**Matthew Mckeever**

Email: Mipmckeever@gmail.com

Website: mipmckeever.weebly.com

**Employment**

2022-2023. Postdoctoral research fellow, University of Hong Kong.

2020-2021. Research for Herman Cappelen, book project on democracy and conceptual engineering.

2018-2022. Executive Associate (managing) Editor, *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal Of Philosophy.*

2016-2022. Research Assistant for the University of Oslo’s ConceptLab

2016-17. Editorial Assistant, *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal Of Philosophy*

2015-22. Symposium and Special Issue Coordinator, *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal Of Philosophy*

**Education**

2016,2017. Visiting Scholar, University of Oslo

2012-2016. PhD in Philosophy, University of St Andrews. Title: *Against Type E*. Pass without Corrections. Supervisors: Herman Cappelen (St Andrews/Olso), Josh Dever (UT Austin). Examiners: Derek Ball (St Andrews, internal), Ofra Magidor (Oxford, external)

2013-14, 2015, 2017. Visiting Scholar, UT Austin (informal visitor:16, 18,19).

2011-12. M.Phil in Philosophy, Selwyn College Cambridge. Distinction.

2007-11. B.A. in Philosophy, Trinity College Dublin. First class with gold medal (awarded for an

average of 75% or over).

**Prizes/Funding**

2023.with Herman Cappelen as PI, Can AIs and humans understand each other?, GRF award, 488,000 hkd.

2015-6. Jacobsen Fellowship. ~8,000gpb

2012-2015. Full AHRC Funding for PhD. ~38,000gbp

2011-12. Full AHRC funding for M.Phil. ~10,000gpb

2011. Arthur Aston Luce Memorial Prize (for best performance in a component of B.A. Exams),

Wray Prize (for best dissertation).

2009. Trinity Scholarship. ~30,000e in accommodation and fee waivers

**Areas Of Specialization**

Formal semantics, philosophy of language, metaphysics

**Areas of competence**

Metaphilosophy (the nature of philosophy and its institutions), philosophy of religion (Buddhism) philosophy of pop culture, philosophical fiction, logic

**Academic Philosophy Papers**

Forthcoming. ‘LLMs and Generalized Dynamic Semantics’, in Cappelen and Sterken, *Communication With AI: Philosophical Perspectives.*

forthcoming. ‘Ideology and Intersectionality’, in Anderson and Lepore, *Oxford Handbook of Applied Philosophy of Language*.

2022. ‘A Defence of Ordinary Language Philosophy’, in *Metaphilosophy.*

2022. ‘Manipulative Machines’, with Rachel Sterken, Eliot Michaelson, and Jessica Pepp, in *The Philosophy of Online Manipulation*, eds Jongepier and Klenk.

2021.'Social and Political Aspects of Generic Language and Speech', with Rachel Sterken, in Khoo & Sterken eds, *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language*.

2021.‘Posting Covert Expressions and the Quantifier Theory of Tense’, *Inquiry* (special issue on operators versus quantifiers guest edited by Max Kölbel and David Rey).

2019. ‘Quotation’, with Herman Cappelen and Ernest Lepore, *Stanford Encyclopedia Of Philosophy*.

2019. ‘The Problem Of Peer Review Is The Most Important Philosophical Problem’, *Metaphilosophy.* (Volume and page numbers not yet assigned)

2018. ‘Parts, Predicates and Impermanence: A Contemporary Version of Some Central Buddhist Tenets’, *Religious Studies* 54(4) 475-488.

2017. ‘A Semantic Problem For Stage Theory’, *Ergo* 4(24)

Several others in progress, under review, or ready for submission, details of some of which are on my website.

**Popular/Public Philosophy**

Forthcoming. AI and Philosophical Problems, The Philosophers’ Magazine

Forthcoming. ‘Analytic Philosophy as Poetry’, *Think*

2018. *Coming From Nothing*, philosophical novella about personal identity and the internet, Zero Books

2018. ‘Westworld As Prediction’, *Ultimate Westworld and Philosophy*, OpenCourt 2018

2018. ‘Why We Should Care About Philosophy’, RTĒ Brainstorm (website for popular presentations of work done by Irish academics, by the national broadcaster) <https://www.rte.ie/eile/brainstorm/2018/0223/942916-why-we-should-care-about-philosophy/>

2016. ‘There’s Only One God and His Name Is Death’, in *Ultimate Game of Thrones and Philosophy*, OpenCourt, 2016.

**Service**

Executive Associate Editor (managing editor), *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal Of Philosophy*. Organizer of all of *Inquiry*’s book symposiums and several special issues since 2016. Reviewer for *Philosophical Studies*, *Erkenntnis*, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal Of Philosophy*, *Dialogue*, *Synthese*.

In University of Hong Kong, I organized:

* The spring speaker series in philosophy of AI held by the AI and Humanities Lab held on zoom
* A one day workshop *XAI: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* held in February on campus at HKU.
* A special issue of the journal Inquiry on philosophy of AI (involving assessing 20 papers).
* The ConceptLab visiting speaker series (co-organized with others)

**Teaching Experience**

2022-23. Lecturer for Semantics and Pragmatics.

2013-2014. Tutor for Knowledge and Reality, first year course on metaphysics and epistemology at St Andrews, involved leading discussion each week and marking end of term essays and final exams.

2012-13. Tutor for Reasoning and Knowledge, first year course on logic and epistemology at St Andrews, involved leading discussion each week and marking end of term essays and final exams.

2011-12. Marker for logic tutorials in Cambridge, which involves a small amount of teaching

**Languages**

Good reading knowledge in French, German, Russian, Ancient Greek, Chinese (HSK5ish). Some reading knowledge of (decreasing order of proficiency): Ukrainian, Latin, Italian, Norwegian. Python, Javascript, and a few other programming languages/frameworks.

**Dissertation Abstract**

It’s generally assumed that a compositional semantic theory will have to recognise a semantic category of expressions which serve simply to pick out some one object: e-type expressions. Kripke’s views about names (Kripke, 1980), Kaplan’s about indexicals and demonstratives (Kaplan, 1989), the standard Tarskian semantics for bound variables (Tarski, 1956), Heim and Kratzer’s Strawsonian view about definites (Heim

and Kratzer, 1998), even an (admittedly somewhat unpopular) analysis of indefinites (namely Fodor and Sag, 1982), assume as much. In this thesis, I argue that recent advances in the semantics of names and of quotation, and in metaphysics, give good reason to doubt there is such a category. I do so in two parts. In the first part, comprising about two thirds of the thesis, I combine two recent views, one from semantics and one from metaphysics. From semantics, I take over predicativism about names, the view, as one might have guessed, that names are predicates. From metaphysics, I take over the doctrine that there are temporal parts.

Putting them together, I hold that the semantic contribution of the name ’Joan’, in a sentence like ’Joan is a barrister’, is a predicate, and in particular (and somewhat roughly) a predicate the extension of which is Joan’s temporal parts. In the second part, building on the first, I further undermine the existence of a

semantically important category of e-type expressions by arguing that a construction which might be thought to mandate such a category, namely de re attitude ascriptions, in fact, when properly analysed, does not do so. I argue this by considering the nature of transparent occurrences of expressions in opaque contexts in general, and in particular by considering the phenomenon of mixed quotation. I’ll present a new theory of

it, and show how it can be parlayed into a new theory of de re attitude ascriptions. The thesis overall, then, will provide strong evidence against the semantic importance of singularity either in language, or in (our reporting of) thought.