

Akshath Jitendranath

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Department of Philosophy
Purdue University
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ORCID

APPOINTMENTS

Purdue University

Assistant Professor of Philosophy (PPE), (2025-Present)

Paris School of Economics

Postdoctoral Fellow in Philosophy and Economics, (2023-2025)

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Junior Lecturer in PPE, (2016-2023)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy,

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2016-2024)

Thesis: What is a Hard Choice?

Supervisors: Martin van Hees, Roland Iwan Luttens

Examiners: Johan E. Gustafsson, Sonja Smets, Conrad Heilmann, Catarina Dutilh Novaes, Lieven

Decock, Rene van den Brink (economics), Ines Lindner (economics).

M.A. (Research Master) in Philosophy and Economics,

Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (2014-2016)

Thesis: Hard Choices

Supervisors: Martin van Hees, Constanze Binder

Examiner: Jack Vromen

B.Sc. in Economics,

Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune, India (2011-2014)

Thesis: Methodology and Relevance: An Essay on Randomised Control Trials

Supervisor: Amir Bazaz

Examiner: Roudra Chakraborty

INTERESTS

AoS: Ethics, Political Philosophy, Decision Theory (Utility Theory, Game Theory, Social Choice Theory), Philosophy of (Social) Science.

AoC: Logic, Epistemology, South Asian Studies, History of Indian Philosophy.

RESEARCH

Journal Articles

“Choice Functions and Hard Choices,” (with Martin van Hees and Roland Iwan Luttens).

Journal of Mathematical Economics, 2021.

“Optimization and Beyond,”

Journal of Philosophy, 2024.

—Winner of the Isaac Levi Prize of the Journal of Philosophy

“Small Amendment Arguments: How They Work and What They Do and Do Not Show,” (with Martin van Hees and Roland Iwan Luttens).

Theory and Decision, 2025.

Edited Works

Book Symposium on Prof. John Roemer’s “*How We Cooperate—A Theory of Kantian Optimisation*,” (with Marina Uzunova) in,

Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics, 2020.

Contributors: Itai Sher, Peter Vallentyne, Martin van Hees, Matthew Braham, Jean-Francois Laslier.

Interviews

“What Egalitarianism Requires: An Interview with John E. Roemer,” (with Marina Uzunova) in

Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics, 2020.

“What Public Policy Can Be: An Interview with Matthew Adler,” (with Måns Abrahamson) in

Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics, 2024.

Book Reviews

Review of “*Choosing Well: The Good, the Bad, and the Trivial*,” by Chrisoula Andreou in

Economics and Philosophy, Under Commission.

Unpublished Work

Two Dogmas of Decision Theory.

What Are We Talking About When We Are Talking About Hard Choices?

Don’t Call Me Postcolonial!

Rational Decision Making With Multiple Considerations (with Susumu Cato).

Hoodwinking the Public: On the Ethics and Epistemology of Administrative Data (with Anmol Somanchi).

On the Epistemic Role of the Administrative State (with Kirun Sankaran).

How Not to be a Fanatic (with Andrea Petrou and Nikhil Venkatesh).

A Dilemma for Bargaining-Based Solutions to Incommensurable Values.

What is the Point of the Capability Approach?

Against Anyaya: A Restatement and Defense of Amartya Kumar Sen.

Talks

“What is a Hard Choice?”

Hard Cases and Rational Choice, University of Bern, 2016

OSZW Annual Conference, University of Utrecht, 2017

“Hard Choices: Neither Parity, Nor Incommensurability, Nor Incomparability”

OSZW Annual Conference, University of Amsterdam, 2019

Departmental Colloquium, Ashoka University, 2020

Departmental Colloquium, UC Louvain, 2020

*“Two Dogmas of Decision Theory”*¹

Preferences, Commitments and Choice, University of Zurich, 2021

OZSW Annual Conference, Tilburg University, 2021

PPE Conference, New Orleans, 2024

Value Theory Workshop, Lund University, 2025

PPE Conference, London, 2025

“Optimization and Beyond”

INEM Summer School on Economic Behaviours: Models, Measurements, and Policies, Lake Como, 2022

European PPE Network Conference, University of Groningen, 2023

INEM Conference, University of Venice, 2023

“What Are We Talking About When We Are Talking About Hard Choices?”

