

# Benjamin Matheson

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## Areas of Specialisation

- Ethics, Metaphysics, Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Religion

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## Areas of Competence

- Epistemology, Philosophy of Emotions, Philosophy of Action, Philosophy of Mind, History of Modern Philosophy, Social Philosophy

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## Employment History

- 2017- Postdoctoral Fellow in Practical Philosophy, ‘Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace’, Stockholm University.
- 2015-17. Postdoctoral Fellow in Practical Philosophy, ‘Gothenburg Responsibility Project’, University of Gothenburg.
- 2012-15. Teaching Assistant, University of Manchester.
- 2012-14. Research Assistant, ‘Death, Immorality, and the Afterlife Research Initiative’, University of Birmingham.
- 2010-12. Teaching Assistant, University of Birmingham.

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## Visiting Positions

- 2018. NWO Guest Researcher (January-April), ‘Tilburg Centre for Logic, Ethics, and the Philosophy of Science’, Tilburg University.
- 2017. Visiting Fellow (April-June), ‘Tilburg Centre for Logic, Ethics, and the Philosophy of Science’, Tilburg University.

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## Education

- 2010-14. Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Manchester [Supervisor: Helen Beebee]
- 2008-10. M.Phil. Philosophy, University of Birmingham [Supervisor: Yujin Nagasawa]
- 2005-08. B.A. (Hons) Philosophy w/ Media and Popular Culture, University of Northampton, *First Class*

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## Publications

### *Original Research*

Forthcoming. ‘Towards a Structural Ownership Condition on Moral Responsibility’ *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*

Forthcoming. ‘Is Blameworthiness Forever?’ (with Andrew Khoury) *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*

Forthcoming. ‘Manipulators and Moral Standing’, *Philosophia*

2018. 'Tracing and Heavenly Freedom' *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 84: 57–69
2018. 'The Threat from Manipulation Arguments' *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 55, 1: 37-50
2017. 'Alternative Possibilities, Volitional Necessities, and Character Setting', *Disputatio*, 9, 45: 287–307
2017. 'More Than a Feeling: The Communicative Function of Regret'. *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, 25, 5: 664-681
2017. 'Practical Identity' in *Palgrave Handbook of the Afterlife* (eds. Matheson, B. & Nagasawa, Y.). Palgrave Macmillan, London: 391-411
2016. 'In Defence of the Four-Case Argument', *Philosophical Studies*, 173, 7: 1963-1982
2014. 'Compatibilism and Personal Identity', *Philosophical Studies*, 170, 2: 317-334
2014. 'Escaping Heaven', *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 75, 3: 197-206

#### *Edited Collection*

2017. *Palgrave Handbook of the Afterlife* (with Yujin Nagasawa). Palgrave Macmillan, London.

#### *Book Reviews*

2017. Kevin Timpe: *Free Will in Philosophical Theology*. Bloomsbury 2014, *European Journal for the Philosophy of Religion*, 9, 1: 212-221
2012. Tim Mawson. *Free Will: A Guide for the Perplexed*. Continuum, 2011, *European Journal for the Philosophy of Religion*, 4, 1: 260-264

#### *Conference Proceedings*

2012. "Manipulation, Moral Responsibility, and Machines", *The Machines Question: AI, Ethics, and Moral Responsibility, AISB/IACAP World Congress 2012*. Eds: David J. Gunkel, Joanna J. Bryson, and Steve Torrance

#### *In Submission*

1. When Artists Fall: Honouring and Admiring the Immoral (with Alfred Archer) {9000 words}
2. Moral Responsibility for Acting Out of Character (with Robert Hartman) {7000 words}
3. Celebrity, Democracy, and Epistemic Power (with Alfred Archer, Amanda Cawston, Machteld Gueskens) {12000 words}
4. Admiration and Education: What Should we do with Immoral Intellectuals? (with Alfred Archer) {8000 words}

#### *In Progress*

1. Admiration Over Time (with Alfred Archer) {9000 words}
2. Apologising for Atrocities {8000 words}
3. Non-Moral Blame as Moralism (with Per-Erik Milam) {8000 words}
4. Is Admiration a Globalist Attitude? (with Alfred Archer) {6000 words}
5. Responsibility and Self (with Robert Hartman) {6000 words}

