard View. *Friday Seminar*. University of St Andrews. April 2013

On What is Said. *Arché PITT Seminar*. University of St Andrews. October 2012

The Two-Step Theory. *Arché Reading Party*. Ardtornish. September 2012

Positional Representation of Context. *Arché Contextualism and Relativism Seminar*. University of St Andrews. May 2012

What is or Would Be Said. *University of St Andrews*. March 2012

Papineau on the Poverty of Analysis. *Arché Methodology Seminar*. November 2011

## CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

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**Organizing Committee:** *Situations, Information, and Semantic Content*. MCMP, LMU, Munich. 15th-18th December 2016. Chair: Kristina Liefke.

**Referee:** *Arché Graduate Conference*. November 2014

*Arché /CSMN Graduate Conference*. November 2013

*Arché/CSMN Graduate Conference*. November 2012

**Chair:** *European Congress of Analytic Philosophy*. LMU. August 2017

*Situations, Information, and Semantic Content*. LMU. December 2016

*Testimony and Context Workshop*. University of St Andrews. May 2016

*Arché Reasons Workshop*. University of St Andrews. June 2013

*Naturalness in Semantics and Metaphysics Workshop*. October 2011

*Arché/CSMN Graduate Conference*. University of St Andrews. October 2011

**Camera Operator:**

*Perspectives on Philosophical Methodology*. University of St Andrews. June/July 2012. Videos available at <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~archproj/workshop/event/?event=2>

*Indefinite Extensibility*. University of St Andrews. Dec 2011. Videos available at <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~archproj/workshop/event/?event=1>

**Comments:** Work in Progress Seminar. University of St Andrews. May 2015

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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**Referee:** *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*  
*Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy*  
*Stance: An International Undergraduate Philosophy Journal.*

**Assistant Editorial Board Member:** *Stance: An International Undergraduate Philosophy Journal.*  
2009/10

**Officer:** *British Undergraduate Philosophy Society.* 2009-10

## REFERENCES

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**Dr. Patrick Greenough.** Department of Philosophy, University of St Andrews  
PhD Supervisor  
[pmg2@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:pmg2@st-andrews.ac.uk)

**Prof. Andy Egan.** Department of Philosophy, Rutgers, New Brunswick  
PhD Supervisor  
[andyegan@philosophy.rutgers.edu](mailto:andyegan@philosophy.rutgers.edu)

**Prof. Stefano Predelli.** Department of Philosophy, University of Nottingham  
PhD External Examiner  
[stefano.predelli@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:stefano.predelli@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Dr. Kristina Liefke.** Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, LMU Munich  
Project Leader  
[Kristina.Liefke@lrz.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:Kristina.Liefke@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)