

# Romy Eskens

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romyeskens.com · r.s.eskens@uu.nl

Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies, Utrecht University

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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AOS            **Ethics, Moral Psychology, Social Philosophy**

AOC            **Feminist Philosophy, Political Philosophy, Meta-Ethics**

## POSITIONS

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2023-            **Assistant Professor (permanent)**  
Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies, Utrecht University

Fall 2022       **Postdoctoral Researcher**  
Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University

## INTERNATIONAL VISITS

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Spring  
2027            **Visiting Fellow, Harvard University**  
Sponsor: Quinn White

Spring  
2020            **Visiting Research Scholar, University of Texas at Austin**  
Sponsor: Julia Driver

## EDUCATION

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2018-2022      **PhD in Philosophy, Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace (SCEWP),  
Stockholm University**  
Nominated for the 2022 Swedish Higher Education Association Thesis Award · Thesis: Payback Time: Essays on Attitudes, Partiality, and Rescuing · Supervisors: Helen Frowe (primary), Gunnar Björnsson (secondary) · Examiner: R. Jay Wallace

2016-2018      **BPhil in Philosophy (distinction in thesis), Balliol College, University of Oxford**  
Supervisor: Jeff McMahan

2014-2016      **BA in History (cum laude), Utrecht University**

2012-2015      **BA in Philosophy (cum laude), Utrecht University**

## PUBLICATIONS

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### ARTICLES

- 2025 On Discounting Wrongdoers. with Gunnar Björnsson. *Analysis* Online First.
- 2025 Gratitude and Rights. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 103(4): 1024–1038.
- 2025 Moral Gratitude. *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 42(1): 115–130.
- 2024 Reciprocity, Inequality, and Unsuccessful Rescues. *Utilitas* 36(1): 64–82.
- 2022 Other-Sacrificing Options: Reply to Lange. *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 21(2): 290–297.
- 2017 Is Sex with Robots Rape? *Journal of Practical Ethics* 5(2): 62–76.  
*Oxford Uehiro Prize in Practical Ethics (3rd Annual)*

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

- Forthcoming Gelijkheid ("Equality"). *Basisboek Ethiek, ed. Eskens, Hopster, de Mesel & Nys (Amsterdam: Boom)*
- Forthcoming Enemies and Rivals. with Gunnar Björnsson. *Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Personal Relationships, ed. Betzler & Stroud (Oxford: OUP)*
- 2024 Expressive Duties Are Demandable and Enforceable. *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics, vol. 14, ed. Timmons (Oxford: OUP)* 203–226.

#### AS EDITOR

- 2026 Co-editor, Basisboek Ethiek. *Textbook ethics for university-level education, with Jeroen Hopster, Benjamin de Mesel, and Thomas Nys. Amsterdam: Boom.*
- 2025 Symposium on Gratitude and Community. *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 42(1).

#### REVIEWS

- 2022 George Sher: A Wild West of the Mind. *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 25(5): 895–897.

#### WORK IN PROGRESS

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#### UNDER REVIEW

A paper on the ethics of advice (with Jonas Haeg).

#### IN PREPARATION

A paper on agency balancing norms (with Gunnar Björnsson).

A paper on agent-regret and counterfactuals.

A paper on the possibility of mental wronging.

A paper on the nature and wrong of degradation.

A paper on the currency of distributive justice (with Gunnar Björnsson).

A paper on interpersonal affecting.

#### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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##### **Degradation First**

2026 Linköping Workshop on Dehumanisation **INVITED**

##### **Oversharing (with Jonas Haeg)**

2026 Swedish Congress of Philosophy **PEER-REVIEWED**

##### **Wronging and Affecting**

2026 LSE Moral and Political Philosophy Seminar **INVITED**

##### **Degradation**

2026 VU Moral and Political Philosophy Colloquium **INVITED**

2026 Bern Moral Philosophy Seminar **INVITED**

2026 Utrecht Ethics Institute Colloquium

2025 Philosophy, Ethics and Killing Workshop **INVITED**

2025 Utrecht Workshop on Degradation and Dehumanisation

##### **Distributing State Agency (with Gunnar Björnsson)**

2026 American Association for Political Theory **PEER-REVIEWED**

2026 Central APA, Symposium Session **PEER-REVIEWED**

##### **Balancing Acts (with Gunnar Björnsson)**

2025 Lund Workshop on Praise **INVITED**

2024 MANCEPT: Setting Things Right

##### **Good Advice, Bad Values (with Jonas Haeg)**

2025 Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference **PEER-REVIEWED**