## Prizes, Awards, and Grants

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2018. £3000 Grant from the Society of Applied Philosophy to organise “Honour and Admiration After War and Conflict” workshop at Stockholm University in January 2019
2018. £3000 Grant from the Society of Applied Philosophy to organise “Apology and Compensation” workshop at Stockholm University in September 2018.
2018. €5600 Grant, NWO Guest Researcher, TiLPS, Tilburg University
2017. €2000 Stipend, Visiting Fellowship, TiLPS, Tilburg University
2015. Full scholarship and stipend to attend Young Scholars Workshop on Death and Immortality, University of California, Riverside.
2014. Full scholarship awarded to attend Free Will and Moral Responsibility Summer School and Workshop (with John Martin Fischer and Matthew Talbert), Moscow Centre for Consciousness Studies, August 2014.
2014. Faculty Award for Distinguished Achievement, University of Manchester
2013. Travel award from the Peter Goldie Fund, University of Manchester to attend the VIII Annual Mark L. Shapiro Conference, Brown University.
2013. Awarded €3500 (£3000) by the University of Innsbruck/John Templeton Foundation due to the publication of ‘Escaping Heaven’ to organise further events with the John Hick Centre for the Philosophy of Religion, University of Birmingham.

## Impact and Outreach

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- Forthcoming. A translation into Dutch of “Admiring the Immoral” from emotion researcher titled “Bewondering van het Immorele”. *Filosofie & Praktijk*
2018. Popular article that references my forthcoming work on blameworthiness over time: “How should we judge people for their past moral failings?” (by Andrew Khoury). <https://theconversation.com/how-should-we-judge-people-for-their-past-moral-failings-103982>
2018. Blog Post that provides an overview of my research on admiring immoral artists: “Admiring the Immoral” (by Alfred Archer) <http://emotionresearcher.com/admiring-the-immoral>
2017. Blog Post that summarises and critically engages with my research on admiring immoral artists: “When Artists Fall: On Admiring the Immoral” (by Lotte Spreeuwenberg) <https://lottespreeuwenberg.wordpress.com/2017/11/24/when-artists-fall-on-admiring-the-immoral>
- 2017-. Editor of the Ethical War Blog. This blog publishes article accessible to a general audience that link an aspect of contemporary theorising about political violence (broadly construed) to a recent or current event. <http://stockholmcentre.org/category/ethical-war-blog/>
2016. A presentation to a non-academic audience on an aspect on my research: “Are We Morally Responsible for Our Drunken Behaviour?”, *Philosophical Society*, University of Gothenburg

## Presentations

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### *Peer Reviewed*

- Forthcoming. “Admiration and Education: What Should we do with Immoral Intellectuals?” (with Alfred Archer) *Shaping Ethics in Academia and Society* (SEAS 2018), Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania\*
2018. “When Artists Fall: On Admiring the Immoral” (with Alfred Archer), *European Society for Aesthetics Conference 2018*, Slovenia
2018. “Is Blameworthiness Forever?” (with Andrew Khoury) *American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting 2018*
2017. “When Artists Fall: On Admiring the Immoral” (with Alfred Archer), *Fifth Annual OZSW conference*, Universiteit Utrecht
2017. “Separating the Art from the Artist: The Problem with Fallen Aesthetic Exemplars”, *Exemplars and Exemplarism: theory, sources, and practices*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aretai Conference, University of Genoa
2017. “Is Admiration a Globalist Attitude?” (with Alfred Archer) *European Philosophical Society for the Study of Emotions*, University of Madrid
2017. “When Artists Fall: On Admiring the Immoral” (with Alfred Archer), *Emotions: Rationality, Morality and Social Understanding*, University of Tartu
2017. “Responsibility for the Past”, *Filosofidagarna 2017*, Uppsala Universitet
2017. “Responsibility for the Past”, *European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP 9)*, LMU Munich
2017. “Faces of Responsibility Over Time”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, Boulder
2017. “Possibly, there is Only One Person”, *Joint Session of the Mind Association and the Aristotelian Society*, University of Edinburgh
2017. “The Grounds of Regret”, *Regret Workshop*, University College Dublin
2016. “Alternative Possibilities, Volitional Necessities, and Character Setting” *II Blasco Disputatio: Does Free Will Require Alternative Possibilities?* University of Valencia
2016. “Blameworthiness Over Time”, *XII Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA)*, Università di Pistoia
2016. “Tracing and Personal Identity”, *Joint Session of the Mind Association and the Aristotelian Society*, University of Cardiff
2015. “The Trouble with Immortality” *Understanding Value IV*, University of Sheffield
2015. “The Collapse of Historicism” *Joint Session of the Mind Association and the Aristotelian Society*, Warwick University
2015. “The Trouble with Immortality”, *Young Scholars Workshop on Death and Immortality*, The Immortality Project, University of California, Riverside
2015. “The Trouble with Immortality”, *The Philosophy and Theology of Immortality*, University of Hull
2014. “We Need to Talk about Tracing”, *Free Will and Moral Responsibility Workshop*, Moscow Centre for Consciousness Studies, Moscow State University
2014. “The Collapse of Historicism”, *Open Minds IX*, University of Manchester
2013. “The Collapse of Historicism”, VIII Annual Mark L. Shapiro Conference, Brown University

