

Martin Sticker (PhD, MLitt, M.A.)
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PHILOSOPHISCHES SEMINAR
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University Education

- 10/12/2014 PhD UNIVERSITIES OF ST ANDREWS & STIRLING. Viva passed with only typographical corrections.
Title of PhD thesis: “Common Human Reason in Kant’s Philosophy – A Study in Kant’s Moral Psychology and Philosophical Method”.
Supervisors: Jens Timmermann, Marcia Baron, Sarah Broadie.
Examiners: Kathrin Flickschuh, Simon Hope
- 10/2012-12/2012 Research Visitor UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME. Supervisor: Karl Ameriks.
- 2009-2010 MLitt in Philosophy with distinction, ST ANDREWS & STIRLING.
- 2004-2009 Magister Artium (M.A. equivalent) in Philosophy, Comparative Literature, Modern History, UNIVERSITY OF BONN.
Magister thesis: “Recognition in Hegel – A Principle for Practical Philosophy?”.

Academic Positions

- Since 1/11/2014 Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN.
- 9/2010-11/2014 Tutor and part-time Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS.
- 6/2007-9/2009 Student and Research Assistant, Department of Philosophy, UNIVERSITY OF BONN.

Publications in peer and blind reviewed journals

- Forthcoming “When the Reflective Watch-Dog Barks – Conscience and Self-Deception in Kant”, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*.
- Forthcoming “Die Ansprüche der Theorie und Praxis in der *Nikomachischen Ethik*” [The claims of Theory and Practice in the *Nicomachean Ethics*], *Zeitschrift für philosophische Forschung*.
- 2015 “Hegels Kritik der Anerkennungsphilosophie – Die Aufhebung verwirklichter Anerkennung in *Phänomenologie VI-VIII*“ [Hegel’s Criticism of Recognition – The Sublation of Actualized Recognition in *Phenomenology VI-VIII*], *Hegel-Studien*, vol.49, pp.90-122.
- 2015 “The Moral-Psychology of the Common Agent – A Reply to Ido Geiger”, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, vol.23(5), pp.976-89.
- 2015 “Educating the Common Agent. Kant on the Varieties of Moral Education”, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, vol.97(3), pp.358–87.
- 2014 “Kant and Moral Demandingness”, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, vol.18(1), pp.75-89 (co-authored with Marcel van Ackeren).
- 2014 “How can Common Human Reason confirm the Correctness of the Deduction in *Groundwork III*?”, *Hegel Bulletin*, vol.35(2), pp.228-51.
- 2013 “System und Systemkritik – Witz und Ironie als philosophische Methode beim frühen Friedrich Schlegel” [System and Criticism of a System – Wit and Irony as philosophical method in the Early Friedrich Schlegel], *Philosophisches Jahrbuch*, vol.120(1), pp.64-81 (co-authored with Daniel Wenz).

Invited Contributions

- Forthcoming (2016) “Parfit on Kantian Consequentialism“, in: Hoesch, Muders, Rütter (eds.) *Derek Parfit in der Diskussion* (working title), Meiner: Hamburg (co-authored with Matthias Hoesch).
- Forthcoming (2016) “Der Schlaf des Gewissens bei Crusius” [The Sleeping Conscience in Crusius], in: Hahmann, Grunert (eds.) *Crusius*, De Gruyter: Berlin.

