

*Curriculum Vitae*  
**Richard Joyce**

Department of Philosophy  
Victoria University of Wellington  
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New Zealand

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Website: <https://www.richard-joyce.com/home>

Citizenship: British and Australian (New Zealand permanent residency)

**Employment:**

Professor: Victoria University of Wellington, 2010-present

Associate Professor: University of Sydney, 2006-10

Research Fellow: Philosophy Program, RSSH, Australian National University, 2002-08

Lecturer: University of Sheffield, 1997-2004

**Education:**

PhD (Philosophy): Princeton University, 1998

MA (Philosophy): Princeton University, 1995

MA (Philosophy), 1st class honors: University of Auckland (New Zealand), 1991

BA (Philosophy and Art History): University of Auckland, 1989

**Areas of Specialization:**

Metaethics, Moral Psychology

**Areas of Competence:**

Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Emotions, Moral Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Applied Ethics, Aesthetics

## Publications:

### Authored Books:

- *Morality: From Error to Fiction* (Oxford University Press: 2024).  
See: <https://www.richard-joyce.com/morality-from-error-to-fiction>.
- *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press: 2016).  
See: <https://www.richard-joyce.com/essays-in-moral-skepticism>.
- *The Evolution of Morality* (MIT Press: 2006).  
See: <https://www.richard-joyce.com/the-evolution-of-morality>.  
Subject of an “author-meets-critics” symposium in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 77 (2008).  
Chinese translation published in 2017 (Yilin Press).
- *The Myth of Morality* (Cambridge University Press: 2001).  
See: <https://www.richard-joyce.com/the-myth-of-morality>.  
Selections reprinted in *Foundations of Ethics: An Anthology* (Blackwell: 2006).  
Selections reprinted in *Metaethics: Critical Concepts in Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press, 2008).

### Edited Books:

- *Moral Fictionalism and Religious Fictionalism*. Co-edited with Stuart Brock (Oxford University Press, 2023).  
See: <https://www.richard-joyce.com/moral-fictionalism-and-religious-fictionalism>.
- *The End of Morality: Taking Moral Abolitionism Seriously*. Co-edited with Richard Garner (Routledge, 2019).  
See: <https://www.richard-joyce.com/end-of-morality>.
- *Routledge Handbook of Evolution and Philosophy* (Routledge, 2017).  
See: <https://www.richard-joyce.com/routledge-handbook>.
- *Cooperation and its Evolution*. Co-edited with Kim Sterelny, Brett Calcott, & Ben Fraser (MIT Press, 2013).  
See: <https://www.richard-joyce.com/cooperation-and-its-evolution>.
- *A World Without Values: Essays on John Mackie’s Moral Error Theory*. Co-edited with Simon Kirchin (Springer Press, 2010).  
See: <https://www.richard-joyce.com/a-world-without-values>.