2012. “Manipulation, Moral Responsibility, and Machines” at *AISB/IACAP World Congress in honour of Alan Turing*, University of Birmingham
2011. “Hume and Intelligent Design” at *Science and Religion Postgraduate Conference*, University of Birmingham

*Commentaries*

2018. “Comments on Christine Tappolet’s Paper”, *Higher Seminar in Practical Philosophy*, Stockholm University
2017. “Comments on Patrick Tomlin’s ‘Distributing Harms among Liable Aggressors’”, ELAC 2017, University of Oslo
2017. “Comments on Michael McKenna’s ‘Punishment and the Value of Deserved Suffering’”, *Gothenburg Responsibility Project Spring Workshop*, University of Gothenburg.
2017. “Comments on Taylor Cyr’s ‘Manipulation and Constitutive Luck’”, *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting*.
2017. “Comments on Chapter 7”, *Workshop on Franklin’s A Minimal Libertarianism: Free Will and the Promise of Reduction*, University of Gothenburg.
2015. “Commentary on Smilansky’s paper”, *Gothenburg Responsibility Project Inaugural Workshop*, University of Gothenburg
2015. “Commentary on Robichaud & Weiland’s paper”, *Responsibility – The Epistemic Dimension II*, VU University Amsterdam
2012. “Reply to Maria Svedberg” at *British Philosophy Postgraduate Association Conference*, University of Edinburgh
2012. “Reply to Alfred Mele” at *The Manipulation Argument Workshop*, Central European University, Budapest

*Invited*

- Forthcoming. “Commemoration and Emotional Imperialism” (with Alfred Archer), *Honour and Admiration After War and Conflict*, Stockholm University
2018. “Apologising for Atrocities”, *Apology and Compensation Workshop*, Stockholm University
2018. “Admiration Over Time” (with Alfred Archer), *Stockholm June Workshop in Philosophy*, Stockholm University
2018. “The Problem of Blameworthiness in Heaven”, *Philosophy of the Afterlife Workshop*, University of Birmingham
2018. “Manipulation and Evidence”, *Ethics Seminar*, Tilburg University
2018. “Moral Responsibility for Acting out of Character (with Robert Hartman)”, *Practical Philosophy Seminar*, University of Gothenburg
2018. “When Artists Fall: On Admiring the Immoral”, *Higher Seminar in Practical Philosophy*, Stockholm University
2017. “When Artists Fall: On Admiring the Immoral” (with Alfred Archer), PhD Seminar on Moral Psychology, Delft University of Technology
2017. “The Communicative Function of Regret”, Gothenburg Responsibility Project Summer Workshop, University of Gothenburg
2017. “The Grounds of Regret”, *Ethics Seminar*, TiLPS, Tilburg University