Conference Proceedings

- Forthcoming (2018) “Common Human Reason and the Fact of Reason”, in: Waibel, Ruffing (eds.): *Proceedings of the 12. International Kant Congress Nature and Freedom*, VIENNA.
- Forthcoming (2016) “Reflection or Ethical Community? Kant’s and Hegel’s Conception of Pre-Theoretical Moral Cognition”, in: *Hegel Annual*.
- Forthcoming (2016) “Kant, gemeine Menschenvernunft und vier Formen der moralischen Erziehung” [Kant, Common Human Reason and four kinds of Moral Education], in: Waibel (ed.) *Kant und der Deutsche Idealismus*, Ergon-Verlag: Würzburg.
- Forthcoming (2016) “Hegel’s Sublation of Recognition in the *Phenomenology of Geist*”, in: Kok, Houdt (eds.): *Reconsidering the Origin of Recognition: New Perspectives on German Idealism*, Cambridge Scholarly Publisher: Cambridge, pp.59-75.
- 2012 “Legitimität und Grenzen moralischer Intuitionen bei Kant – Kant über gemeine Menschenvernunft und Vernünfteln“ [Legitimacy and Limits of Moral Intuitions in Kant – Kant on Common Human Reason and Rationalizing], in: Dunshirn, Nemeth, Unterthurner (eds.) *Crossing Borders. Grenzen (über)denken. Thinking (across) Boundaries*, Phaidra: Vienna, pp.893-907.
- 2011 “Anerkennung und die Gestaltung einer Welt – Die Bedeutung von Akteuren für die soziale Welt in *Phänomenologie* IV und VI“ [Recognition and the Shaping of a World – The Significance of Agents for the Social World in *Phenomenology* IV and VI], in: Flocke, Schoneville (eds.) *Differenz und Dialog. Anerkennung als Strategie der Konfliktbewältigung?*, Berliner Wissenschaftsverlag: Berlin, pp.37-59.
- 2011 “Towards a Communicative Conception of Evil”, in: Kottmayer (ed.) *Perspectives on Evil and Human Wickedness*, pp.113-123.
- 2011 “Warum die kantische Moralphilosophie der Bestätigung durch die gemeine Menschenvernunft bedarf“ [Why does Kantian Moral Philosophy need Confirmation from Common Human Reason?], XXII. *Deutscher Kongress für Philosophie*, url: <http://epub.ub.uni-muenchen.de/12602/>

Book Reviews

- 2015 “Alix Cohen: *Kant’s Lectures on Anthropology. A Critical Guide*”, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, url: <https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/56946-kant-s-lectures-on-anthropology-a-critical-guide/>
- 2014 “Jeanine Grenberg: *Kant’s Defense of Common Moral Experience. A Phenomenological Account*”, *Kantian Review*, vol.19(2), pp.315-8.
- 2014 “Katerina Deligiorgi: *The Scope of Autonomy. Kant and the Morality of Freedom*”, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, vol.96(2), pp.279-82.
- 2014 “Karl Ameriks: *Kant’s Elliptical Path*”, *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, vol.37(3), pp.422-3.
- 2013 “Brian Leiter: Why Tolerate Religion?”, *Zeitschrift für philosophische Literatur*, vol.1(1), url: <http://zfphl.de/index.php/zfphl/article/view/24>

Recent blind-reviewed Conference Presentations (selection)