**Journal articles and book chapters:**

- “Yes to moral fictionalism; no to religious fictionalism.” In R. Joyce & S. Brock (eds.), *Moral Fictionalism and Religious Fictionalism*. (Oxford University Press, 2023).
- “Fictionalism: Morality and metaphor.” In B. Armour-Garb & F. Kroon (eds.), *Fictionalism in Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2020): 103-121.
- “Moral and epistemic normativity: The guilty and the innocent.” In C. Cowie & R. Rowland (eds.), *Companions in Guilt Arguments in Metaethics* (Routledge, 2019): 53-72.
- “The denial of moral knowledge.” In A. Zimmerman, K. Jones, & M. Timmons (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Moral Epistemology* (Routledge, 2019): 289-303.
- “Moral fictionalism: How to have your cake and eat it too.” In R. Garner & R. Joyce (eds.), *The End of Morality* (Routledge, 2019): 150-165.
- “Arguments from moral disagreement to moral skepticism.” In D. Machuca (ed.), *Moral Skepticism: New Essays* (Routledge, 2018): 141-162.
- “Moral skepticism.” In D. Machuca & B. Reed (eds.), *Skepticism: Antiquity to the Present* (Bloomsbury, 2018): 714-726.
- “Human morality: From an empirical puzzle to a metaethical puzzle.” In M. Ruse & R. Richards (eds.), *Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Ethics* (Cambridge University Press, 2017): 101-113.
- “Fictionalism in metaethics.” In D. Plunkett & T. McPherson (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Metaethics* (Routledge, 2017): 72-86.
- “Reply to ‘On the validity of a simple argument for moral error theory.’” *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 24 (2016): 518-522.
- “Evolution and moral naturalism.” In K. J. Clark (ed.), *Blackwell Companion to Naturalism* (Blackwell, 2016) 369-385.
- “Evolution, truth-tracking, and moral skepticism.” In R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016): 142-158.
- “Reply: Confessions of a modest debunker.” In U. Leibowitz & N. Sinclair (eds.), *Explanation in Mathematics and Ethics* (Oxford University Press, 2016): 124-145.
- “The origins of moral judgment.” *Behaviour* 151 (2014): 261-278.  
Reprinted in F. de Waal et al. (eds.), *Evolved Morality: The Biology and Philosophy of Human Conscience* (Brill, 2014): 125-142.  
Reprinted in R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016).

- “Irrealism and the genealogy of morals.” *Ratio* 26 (2013): 351-372.  
Reprinted in B. Streumer (ed.), *Irrealism in Ethics* (Wiley Blackwell, 2014): 1-22.  
Reprinted in R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- “Ethics and evolution.” In H. LaFollette & I. Persson (eds.), *The Blackwell Guide to Ethical Theory*, 2nd edition (Blackwell, 2013): 123-147.
- “Psychological fictionalism, and the threat of fictionalist suicide.” *The Monist* 96 (2013): 517-538.  
Reprinted in R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- “The many moral nativisms.” In K. Sterelny, R. Joyce, B. Calcott, & B. Fraser (eds.), *Cooperation and its Evolution* (MIT Press, 2013): 549-572.  
Reprinted in R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- “The evolutionary debunking of morality.” In J. Feinberg & R. Shafer-Landau (eds.), *Reason and Responsibility*, 15th edition (Cengage, 2013): 527-534.
- “Metaethical pluralism: How both moral naturalism and moral skepticism may be permissible positions.” In S. Nuccetelli & G. Seay (eds.), *Ethical Naturalism: Current Debates* (Cambridge University Press, 2012): 89-109.  
Reprinted in R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- “The error in ‘The error in the error theory.’” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 89 (2011): 519-534.
- “The accidental error theorist.” In R. Shafer-Landau (ed.), *Oxford Studies in Metaethics, Vol. 6* (Oxford University Press, 2011): 153-180.  
Reprinted in R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- “Expressivism, motivation internalism, and Hume.” In C. Pigden (ed.), *Hume on Motivation and Virtue* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2010): 30-56.  
Reprinted in R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- “Patterns of objectification.” In R. Joyce & S. Kirchin (eds.), *A World Without Values: Essays on John Mackie’s Moral Error Theory* (Springer Press, 2010): 35-53.  
Reprinted in R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- “Is moral projectivism empirically tractable?” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 12 (2009): 53-75.  
Reprinted in R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- Symposium on *The Evolution of Morality*: precis and reply to critics (Stephen Stich, Jesse Prinz, Peter Carruthers & Scott James). *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 77 (2008): 213-267.