2024 Dutch Research School in Philosophy Annual Conference **PEER-REVIEWED**

2024 UvA Philosophy & Public Affairs Colloquium **INVITED**

2024 KCL Moral and Political Philosophy Research Seminar **INVITED**

## Mental Wronging

- 2026 Mannheim Workshop: New Ideas on Normativity PEER-REVIEWED
- 2025 BSET Annual Conference PEER-REVIEWED
- 2025 SWIP Panel, Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association PEER-REVIEWED
- 2024 Erasmus Institute for Philosophy & Economics Seminar INVITED
- 2024 Leeds Centre for Aesthetic, Moral, and Political Philosophy Seminar INVITED
- 2023 Utrecht Philosophy Lunch Lecture
- 2023 Tilburg Practical Philosophy Seminar INVITED
- 2023 Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference PEER-REVIEWED
- 2022 Stockholm Higher Seminar in Practical Philosophy INVITED
- 2022 Lund-Gothenburg Responsibility Project Seminar INVITED

## Distributing Risk in Humanitarian Intervention

- 2022 The Political Role of the Moral Emotions Conference PEER-REVIEWED

## Expressive Duties are Demandable and Enforceable

- 2022 Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics / Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics PEER-REVIEWED
- 2022 Gothenburg Research Seminar in Practical Philosophy INVITED
- 2022 LMU Munich Research Colloquium in Practical Philosophy INVITED
- 2021 KCL Graduate Conference in Politics, Philosophy & Law PEER-REVIEWED
- 2021 SCEWP Workshop on Gratitude
- 2021 Philosophy, Ethics and Killing Workshop INVITED

## Gratitude and Rights

- 2022 Utrecht Ethics Institute Colloquium
- 2022 Philosophy, Ethics and Killing Workshop INVITED
- 2021 Postgraduate Session, Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association PEER-REVIEWED

## On Discounting Perpetrators (with Gunnar Björnsson)

- 2021 Uppsala Higher Seminar in Practical Philosophy INVITED
- 2021 Lund Higher Seminar in Practical Philosophy INVITED
- 2021 Umeå Research Seminar in Practical Philosophy INVITED
- 2021 Stockholm Higher Seminar in Practical Philosophy INVITED

## Moral Gratitude

- 2021 Varieties of Moral Address Workshop: Agency, Authority and Responsibility PEER-REVIEWED
- 2021 APA Pacific Division Meeting PEER-REVIEWED
- 2021 Philosophy, Ethics and Killing Workshop INVITED
- 2020 Lund-Gothenburg Responsibility Project Seminar INVITED

## Reciprocity, Inequality, and Unsuccessful Rescues

- 2019 Pavia Graduate Conference in Political Philosophy PEER-REVIEWED
- 2019 SCEWP Annual Graduate and Early Career Reading Retreat
- 2019 Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference PEER-REVIEWED
- 2019 Swedish Congress of Philosophy PEER-REVIEWED
- 2019 REAPP Graduate/Early Career Conference PEER-REVIEWED

## Defensive Harming and Aggregation: The Problem with Numbers

- 2018 LSE Political Theory Graduate Conference PEER-REVIEWED

## Are Unjust Non-Combatants Liable to Attack?

- 2018 St. Andrews CEPPA Graduate Conference PEER-REVIEWED

## Is Sex with Robots Rape?

- 2017 Oxford Uehiro Prize in Practical Ethics finalist presentation PEER-REVIEWED

## INVITED COMMENTARIES

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- 2026 **Katie Ebner-Landy, Character Sketch as Philosophy**  
Utrecht Philosophical Café
- 2025 **Julia Driver, Blame, Praise, and Normative Expectations**  
Book Manuscript Workshop
- 2024 **Samuel Reis-Dennis, "Blame's Topography: Standing on Uneven Ground"**  
VU Normative Philosophy Workshop
- 2023 **Philip Södermark, "Lucrepaths at War: The Ethics of Profit in the Context of Warfare"**  
SCEWP Graduate/Early Career Reading Retreat
- 2021 **Dan Khokhar, "Why Is It Bad to Beg?"**  
KCL Graduate Conference in Politics, Philosophy & Law
- 2021 **Helen Frowe and Derek Matravers, The Ethics of Protecting Heritage in War**  
Book Manuscript Workshop
- 2021 **Nicolas Cornell, "Third Parties"**  
Second Annual Rights Workshop: Rights and Harm

- 2020 **Lisa Hecht, "Benevolent Risk-Taking"**  
Stockholm Higher Seminar in Practical Philosophy
- 2019 **Robert J. Hartman and Benjamin Matheson, "Acting Out of Character and Moral Responsibility"**  
Stockholm Higher Seminar in Practical Philosophy

#### TEACHING

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##### LECTURER

- 2026 **Tutorial: MacKinnon's A Feminist Theory of the State**
- 2025 **Topics in Ethical Theory: Blame**
- 2025 **Normative Ethics**
- 2025 **Political and Social Philosophy**
- 2024 **Topics in Moral Psychology: Emotion**
- 2024 **Normative Ethics**
- 2023 **Emotions**
- 2023 **Normative Ethics**
- 2023 **Core Seminar: The Active Mind**
- 2023 **Contemporary Political Philosophy**
- 2023 **Political and Social Philosophy**
- 2020 **Introduction to Political Philosophy**
- 2020 **Global Ethics**
- 2019 **The Ethics of War**