2017. “Alternative Possibilities, Volitional Necessities, and Character Setting”, *Practical Philosophy Seminar*, University of Gothenburg
2016. “Responsibility Over Time”, *Ethics Seminar*, TiLPS, Tilburg University
2016. “Responsibility Over Time”, *Practical Philosophy Seminar*, University of Gothenburg
2016. “Solving Structuralism’s Regress Problem”, *Gothenburg Responsibility Project Spring Workshop*, University of Gothenburg
2016. “Are We Morally Responsible for Our Drunken Behaviour?”, *Philosophical Society*, University of Gothenburg
2016. “Solving Structuralism’s Regress Problem”, *Practical Philosophy Seminar*, University of Gothenburg
2016. “Solving Structuralism’s Regress Problem”, *Department Seminar*, Linköping University
2015. “Practical Identity and Post-Mortem Survival”, *The Self in Light of Divinity: Analytic Theology and Human Persons*, Heythrop College
2015. “Is Blameworthiness Forever?”, *Practical Philosophy Seminar*, University of Gothenburg
2014. “Free Will Anti-Realism” *Work in Progress Workshop*, University of Manchester
2013. “Against Judgement”, *Philosophy of Religion Workshop*, University of Birmingham
2013. “Manipulating the Manipulation Argument”, PhD Seminar, University of Manchester
2012. “Against Judgement” at *Life, Death and Beyond Symposium*, Leeds Trinity University
2012. “Against History-Sensitive Compatibilism” at PhD Seminar, University of Manchester
2012. “Personal Identity and Moral Responsibility” at Postgraduate Summer Conference, University of Birmingham
2012. “Is God’s Existence Relevant to Human Life?” *Philosophy of Religion Workshop*, University of Birmingham
2011. “Moral Responsibility as a Matter of Degree”, *Postgraduate Seminar*, University of Birmingham
2011. “How to Reply to the Four-Case Manipulation Argument”, *Postgraduate Summer Conference*, University of Birmingham
2010. “McKenna’s Hard-Line Reply”, *Postgraduate Seminar*, University of Birmingham
2009. “The Incompatibility between Free Will Theodicies and Religious Experience”, *Postgraduate Summer Conference*, University of Birmingham
2008. “Hume and Intelligent Design”, *Postgraduate Seminar*, University of Birmingham

### **Administration and Research Experience**

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2019. Organiser, *Honour and Admiration After War and Conflict*, Stockholm University
2018. Organiser, *Apology and Compensation Workshop*, Stockholm University. Speakers: Christopher Bennett, Elinor Mason, Jennifer Page, Per Milam, Benjamin Matheson, Lisa Hecht, Adam Slavny, Jimmy Goodrich.
- 2017- . Editor, *Ethical War Blog*, <http://stockholmcentre.org/category/ethical-war-blog/>
2017. Co-Organiser, *Gothenburg Responsibility Project Summer Workshop*, University of Gothenburg. Speakers: Dana Nelkin, Gunnar Björnsson, Per Milam, Robert Hartman, Benjamin Matheson, Sofia Jeppsson, Kristin Mickelson.
2017. Co-Organiser, *Gothenburg Responsibility Project Spring Workshop*, University of Gothenburg. Speakers: Michael McKenna, Elinor Mason, Seth Shabo, Philip Robichaud.