- “What neuroscience can (and cannot) contribute to metaethics.” In W. Sinnott-Armstrong (ed.), *Moral Psychology, Volume 3: The Neuroscience of Morality: Emotion, Brain Disorders, and Development* (MIT Press, 2008): 371-394.
- “Response to Nichols and Katz.” In W. Sinnott-Armstrong (ed.), *Moral Psychology, Volume 3: The Neuroscience of Morality: Emotion, Brain Disorders, and Development* (MIT Press, 2008): 419-426.
- “Aversions, sentiments, moral judgments, and taboos.” In W. Sinnott-Armstrong (ed.), *Moral Psychology, Volume 1: The Evolution of Morality: Adaptations and Innateness* (MIT Press, 2008): 195-204.
- “Morality, schmorality.” In P. Bloomfield (ed.), *Morality and Self-Interest* (Oxford University Press, 2007): 51-75.  
Reprinted in R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- “Is human morality innate?” In P. Carruthers, S. Laurence, & S. Stich (eds.), *The Innate Mind: Culture and Cognition* (Oxford University Press: 2006): 257-279.  
Reprinted (abridged) in M. Ruse (ed.), *Philosophy After Darwin: Classic and Contemporary Readings* (Princeton University Press, 2009): 452-463.
- “Metaethics and the empirical sciences.” In J. Kennett & P. Gerrans (eds.), *Philosophical Explorations* special issue 9 (2006): 133-148.
- “Moral fictionalism.” In M. Kalderon (ed.), *Fictionalism in Metaphysics* (Oxford University Press, 2005): 287-313.  
Reprinted in R. Joyce, *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- “Cultural treasures and slippery slopes.” *Public Affairs Quarterly* 17 (2003): 1-16.
- “Expressivism and motivation internalism.” *Analysis* 62 (2002): 336-344.
- “Theistic ethics and the Euthyphro dilemma.” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 30 (2002): 49-75.
- “Moral realism and teleosemantics.” *Biology and Philosophy* 16 (2001): 723-731.
- “The fugitive thought.” *Journal of Value Inquiry* 34 (2000): 463-478.
- “Rational fear of monsters.” *British Journal of Aesthetics* 40 (2000): 209-224.
- “Darwinian ethics and error.” *Biology and Philosophy* 15 (2000): 713-732.  
Reprinted in N. Levy (ed.), *The International Library of Essays on Evolutionary Thought, Vol. 3: Evolutionary Ethics* (Ashgate, 2010).
- “Apologizing.” *Public Affairs Quarterly* 13 (1999): 159-173.
- “Cartesian memory.” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 35 (1997): 375-393.

- “Early stoicism and akrasia.” *Phronesis* 40 (1995): 315-335.

### Reviews and symposia:

- “Review of Michael Tomasello’s *A Natural History of Human Morality*.” *Utilitas* 31 (2019): 207-211.
- “Review of G. E. Kaebnick & T. H. Murray (eds.), *Synthetic Biology and Morality: Artificial Life and the Bounds of Nature*.” *Quarterly Review of Biology* 89 (2014).
- “Review of Kieran Setiya’s *Knowing Right from Wrong*.” *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* 5 (2014).
- “Taking moral skepticism seriously.” Contribution to symposium on David Enoch’s *Taking Morality Seriously*. *Philosophical Studies* 168 (2014): 843-851.
- “Review of Ingmar Persson and Julian Savulescu’s *Unfit for the Future: The Need for Moral Enhancement*.” *Analysis* 73 (2013).
- “Review of David Enoch’s *Taking Morality Seriously*.” *Ethics* 123 (2013).
- “Review essay: Mark Kalderon’s *Moral Fictionalism*.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 85 (2011): 161-173.
- “Review of Frans de Waal’s *Primates and Philosophers: How Morality Evolved*.” *Quarterly Review of Biology* 85 (2010).
- “Moral relativists gone wild: Review of Jesse Prinz’s *The Emotional Construction of Morals*.” *Mind* 118 (2009).
- “The skeptic’s tale.” Contribution to symposium on Michael Huemer’s *Ethical Intuitionism*. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 78 (2009).
- “Review of Elijah Milgram’s *Ethics Done Right: Practical Reasoning as a Foundation for Moral Theory*.” *Philosophical Books* 48 (2006).
- “Review of Neil Levy’s *What Makes Us Moral: Crossing the Boundaries of Biology*.” *Australian Journal of Professional and Applied Ethics* 7 (2006).
- “Why humans judge things to be good: Review of Robert A. Hinde’s *Why Good is Good*.” *Biology and Philosophy* 19 (2004).
- “Review of Gordon Graham’s *Genes: A Philosophical Inquiry*.” *Philosophical Books* 45 (2004).
- “Paul Bloomfield: *Moral Reality*.” *Mind* 112 (2003).

