

KESAVAN THANAGOPAL

CONTACT

 Department of Philosophy, 100 Malloy Hall, Notre Dame,
IN 46556, United States of America



kesavan.thanagopal@gmail.com

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH



TAMIL



KOREAN



MANDARIN



»» EDUCATION

September 2022 – Present

Ph.D. in Philosophy

University of Notre Dame, Indiana, United States of America

September 2019 – August 2022

M.A. in Philosophy (GPA: 4.19/4.33)

Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada

*Pro-Paper: Supererogation or Shupererogation?
An Epistemic Account of the Intuition Behind Heroic Acts*

Supervisor: Chelsea Rosenthal

October 2014 – July 2019

D.Phil. in Mathematics

University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

Thesis: On the Decidability of Finite Extensions of Decidable Fields

Supervisor: Jochen Koenigsmann

Examiners: Ehud Hrushovski (Internal), Angus Macintyre (External)

September 2013 – August 2014

M.A. in Logic and Philosophy of Mathematics (Distinction)

University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

Thesis: Approaching the Absolute – A Study of the Truly Infinite

Supervisor: Leon Horsten

Advisor: Kentaro Fujimoto

October 2012 – September 2013

M.Sc. in Mathematical Sciences (Distinction)

University of Durham, Durham, United Kingdom

Thesis: On the Analytic Class Number Formula for Quadratic Fields

Supervisor: Jens Funke

August 2008 – June 2012

B.Sc. in Mathematics (2nd Upper Class)

National University of Singapore, Singapore

»» ACADEMIC HONOURS

Summer 2021 **Philosophy Graduate Summer Fellowship**
Simon Fraser University

This fellowship is awarded to graduate students on a competitive basis to support their independent research over the summer term. The project involved modelling my account of “shupererogation” using the tools of deontic logic.

Summer 2020 **Philosophy Graduate Research Award**
Simon Fraser University

This award is granted to a registered graduate student who has written an excellent philosophical essay which demonstrates intellectual ability, originality and ability in research during the course of their graduate program in the Department of Philosophy. My winning essay was titled “The Nature of Hobbes’ Theory of Obligation”.

Fall 2019 **Special Graduate Entrance Scholarship**
Simon Fraser University

October 2014 –
September 2015 **Honorary Academic Staff (Philosophy)**
University of Bristol

August 2008 –
June 2012 **Ministry of Education Teaching Scholarship**
Ministry of Education, Singapore

»» REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

September 2021 **MANCEPT Workshops 2021**
Inclusive Democracies: New Challenges in the Ethics of Voting and Democratic Participation

Presented my paper entitled “Does One Have A Moral Obligation to Vote Strategically?”

»» PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

April 2022 **Chair in the Invited Symposium: Collective Responsibility**
APA Pacific Division Meeting 2022

Served as the chair of the invited symposium on Collective Responsibility at the APA Pacific Division’s meeting.

April 2022 **Comments on Asia Ferrin’s “Five Stages of Resistance”**
APA Pacific Division Meeting 2022

Provided commentary for Asia Ferrin’s “Five Stages of Resistance” as part of the colloquium on Power and Injustice.

September 2020 –
August 2022 **Organiser of Graduate Students’ Work-in-Progress Seminars**
Philosophy Department, Simon Fraser University

Organiser of the inaugural graduate students’ work-in-progress seminars. Seminars are held several times per term where graduate students get a chance to present their work to the graduate community.

May 2021 –
August 2022 **Founding Member and Organiser**
Minorities and Philosophy (MAP), Simon Fraser University Chapter

Founding member and organiser of the Simon Fraser University chapter of Minorities and Philosophy (MAP), an initiative that aims to examine and address issues of minority participation in academic philosophy.

November 2021 **Moderator**
Democracy in Our Backyard: Ethics Bowl on Issues in Local Governance

Served as a moderator for an ethics bowl co-organised by Simon Fraser University and the Strengthening Canadian Democracy program at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

February 2021, **Judge**
February 2020 Ethics Bowl Canada (Regional – British Columbia)
Served as a judge in the regional ethics bowl.

September 2020 – **Teaching Assistant Mentor for Graduate Students**
September 2021 Philosophy Department, Simon Fraser University

Served as a mentor for all graduate teaching assistants. Organised best-practices workshops and other teaching related discussion sessions to help new teaching assistants cope with teaching tutorials at the university. Due to the global pandemic, some of the sessions focused particularly on teaching in an online setting.

»» PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

September 2019 **The Teaching Orientation Program (TA/TM Day)**
Centre for Educational Excellence and Teaching Support Staff Union, Simon Fraser

Attended a 1-day teaching training programme that aims at improving one's teaching skills. Workshops attended throughout the day include sessions which aimed at increasing one's confidence in leading tutorial groups. The programme also strives to increase one's awareness of their teaching role, and provides resources to help support students from different background including those whose first language may not be English.

January 2017 – **Developing Learning and Teaching (DLT) Programme**
March 2017 Mathematical Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS) Division and the Learning Institute, University of Oxford

Developing Teaching and Learning (DLT) is a 6-week accredited programme for DPhil, postdoctoral researchers and college staff who are teaching at the university. By completing the programme, one earns the Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA) accreditation mapped at UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF) Descriptor 1 for Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education.

»» SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

September 2019 – **Teaching Assistant**
August 2022 Philosophy Department, Simon Fraser University

Courses:

PHIL 100W (Knowledge and Reality) Summer 2021, Spring 2021
PHIL 110 (Introduction to Logic and Reasoning) Fall 2021, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2019
PHIL 120W (Moral and Legal Problems) Spring 2020

Conducted tutorials in introductory courses in logic, moral and legal problems, as well as epistemology, metaphysics, and metaethics to mostly first year students in tutorial groups. Designed lesson plans specific to each tutorial group, prepared handouts, held discussion sessions and office hours, graded all written work including the final exams.

October 2017 – **Lecturer/ Tutor**
June 2018 Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford

Course: Numbers and Sets

Acted as lecturer for Foundation Year Students at Lady Margaret Hall. Designed the entire foundation year course structure, produced lecture notes, revision materials, and assignments, graded all written work including mock exams as well as the final exam.

October 2014 – **Tutor/ Teaching Assistant**
June 2018 Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford

Courses:

B1.1 Logic Michaelmas Terms 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014
B3.4 Algebraic Number Theory Hilary Terms 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

Taught graduating students at the Mathematical Institute. Designed revision materials as a teaching assistant, graded all written assignments including mock exams, analysed students' assignments to guide the tutor with developing lesson plans specific to each tutorial group. As a tutor, I served as a mentor to the teaching assistant who was working with me. Worked with my teaching assistant to better design lesson plans to cater to the specific students' needs.

»» SELECTED LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

September 2021 – **Graduate Students Society Councillor (Philosophy Caucus)**
August 2022 Simon Fraser University

Responsible for representing the philosophy graduate caucus in the Graduate Students Society (GSS), the central governing organisation of all graduate students at Simon Fraser University. The GSS is committed to receptive stewardship in order to provide relevant representation, advocacy, and services to our membership.

September 2021 – **Committee Member, Governance Committee**
August 2022 Graduate Students Society, Simon Fraser University

Responsible for reviewing and developing the Graduate Students Society (GSS) regulations, constitution, by-laws and all other policies that govern the society.

September 2020 – **Co-President, Philosophy Graduate Caucus**
August 2021 Simon Fraser University

Responsible for preparing the agenda and chairing the meetings of the caucus. Represented the caucus by raising relevant concerns of the community to the graduate chair. Coordinated and organised activities for the caucus, ensuring that all members are able to strike a good balance between their academic work as well as their social life.

September 2019 – **Treasurer, Philosophy Graduate Caucus**
August 2020 Simon Fraser University

Responsible for accurate book-keeping to ensure the caucus' financial status. Worked closely with the caucus president to organise social events for graduate students.

Summer 2014 – **Residential Assistant, International Programme**
Summer 2018 Hertford College, University of Oxford

Led a team of Hertford College students who were responsible for looking after and organizing extra-curricular activities for visiting high-school and university students and their accompanying staff from Japan and the United States.

»» SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

January 2022 – **Research Assistant**
April 2022 Department of Philosophy, Simon Fraser University

Will be working with Dr Bruno Guindon and Dr Thomas Donaldson to co-author a version of the Open Education Resource (OER) introductory textbook in formal logic, "forall x", that could be used to teach the PHIL 110 (Introduction to Logic and Reasoning) course at Simon Fraser University, under the joint funding of the Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines (ISTLD) and Department of Philosophy. Responsibilities include (but not limited to) tidying up the LaTeX code for the book, writing a "How to Guide" for future instructors to easily modify the book if necessary, improving and proof-reading the textbook, and converting lecture Powerpoint slides to Beamer that would accompany the textbook.

September 2021 – **Graduate Writing Facilitator**
August 2022 Student Learning Commons, Simon Fraser University

Responsible for providing individual and small group writing consultations for graduate students via email and in-person and/or through video conferencing. Responsible for providing feedback on graduate student drafts of academic writing. Developed and delivered writing workshops for graduate students, and undertaken some short-term projects to develop and/or improve writing resources offered within the Student Learning Commons.

October 2018 – **Research Assistant**
August 2019 Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford

Worked with Prof Jieun Kiaer, a linguist, on many of her on-going projects and collaborations. Tasks included editing chapters on her books to be published, leading group discussions during focus groups, transcribing recordings obtained during said focus groups, editing research proposals to be submitted to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to obtain funding for projects, as well as preparing and editing slides for public engagement events.

April 2017 – **Student Consultant**
June 2017 The Student Consultancy (TSC), University of Oxford

Led a team of student consultants to work with a local organisation (our clients) to tackle an issue identified by them (due to the nature of the project, details of this project cannot be disclosed). Analysed data from the Office of National Statistics to identify key locations that the client can focus on to increase their portfolio. Presented findings and recommendations to the board members and stakeholders at the end of the project.

»» **SELECTED VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

November 2011 – **Editor and Writer, “WTF Zine”**
November 2012 Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE), Singapore

Conducted research into sex and sexual education in Singapore, and led a team of volunteers and members from AWARE to develop and publish an online magazine (<https://www.wtfzine.sg/>) targeted at secondary and tertiary education students in order to raise awareness of sexual issues among youths in Singapore.

»» **MILITARY SERVICE**

January 2006 – **Sergeant**
November 2007 Republic of Singapore Airforce, Singapore

Trained as a section commander at the School of Infantry Specialists (SISPEC) before being posted to the Air Force School, to be trained as an Air Defence Artillery Specialist.