2017. Co-Organiser, *Workshop on Christopher Franklin's A Minimal Libertarianism* (OUP).  
Duties: publicity and co-ordinating non-GU participants.
- 2016-17. Convenor, *Practical Philosophy Seminar*, University of Gothenburg. Duties: inviting speakers, chairing sessions, and general organisational tasks.
- 2015-16. Co-Organiser. *Gothenburg Responsibility Conference*. Duties: reviewing submissions, publicity, and general organisational tasks. Speakers: Helen Beebee, Helen Steward, Derk Pereboom, Michael McKenna, Shaun Nichols, Kadri Vihvelin, and 22 other speakers.
- 2015-16 Co-Organiser. *Gothenburg Responsibility Project Spring Workshop*. Duties: publicity, and general organisational tasks. Speakers: Macalaster Bell, Christopher Franklin, Neal Tognazzini, Ben Vilhauer, Benjamin Matheson, Sofia Jeppsson, Per Milam.
- 2012-14. Research Assistant, *Death, Immortality, and the Afterlife Research Initiative*, University of Birmingham. (Part of the John Templeton Foundation-funded *Analytic Theology Project*, University of Innsbruck.) Duties: organising meetings 18 meetings with philosophers and theologians on death, immortality, and the afterlife – 6 of these meetings involved external speakers (including John Bishop, Lynne Rudder Baker, Eric Steinhart, Paul Badham, Gregory Shushan, and Jerry Walls); liaising with speakers, organising accommodation and venues; writing bi-annual reports on the project and budget.
2013. Co-Organiser, *Free Will and Moral Responsibility Workshop*. Speakers: Alfred Mele, Helen Steward, Helen Beebee, and Ann Whittle.
2013. Co-Organiser, *Open Minds VIII Postgraduate Conference*. Duties: liaising with keynote speaker (Alfred Mele), publicity. We received grants from the *Mind Association* and the *Analysis Trust* to help fund this event.
2012. Research Assistant, Professor Yujin Nagasawa. Duties: construction of index (*Scientific Approaches to the Philosophy of Religion*).
2011. Research Assistant, *Manipulation and Freedom of the Will in the Real World*, University of Birmingham. Duties: I organised and supervised the research of two final year undergraduate students on real life manipulation cases.

## **Teaching<sup>1</sup>**

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### *As Convenor*

#### University of Gothenburg

Moral Agency and Responsibility	PhD	2016-17
Free Will	Masters	2016-17

#### University of Birmingham

Study Skills	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	2011-12
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### *As Lecturer*

#### Tilburg University

Ethics*	Masters	2018
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#### University of Manchester

Personhood and Freedom of the Will*	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	2014-15
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#### University of Birmingham

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<sup>1</sup> \* signifies guest taught

Knowledge and Reality A*	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2011-12
<i>As Teaching Assistant</i>		
<u>University of Manchester</u>		
Discovering Reality	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2013-14, 2014-15
Philosophy of Religion	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	2013-14, 2014-15
Philosophy of Mind	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	2012-13
Locke, Berkeley, and Hume	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	2012-13
Personhood and Freedom of the Will*	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	2012-13
<u>University of Birmingham</u>		
Philosophical Texts and Methods	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2010-11, 2011-12
Knowledge and Reality A	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2011-12
Independent Study	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2011-12

### Languages

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English - native	Swedish – basic
French - native	Spanish - basic

### Professional Service

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Article Reviewer: *American Philosophical Quarterly* (x4), *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis* (x7), *Ethical Perspectives*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (x3), *International Journal for Philosophical Studies*, *Journal of Analytic Theology*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (x3), *Philosophical Explorations*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophical Studies* (x2), *Social Theory and Practice*, *Sophia*, *Theoria*,

Book Reviewer: Routledge, Oxford University Press

Grant Agency Reviewer: Research Foundation - Flanders (Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Vlaanderen, FWO)

2016. Contributor to Imperfect Cognitions (<http://www.imperfectcognitions.com>)

2012-2013. *University of Manchester BPPA representative*: I liaised with the British Postgraduate Philosophy Association about matters concerning postgraduates.

2009. *Graduate Member of Validation Panel for Philosophy, University of Northampton*: I sat on a panel to decide (a) whether to continue philosophy at the University of Northampton, and (b) whether to start a single honours program.

### Referees

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*Professor Helen Beebee*. Samuel Hall Professor of Philosophy, School of Social Sciences, Arthur Lewis Building, University of Manchester, M13 9PL, UK.  
helen.beebee@manchester.ac.uk

*Professor Helen Frowe*. Professor of Practical Philosophy, Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace, Stockholm University, Sweden. helen.frowe@philosophy.su.se

*Professor Yujin Nagasawa*. Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Law, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT. y.nagasawa@bham.ac.uk



*Professor David Shoemaker*, Philosophy Department, Tulane University, New Orleans, USA  
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*Professor Matthew Talbert*, Department of Philosophy, West Virginia University, West Virginia,  
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