- “The moral value of moss: Review of Nicholas Agar’s *Life’s Intrinsic Value*.” *Biology and Philosophy* 17 (2002).
- “Review of Rush Rhees’ *Moral Questions*.” *Philosophical Books* 41 (2000).
- “Review of Mary Anne Warren’s *Moral Status*.” *Philosophical Books* 40 (1999).

**Other:**

- “Fictionalism: Moral, religious, hermeneutic, revolutionary.” Introduction to R. Joyce & S. Brock (eds.), *Moral Fictionalism and Religious Fictionalism* (Oxford University Press, 2023).
- “Moral anti-realism.” Entry for *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2021). (Earlier versions: 2007 & 2015.)
- “Moral skepticism and the ‘What next?’ question.” Introduction to R. Garner & R. Joyce (eds.), *The End of Morality* (Routledge, 2019): x-xxiii.
- “The prospects of if/thenism” (with Stuart Brock). Introduction to special issue of the *Australasian Philosophical Review* (2017).
- “Morality: The evolution of a myth.” Introduction to *Essays in Moral Skepticism* (Oxford University Press: 2016).
- “Evolutionary ethics.” Entry for *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy* (3rd edition, Cambridge University Press, 2015).
- “Evolutionary arguments.” Entry for *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy* (3rd edition, Cambridge University Press, 2015).
- “Profiles in evolutionary moral psychology: Richard Joyce.” Interview for *Evolution: This View of Life* (2014).
- “Ethics after Darwin.” In M. Ruse (ed.), *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Darwin and Evolutionary Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 2013): 461-467.
- “Altruism and biology.” Entry for *The International Encyclopedia of Ethics* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013).
- “Error theory.” Entry for *The International Encyclopedia of Ethics* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013). [Revised 2023 for 2nd edition.]
- “Nihilism.” Entry for *The International Encyclopedia of Ethics* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013). [Revised 2023 for 2nd edition.]
- “Moral fictionalism: When falsehoods are too useful to throw out.” *Philosophy Now* 82 (2011).

- “Introduction” to R. Joyce & S. Kirchin (eds.), *A World Without Values: Essays on John Mackie’s Moral Error Theory* (Springer Press, 2010).
- “Introduction” (with Simon Kirchin) to *Moral Skepticism: 30 Years of Inventing Right and Wrong*. Special issue of *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 10 (2007).

### Teaching Experience:

I have taught at the University of Auckland, Princeton University, the University of Sheffield, and Victoria University of Wellington. Teaching has been across the undergraduate spectrum: from large (200+) lectures to small senior study groups. Introductory level courses have included: *Introductory Ethics*, *Philosophy of Art and Literature*, *The Big Questions*, and *Human Nature*. Other undergraduate courses have included: *Evolutionary Ethics*, *Metaethics*, and *Politics and Value*. I have supervised numerous MA and PhD students.

### Honors and Grants:

- Marsden Research Grant (2020-2024): *Religious and Moral Fictionalism* (with Stuart Brock as co-PI).
- First prize (ex aequo), poster competition; *Normality and Normativity*. 12th World Congress of Bioethics (2014, Mexico City)
- 2012 Wedberg Lecturer, Stockholm University
- 2011 Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Fellowship, Princeton University Center for Human Values (not taken up)
- ARC Discovery Project (2007-2010): *The Evolution of the Social Brain: How Emotions and Moral Judgement Interact in the Generation of Cooperative Behaviour* (team leader, with Professor Kim Sterelny (ANU) as co-CI and Professor Fiona Cowie (Caltech) as PI)
- International Senior Research Fellowship, University of Sydney (2006-2010)
- Research Fellowship, Leslie Humanities Institute, Dartmouth College (Fall, 2004)
- Research Fellowship, Australian National University (2002-08)
- Research Grant from the UK Arts and Humanities Research Board (2002)
- Council of Humanities Summer Scholarship (Princeton University, 1996)
- Postgraduate Fellowship (University of Auckland, 1991)
- Departmental Prize in Philosophy (University of Auckland, 1989)
- Departmental Prize in Philosophy (University of Auckland, 1987)