##### SEMINAR CONVENOR

- 2015 **Ancient Philosophy**
- 2014 **Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy**
- 2014 **Ancient Philosophy**
- 2022 **Introduction to Normative Ethics**

##### GUEST LECTURE

- 2022 **Guest lecture & seminar on moral contractualism (Normative Ethics)**

## SUPERVISION

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BA Philosophy theses (×12)

MA Applied Ethics theses (×10)

BA Liberal Arts & Sciences thesis (×1)

RMA Philosophy thesis (×1)

BA Philosophy internships (×6)

BA Language and Culture Studies internships (×2)

MA Applied Ethics internships (×10)

RMA research internships – degradation (×1), mental wrongdoing (×1)

RMA teaching internship – Normative Ethics (×1)

## QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

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2024	BKO University Teaching Qualification (full-year course), Centre for Academic Teaching and Learning, Utrecht
2024	Professional Development Workshop: Communicating with Journalists and the Public, Utrecht
2023	Professional Development Workshop: Active Bystander in the Workplace, Utrecht
2023	Teaching Workshop: Feedback and Assessment, Utrecht
2022	University Teaching Qualification (one-semester course), Centre for the Advancement of University Teaching, Stockholm
2022	Teaching Workshop: Digital Learning and Teaching Essentials, Stockholm
2022	Teaching Workshop: Internationalisation of Higher Education, Stockholm
2021	Teaching Workshop: Discussion and Argumentation in Teaching, Stockholm

## HONOURS, GRANTS & AWARDS

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2025	Veni Research Grant, NWO Talent Programme, for 'The Guilty Mind' €320,000
2022	Society for Applied Philosophy Further Funding, for travel to the 2023 Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics and a visit to UC Berkeley £1,100
2020	APA Pacific Graduate Travel Award (cancelled – event moved online) \$400

- 2020 Society for Applied Philosophy Event Funding, for the SCEWP Workshop on Gratitude (cancelled – event moved online) €3,000
- 2019 Cultuurfonds, for research visit at UT Austin €10,000
- 2017 Oxford Uehiro Prize in Practical Ethics (3rd Annual), for 'Is Sex with Robots Rape?' €300
- 2017 Balliol College Travel Grant, for the 9th European Society for Analytic Philosophy Congress €250
- 2016 VSB Foundation, for BPhil tuition fees and living expenses €10,000
- 2016 Vreedefond Foundation, for BPhil tuition fees and living expenses €6,000
- 2016 Vrijevrouwe van Renswoude Foundation, for BPhil tuition fees and living expenses €4,000
- 2016 Hendrik Müller Foundation, for BPhil tuition fees and living expenses €4,000

#### EVENT ORGANISING & REFEREEING

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- 2025 Co-organiser, Utrecht Workshop on Degradation and Dehumanisation
- 2024 Co-organiser and reviewer, MANCEPT Workshop: Setting Things Right
- 2023 Reviewer, 2024 Workshop Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics
- 2022 Co-organiser and reviewer, 7th SCEWP Graduate and Early Career Reading Retreat
- 2021 Reviewer, NordPhil Conference
- 2021 Co-organiser and reviewer, 6th SCEWP Graduate and Early Career Reading Retreat
- 2021 Co-organiser and reviewer, 7th Stockholm Graduate Philosophy Conference
- 2021 Sole organiser, SCEWP Workshop on Gratitude
- 2020 Invited chair, Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics
- 2019 Reviewer, 6th Stockholm Graduate Philosophy Conference
- 2017 Reviewer, 21st Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- 2026– Chair of a working group on transforming the professional and personal development learning line in the BA Language and Culture Studies, Utrecht University
- 2025– 'Core teacher' in the BA Language and Culture Studies, Utrecht University

- 2024– Member of the examination board for the BA Language and Culture Studies and BA Liberal Arts and Sciences, Utrecht University
- 2024– Personal tutor for the BA Philosophy, Utrecht University
- 2024– Personal tutor for the BA Language and Culture Studies, Utrecht University
- 2023– Thesis coordinator for the BA Philosophy, Utrecht University
- 2023–2025 Coordinator and chair of the Utrecht Ethics Institute Colloquium
- 2018–2022 Co-founder and co-chair of Stockholm's chapter of Minorities and Philosophy
- 2018–2022 Member of the Stockholm Philosophy PhD Council
- 2018–2022 Administrative assistance for the Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace
- Reviewer *Noûs* (3×), *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics* (entire volume), *Philosophy*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Philosophia*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*