- 20/11/2015 “Peer-Disagreement about Restaurant Bills and Abortion. A Conciliationist Response to Peer Disagreement does not lead to Skepticism in Ethics”, *Workshop on the Epistemology of Disagreement*, COPENHAGEN.
- 25/9/2015 “Common Human Reason and the Fact of Reason”, *Nature and Freedom – 12th International Kant Congress*, VIENNA.
- 17/9/2015 “Taking an Agent's Global Outlook Seriously – A Conciliationist Response to Peer Disagreement does not lead to Skepticism in Ethics“, *Philosophy Between Armchair and Lab, Congress of the German Society for Analytic Philosophy*, OSNABRÜCK.
- 20/8/2015 “Ain’t no Party like a Third Party – Against an Introspective Conception of Kant’s Ethics”, *Conscience and Moral Self-Knowledge in Kant and German Idealism*, OSLO.
- 28/5/2015 “Kant’s Criticism of Common Rational Moral Cognition”, *Leuven Kant Conference*, LEUVEN.
- 11/4/2015 “On the Dark Side of Reason – Rationalizing and Conscience in Kant”, *British Society for the History of Philosophy*, YORK.
- 2/10/2014 “Climbing the Mountain with Parfit and Kant but without Virtue”, *XXIII. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Philosophie*, MÜNSTER.
- 9/9/2014 “What does it mean to hear a voice of reason? Towards a Sophisticated Understanding of pre-theoretical Moral Life”, *Collegio Ghislieri Graduate Conference in the History of Philosophy*, PAVIA.
- 24/7/2014 “Hearing Voices (of Reason)? Towards a Sophisticated Understanding of Kant’s Conception of pre-theoretical Moral Life”, *Understanding Value*, SHEFFIELD.
- 27/6/2014 “Hegel’s Conception of Evil as a Distortion of Communication”, *Evil: Interdisciplinary Explorations*, OXFORD.
- 6/12/2013 “Kant and the Rationality of the Common Agent”, *Scots Philosophical Association Annual Meeting*, STIRLING.
- 29/8/2013 “A Second-Order Watchdog for One’s Use of Reason: Conscience in the Context of Common Rational Capacities and God”, *UK Kant Society 2013 Annual Conference*, HEYTHROP COLLEGE, LONDON.
- 18/7/2013 “Kant’s Chemical Method of Enquiry”, *Understanding Value*, SHEFFIELD.
- 30/5/2013 “Educating the Common Agent – Kant on the Varieties of Moral Education”, *Leuven Kant Conference*, LEUVEN.
- 9/3/2013 “Experiments in Ethics? Kant on Chemistry and Practical Philosophy”, *Midwest Study Group of the North American Kant Society*, INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH, NEW ALBANY.
- 21/9/2012 “What would moral life lose without Common Human Reason? A critical examination of an often neglected Kantian presupposition for a moral life”, *Kantian Ethics and Moral Life*, ANTWERP.
- 5/9/2012 “Hegel's Criticism of Recognition – The Sublation of symmetrical Recognition in *Phenomenology* VI-VIII”, *The Society for European Philosophy and The Forum for European Philosophy Joint Conference*, MANCHESTER.
- 29/8/2012 “Does Moral Knowledge come Easy? A critical discussion of Kant’s Moral-Epistemological Optimism”, *Kant and the British Idealists*, HULL.

Teaching

*Introduction to the Philosophy of David Hume**

Seminar for bachelor students. UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN, 2016.

*Applied Ethics**

Seminar for master students. UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN, 2016.

*Global Justice**

Seminar for bachelor students. UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN, 2015-6.

*Essential Readings in Contemporary Ethics**

Seminar for master students. UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN, 2015-6.

*Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics**

Seminar for bachelor students. UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN, 2015.

*Advanced Seminar on Kant's Practical Philosophy**

Seminar for master students. UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN, 2015.

*Moral Overdemandingness**

Seminar for master students. UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN, 2014-5.

*Kant: Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals**

Seminar for bachelor students. UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN, 2014-5.

Ethical Issues

Online, distance learning module and evening degree. UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2014.

Mind and Reality

Online, distance learning module. UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2014.

Kant's Moral Psychology and Normative Ethics

Co-lecturer with Leonard Randall (St Andrews). Seminar for third and fourth year undergraduate students. UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2014.

*Overridingness**

Co-lecturer with Marcel van Ackeren (Münster). Compact three-day seminar for master students. UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER, 2014.

*Kant and contemporary conceptions of practical normativity**

Co-lecturer with Marcel van Ackeren (Münster). Compact three-day seminar for bachelor students. UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER, 2013.

Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Kant

Co-lecturer with Brian McElwee (Oxford), and Katie Harrington (St Andrews). One lecture on Kant's practical philosophy to about 90 second-year undergraduate students. UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2013.

*Nicomachean Ethics**

Co-lecturer with Anna Schriebl (Bonn). One lecture and leading a seminar discussion. Seminar for about 30 Bachelor students. UNIVERSITY OF BONN, 2010.