### Administration:

- Acting Director of MPPE Programme (VUW, 2020)
- Coordinator of Graduate Studies (VUW, 2018-2019; 2021-2022)
- Head of Programme (VUW, 2015-2018)
- School Executive Committee (VUW, 2015-2018)
- Acting Head of Programme (VUW, 2012)



- School Learning and Teaching Committee (VUW, 2012)
- College of Arts and Social Sciences Education Committee (ANU, 2005-7)
- Organizer and convenor of weekly departmental seminar (ANU, 2003-4)
- Faculty Teaching Affairs Committee (Sheffield, 2000-01)
- Director of First Year Studies (Sheffield, 1999-2001)
- Graduate Student Careers Advisory Officer (Sheffield, 1997-99)
- Departmental Admissions Officer (Sheffield, 1998-99)
- Departmental Health and Safety Officer (Sheffield, 1997-99)
- Graduate Committee (Princeton, 1994-97)
- Appointments Committee (Princeton, 1995-96)
- Graduate Student Union Departmental Representative (Princeton, 1992-94)

### **Service to the profession:**

#### Editorial duties (journals):

- Guest editor of special issue of *Australasian Philosophical Review* (2017).
- Senior Associate Editor of *Journal of Organizational Moral Psychology*
- Editorial board of *Skeptical Studies*
- Editorial board of *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*
- Guest editor of *Moral Skepticism: 30 Years of Inventing Right and Wrong*. Special issue of *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 10 (2007) to mark the 30-year anniversary of the publication of John Mackie's *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*

#### Reviewed book manuscripts for:

Cambridge University Press, Harvard University Press, MIT Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Rowman & Littlefield, Palgrave Macmillan, Wiley-Blackwell, Polity, Broadview Press, Springer, Norton

#### Refereed major grant applications for:

- Swiss National Science Foundation
- John Templeton Foundation
- Australian Research Council
- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- Marsden Fund (New Zealand)
- David Harold Tribe Philosophy Award (judge)

#### Refereed for:

*American Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Behaviour, Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Bioethics, Biology and Philosophy, BioSocieties, Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, British Journal for the History of Philosophy, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, British Journal of Aesthetics, British Society of Ethical Theory, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Crítica: Revista Hispanoamericana de Filosofía, Croatian Journal of Philosophy, Dialectica,*

*Diametros, Erkenntnis, Ethical Perspectives, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Ethics, European Journal of Philosophy, Evolution and Human Behavior, History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences, History of Philosophy Quarterly, Inquiry, International Journal of Philosophical Studies, Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Journal of Bioethical Inquiry, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Ethics, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Journal of Moral Education, Journal of Moral Philosophy, Journal of Philosophical Research, Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Political Philosophy, Journal of Religious Ethics, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Journal of Value Inquiry, Mind, Neuroethics, Noûs, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Philo, Philosophia: Philosophical Quarterly of Israel, Philosophical Explorations, Philosophical Papers, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophy of Science, Ratio, Religions, Res Philosophica, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Social Theory and Practice, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Sophia, Southern Journal of Philosophy, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science, Synthese, Theoria*

**Referees:**

At one time or another the following have written letters of recommendation for me: David Bell, Peter Carruthers, Harry Frankfurt, Gilbert Harman, Frank Jackson, Philip Kitcher, David Lewis, Gideon Rosen, Michael Ruse, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Michael Smith, Ernest Sosa, Kim Sterelny, and Margaret Wilson.