PPE Conference, New Orleans, 2023

European PPE Network Conference, University of Warwick, 2024

Value Theory Workshop, Lund University, 2024

OZSW Workshop on Behavioural Paternalism, Rational Choice, and Public Policy, VU Amsterdam, 2024

Axiology Workshop, McGill University 2024²

Choice Group, LSE 2025

International Workshop on Normative Economics and Philosophy, Tokyo University of Science, 2025³

“Hoodwinking the Public” (with Anmol Somanchi)

PPE Conference, New Orleans, 2024

Political Theory Colloquium, University of Amsterdam, 2025

¹Old title: The Formulation of Rational Choice

²Unable to attend in person because my visa was not processed in time

³Unable to attend in person because my visa was not processed in time

ASPP Annual Conference, University of Glasgow, 2025

“*On the Epistemic Role of the Administrative State*” (with Kirun Sankaran)

PPE Conference, London, 2025

ASPP Annual Conference, University of Glasgow, 2025

Comments

On Ingrid Robeyns’, “*Wellbeing, Freedom and Social Justice: The Capability Approach Re-Examined.*”

Symposium organised by EIPE, in collaboration with the Utrecht University, 2017

On Constanze Binder’s, “*Agency, Freedom and Choice.*”

Symposium organised by EIPE, in collaboration with OZSW, 2020

On Michael Livermore’s, “*Heteric Welfarism.*”

Research Seminar organised by the Institute of Advanced Studies, Paris, 2024

TEACHING

Thesis Supervision and Examination

Rafael Rinks, Supervisor, BA Thesis (VU)

Zilver Stavenuiter, Supervisor, BA Thesis (VU)

Daniël de Bruijne, Examiner, BA Thesis (VU)

Edoardo Doeve, Examiner, BA Thesis (VU)

Sophia Winter, Examiner, BA Thesis (VU)

Undergraduate Courses

Political Philosophy II: Global Justice (VU)

As Teaching Assistant

Ethics (VU)

Ethics II: Autonomy, Freedom, Responsibility (VU)

Political Philosophy (VU)

Political Philosophy II: Global Justice (VU)

Methods of PPE I: Mathematics, Logic, and Decision Theory (VU)

Philosophy of Science (VU)

History of Philosophy (VU)

Epistemology (VU)

Behavioural Economics (VU)

Outreach

Guest Lecture for the BoFEB Trainees of the Dutch Government, 2022.

Topic: *The Normative Foundations of Economic Policy*

SERVICE

Editorial Responsibilities

Editor, *Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics* (2018–2022)

Referee for: *Ethics, Erkenntnis, Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy, Philosophical Studies, Synthese, Routledge*, Mark Blaug Prize.

Conferences and Workshops

PPEL in the Global South

National Law School, Bangalore

—(with Amzad Ansari, Brian Berkey, Malte Dold, Kritika Maheshwari, JP Messina, Nathaniel Sharadin, Bastian Steuwer)

The Second Paris Conference | Frontiers of Philosophy and Economics, 2025

Paris School of Economics

Participants: Marc Fleurbaey, Franz Dietrich, Stephane Zuber, Marcus Pivato, Richard Bradley, Gregory Ponthiere, Hein Duijf, Itai Sher, Maya Eden, Marina Moreno, Annalisa Costella, Jean Bacceli.

The First Paris Conference | Frontiers of Philosophy and Economics, 2024

Paris School of Economics

Participants: Marc Fleurbaey, Franz Dietrich, Stephane Zuber, Jean-Francois Laslier, Ingela Alger, Marcus Pivato, Susumu Cato, Kai Spiekermann, Natalie Gold, Mark Budolfson, Constanze Binder, Michael Livermore, Roberto Veneziani, Chrisoula Andreou, Ralf Bader, Silvia Milano, Alexander Tolbert, Bele Wollesen, Erica Celine Yu, Marina Moreno, Petra Kosonen, Enrico Mattia Salina, Raphael Gomes De Oliveira, Akshath Jitendranath.

Amsterdam Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2020

VU Amsterdam and the University of Amsterdam

(with Marina Uzunova, Sanne Groothuis, and Stefano Merlo)

Keynotes: Laura Valentini, Karuna Mantena.

PPE Summer School, Rationality and Choice

Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, 2017

Lecturers: Paul Anand, Kai Spiekermann, Martin van Hees.

HONOURS

Awards

Directors Award for Best Student, 2015. *Symbiosis School of Economics*.

The Isaac Levi Prize, 2023. *The Journal of Philosophy*.

Distinguished Alumni Award, 2024. *Symbiosis School of Economics*.

Grants

Non- EU Student Fee Waiver 2014-2016. *Erasmus University Rotterdam* (17,000 €)

Kamala Chowdhry Fellowship 2012. *Centre for Science and Environment, Delhi* (1500 €)

REFERENCES

Prof. Martin van Hees
Department of Philosophy, Vrije University Amsterdam.
Dean, Amsterdam University College
[m.van.hees \[at\] vu.nl](mailto:m.van.hees@vu.nl)

Prof. Marc Fleurbaey
Chaired Professor, Paris School of Economics.
Senior Researcher, CNRS
[marc.fleurbaey \[at\] psemail.eu](mailto:marc.fleurbaey@psemail.eu)

Dr. Conrad Heilmann
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