*The End of Philosophy as a Philosophical Position**

Co-lecturer with Joachim Söder (Aachen), and Daniel Wenz (Hagen). Compact three-day workshop for postgraduate students. KLASSIK-STIFTUNG WEIMAR, 2008.

* in German

Tutoring (including marking and student feedback)

Society, Authority and Freedom

First year introduction to Political Philosophy, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2014.

Aesthetics

Second year introduction to Aesthetics, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2014.

Tutoring in the Arts: An introduction

One-day mandatory preparation workshop for new postgraduate tutors. I functioned as postgraduate demonstrator and tutor for 6 new tutors, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2014

Ancient Philosophy

Second year introduction to Plato, Aristotle, Epicureans, Stoics, and Sceptics, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2013.

Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Kant

Second year introduction to Philosophy from Descartes to Kant, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2012 and 2013 [Awarded best philosophy tutor 2013].

Mind and Reality

First year introduction to Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2011 [Awarded best philosophy tutor].

Rationality and Action

Second year introduction to the Theory of Action, Meta-Ethics, and Practical Rationality, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2011.

Ethical Controversies

First year introduction to Applied and Normative Ethics, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS, 2010.

Organization

- 4-5/4/2016 *Kant on Duties of Assistance*
Main organizer. Two day workshop, ESSEN.
- 1/8/2014 *Kant in Progress III*
Main organizer. One day workshop with six presentations, ST ANDREWS.
- 28/7-31/8/2014 *Hobbes and Kant – 7th St Andrews Kant Reading Party*
Main organizer. International postgraduate conference with paper presentations and discussion sessions, ST ANDREWS & STIRLING.
- 8/6/2014 *Aspects of Moral Demandingness*
Main organizer. One day workshop with two external and four internal speakers, ST ANDREWS.
- 2/8/2013 *Kant in Progress II*
Main organizer. One day workshop with six presentations, ST ANDREWS.
- 29/7-1/8/2013 *Adam Smith and Kant on Honour and Respect – 6th St Andrews Kant Reading Party*
Co-organizer. International postgraduate conference with paper presentations and discussion sessions, ST ANDREWS & STIRLING.
- 3/8/2012 *Kant in Progress*
Main organizer. One day workshop with six presentations, ST ANDREWS.
- 30/7-2/8/2012 *Rousseau and Kant on Common Human Reason and the Common Human Being – 5th St Andrews Kant Reading Party*
Main organizer. International postgraduate conference with paper presentations and discussion sessions, ST ANDREWS & STIRLING.
- 12-13/5/2012 *Ancient Conceptions of Happiness*
Co-organizer. International two day conference with eight presentations, ST ANDREWS & STIRLING.

- 28-30/3/2012 *Bonn-Göttingen-St Andrews-Colloquium*
Co-organizer. International postgraduate workshop, UNIVERSITY OF BONN.
- 8-9/9/2011 *Bonn-Göttingen-St Andrews-Colloquium*
Co-organizer. International postgraduate workshop, UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN.
- 2-5/8/2011 *Kant and Aristotle on Pleasure and Happiness – 4th St Andrews Kant Reading Party*
Co-organizer. International postgraduate conference with paper presentations and discussion sessions, ST ANDREWS & STIRLING.
- 2-5/8/2010 *Kant and Mill – 3rd St Andrews Kant Reading Party*
Co-organizer. International postgraduate conference with paper presentations and discussion sessions, ST ANDREWS & STIRLING.
- 31/7-1/8/2009 *Thinking about progress –Theoretical and practical perspectives*
Main organizer. International and interdisciplinary conference, UNIVERSITY OF BONN.
- Organizer of *Kant Reading Groups* (9/2011-8/2012, and 2/2013-8/2014), a *Parfit: “On What Matters” Reading Group* (9/2011-8/2012).

External Funding

- Scots Philosophical Association* (£1450), *UK Kant Society* (£150), *Gradskills Postgraduate Conference Funding* (£1000) conference grants for *Hobbes and Kant – 7th St Andrews Kant Reading Party*, 2014.
- Scots Philosophical Association* (£500) conference grant for *Adam Smith and Kant on Honour and Respect – 6th St Andrews Kant Reading Party*, 2013.
- Scots Philosophical Association* (£1500) conference grant for *Rousseau and Kant on Common Human Reason and the Common Human Being – 5th St Andrews Kant Reading Party*, 2012.
- Scots Philosophical Association* (£1000), *Gradskills Innovation Grant* (£500), *Aristotelian Society* (£385) conference grants for *Ancient Conceptions of Happiness*, 2012
- Scots Philosophical Association* (£1500), *St Leonard’s College* (£300) conference grants for *Kant and Aristotle on Pleasure and Happiness – 4th St Andrews Kant Reading Party*, 2011.
- Scots Philosophical Association* (£1000), *St Leonard’s College* (£300), *German National Merit Foundation* (€300) conference grant for *Kant and Mill – 3rd St Andrews Kant Reading Party*, 2010.
- Bonn University (€2000) conference grant for *Thinking about progress –Theoretical and practical perspectives*, 2009.

Scholarships and Awards

- 6/1/2014 *PhD Teaching Prize & Honours Prize Seminar*, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS (£300), (together with Leonard Randall). The award is for the best philosophy honours (third and fourth year undergraduate) seminar proposal and syllabus submitted by a St Andrews/Stirling PhD student.
- Since 1/2014 Associate Fellow of the *Higher Education Academy*
- 11/5/2013 *Award for Best Philosophy Tutor 2012/2013 Semester Two*, ST ANDREWS. The award is based on student feedback.
- 9/3/2013 Graduate Paper Prize for the best paper, *Midwest Study Group of the North American Kant Society* (\$200).
- 17/2/2012 *Award for Best Philosophy Tutor 2011/2012 Semester One*, ST ANDREWS.
- 30/11/2010 Master of Letters (MLitt) with overall distinction, ST ANDREWS & STIRLING.
- 9/2010-9/2013 Full AHRC matched doctoral scholarship (3 years) (aprox. £50.000), ST ANDREWS & STIRLING.
- 9/2007-9/2010 Full scholarship of the *German National Merit Foundation* (“*Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes*”) (aprox. €30.000).

Other Academic Service

Journal referee for: *Philosophical Quarterly* (twice), *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, *Ergo*, *Kant Studies Online*.

Conference referee for the *7th Arché/CSMN Grad Conference*, 2013, ST ANDREWS.

Since 7/2015 Erasmus Coordinator, GÖTTINGEN.
Since 5/2015 Master Students Admission Officer, GÖTTINGEN.
6/3/2014 Member of teaching review committee for the School of Classics, ST ANDREWS.
10/2011-11/2014 Member Correspondent of the *UK Kant Society*, responsible for Scotland.
11/2007-12/2007 Editorial Assistant for the book “Politischer Aristotelismus” [Political Aristotelianism],
Horn, Neschke-Hentschke (eds.) Metzler: Stuttgart.
6/2006-1/2009 Two terms (5 semesters) president of the Philosophy Student Representation
 (“Fachschaftsvertretung Philosophie”), UNIVERSITY OF BONN.

Languages

German
English
French (reading)
Spanish (reading)
Latin (basic)
Ancient Greek (basic)

Dissertation abstract

Common Human Reason in Kant's Philosophy – A Study in Kant's Moral Psychology and Philosophical Method

Kant's notion of the pre-theoretical understanding of morality is widely acknowledged as crucial to a proper understanding of his practical (as well as theoretical) philosophy, yet detailed and substantive historical and systematic discussion of this key topic is scarce. In my thesis, I explain why and how the common, pre-theoretical understanding of morality is an important part of Kant's ethics, and I critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of doing ethics with the common perspective as a point of reference. The most controversial claim I defend is that Kant's ethics has important empirical elements. My work contains an extensive discussion about what these empirical elements, which appear in the form of talk about common human reason or the common agent, are, how Kantian philosophers can learn about them, and how these elements can be part of an ethics that stresses the purity of morality.

In chapter 1, I show how rational capacities are important even for Kant's complex and abstract philosophical manoeuvres such as the deduction in *Groundwork* III, as well as for his notion of a Fact of Reason in the Second Critique. With regard to the latter, I argue that Kant intends to provide further warrant for the Fact than its introspective self-evidence. This further warrant is necessary for philosophical debate as well as it can serve a pedagogical function for common agents. Attention to the role of common rational capacities helps us to give the Fact of Reason an interpretation that avoids prominent criticism such as that it is *ad hoc*. It does open Kant to the problem, though, that whether the Fact of Reason is warranted becomes partly an empirical question.

In chapter 2, I discuss what it means for a rational agent to be endowed with common rational capacities. Furthermore, I critically evaluate Kant's claim that his ethics spells out fundamental, pre-theoretical convictions. The main contributions of this chapter are, firstly, to correct a common interpretation of Kant, according to which ordinary cognition of duty is something passive. When we look at how Kant actually describes ordinary moral cognition, a more appealing and complex picture of the ordinary understanding of morality emerges. This offers a rationale for why there are different formulae of the one Categorical Imperative. Kant aims to capture different elements of the pre-theoretical understanding of morality. Secondly, I advance a new line of criticism against the way Kant represents the common understanding of morality: He double-counts a particular element, namely unconditionality, as a statement about the criterion of duty as well as about the authority of morality.

In chapter 3, I discuss Kant's conception of rationalizing ("Vernünfteln"). I analyse rationalizing as a process of self-deception in which an agent tries to justify or excuse violations of the moral law. This can lead to loss of the reliable use of common rational capacities. The main yield of this chapter is that I show how rationalizing does not only concern questions of motivation but general features of one's conception of morality, and that I explain the often overlooked roles that pure and empirical practical reason play in this process. Finally I discuss what help critical practical philosophy and moral education can afford against rationalizing. I distinguish between four types of moral education and discuss their contributions in turn.

In chapter 4, I argue against a number of recent interpretations of Kant's method by Jens Timmermann, Karl Ameriks, and Jeanine Grenberg that Kant saw dialogical engagement with ordinary agents as an important way of obtaining data concerning the correct starting point of practical philosophy. Kant demands that whatever we get from dialogue and observation has to be isolated from its contingent elements. I conclude that the main problem for Kant's method is how we can, on the one hand, exclude non-rational content, and, on the other hand, be open to what other agents actually have to say about morality.

I am currently developing my PhD thesis into a monograph, entitled: *The Ethics of Common Human Reason – Method, Moral-Psychology, Self-Deception and Education in Kant*.

Future research: Much of my research interests are concerned with the role of the pre-philosophical perspective for academic philosophy as well as the role that philosophy can play in turn for non-philosophers. I approach these topics largely from a historical perspective (mainly Kant, also Aristotle and Hegel). I also have strong interests in contemporary normative ethics (overdemandingness), political philosophy (global justice), and issues of philosophical methodology (the role of intuitions, common sense and peer disagreement for philosophical theorizing). Future extended research projects will concern a detailed and thorough discussion of the demandingness of Kantian ethics compared to Consequentialist theories, as well as a discussion of the main differences and similarities between Kantianism and Consequentialism. With regard to the latter project, I will argue that Act-Consequentialists can and should accept Kant's notion of a Fact of Reason. In addition, I will be working on a number of smaller research projects. The topics of these projects are the role of instrumentalization in Parfit's Triple Theory, and a Hegelian account of evil.