

# Julien Murzi

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## Areas of specialization

Philosophy of Logic, Philosophy of Language

## Areas of competence

Epistemology, Logic, Metaphysics

## Education

PhD in Philosophy, University of Sheffield, 2009 (expected). Dissertation: *"Intuitionism and Logical Revision"*. Supervisors: Prof. Bob Hale and Dr. Dominic Gregory.

PhD in Philosophy, University of Rome "La Sapienza", June 2008. Dissertation: *"The Paradox of Knowability"*. Supervisors: Prof. Cesare Cozzo and Prof. Carlo Cellucci. External examiner: Prof. Gabriele Usberti.

MA in Philosophy, with Distinction (*Summa Cum Laude*), University of Rome "La Sapienza", July 2004. Dissertation: *"Some Dispositional Solutions to Kripke-Wittgenstein's Sceptical Paradox"*. Supervisors: Prof. Cesare Cozzo and Prof. Tito Magri.

## Positions held

*Teaching Fellow*: October 2008 – February 2009, University of Sheffield.

*Arché Visiting Student*: March – June 2008, University of St Andrews.

*First Year Teaching Assistant*: March 2007 – February 2008, University of Sheffield.

*Graduate Research Fellow*: October 2006 – present, University of Sheffield.

*Arché Visiting Student*: March – July 2006, University of St Andrews.

*Visiting Scholar*: September – December 2005, St Louis University.

*Graduate Research Fellow*: October 2004 – October 2007, University of Rome "La Sapienza".

## Teaching Experience

1. Autumn 2008. PHI 335, 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate/MA course in the Philosophy of Language. Title of the course: *Realism and Anti-realism*. Department of Philosophy, University of Sheffield. I designed and planned the course. I wrote and gave all the 22 lectures. I also run weekly seminars. I had one-to-one meetings with students to discuss their essays drafts, and I will mark all course essays and exams.
2. Autumn-Spring 2007. 1<sup>st</sup> year tutor at the Department of Philosophy, University of Sheffield. I have tutored for the following first year courses:
  - PHI 121: Knowledge, Justification and Doubt (Autumn 2007).
  - PHI 115: Reason and Argument (Autumn 2007).
  - PHI 126: Mind, Brain, and Personal Identity (Spring 2007).

## Research

I specialize in the philosophies of logic and language, but I also have serious interests in epistemology and metaphysics—especially in the realism/anti-realism debate.

My thesis in Sheffield is on the topic of intuitionistic logical revision. I examine four main arguments for the adoption of intuitionistic logic: the so-called Basic Revisionary Argument, the Church-Fitch Paradox of Knowability, Dummett's and Prawitz's Argument from Proof-Theoretic Constraints, and Dummett's argument from Indefinite Extensibility. The main thesis I wish to defend is that, even granting the intuitionist her key metaphysical and semantic assumptions, none of these arguments provides, on its own, compelling reasons for rejecting classical logic in favour of intuitionistic logic. My future work will focus on logical inferentialism and proof-theory. I am seeking to give a unified account of a host of fundamental problems concerning logic, stretching from epistemological ones (how do we know, if at all, logical truths?) to semantic ones (what is the meaning of the logical constants?). The aim of my project is to motivate and defend an inferentialist approach to the meanings of the logical constants (both intuitionistic and classical), and to provide a related proof-theoretical account of logical consequence. Some objections—categoricity, the McGee-like examples, circularity—will be discussed along the way.

My Italian PhD thesis critically discusses some recent solutions to the Paradox of Knowability, especially on the intuitionistic ones. I argue that the Paradox poses a serious problem for Michael Dummett's semantic anti-realism, and I provide new reasons for doubting the tenability of the intuitionistic approach to the Paradox, as defended by Timothy Williamson and, more recently, by Dummett himself.

Other research interests include topics in the philosophy of language proper, such as the semantics of future contingents, and the temporalism/eternalism debate, i.e. the question whether propositions may change their truth-values over time.

## Papers in peer-reviewed journals

1. "Knowability and Bivalence" - forthcoming in *Philosophical Studies*.
2. "Inferentialism and the Categoricity Problem: Reply to Raatikainen" (with Ole T. Hjortland) - forthcoming in *Analysis* 69(3).
3. "The Paradox of Idealisation" (with S. Florio) - forthcoming in *Analysis* 69(3).
4. "How Basic is the Basic Revisionary Argument?" (with L. Incurvati) - 2008, *Analysis* 68(4), pp. 303–309.

## Papers in conference proceedings, editions, and book entries

1. "Church's Referee Reports on Fitch's 'A Definition of Value'" (with J. Salerno) - forthcoming in J. Salerno (ed.) *New Essays on the Knowability Paradox*, Oxford University Press.
2. "Knowledge, Lotteries and Vagueness" - forthcoming in P. Hanna (ed.), *Proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Philosophy*, Athens.
3. "Intuitionism" - forthcoming in *Key Terms in Logic*, J. Williamson and F. Russo (eds), Continuum Books.
4. "Do We Really Need Relativism About Truth?" - 2006, in G. Gasser, C. Kanzian, and E. Runggaldier (eds), *Proceedings of the XXIX Wittgenstein Symposium*, ALWS, Kirchberg am Wechsel, pp. 210–12.

## Publications in Italian

1. "The Realism/Anti-Realism Debate and the Intuitionistic Solution to the Knowability Paradox" (with L. Incurvati) - 2007, in C. Tatasciore, P. Graziani, C. Grimaldi (eds.), *Prospettive Filosofiche: Il Realismo*, Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici, Napoli, pp. 99-113.
2. Review of Jonathan Kvanvig, *The Paradox of Knowability* - 2006, **2R**, vol 1., pp. 96-110.

## Drafts and Submitted Papers

1. "From Rules to Consequence: Logical Inferentialism for Classical Logicians"
2. "The Church-Fitch Paradox and the Problem of Transworld Knowability".
3. "Coming True. A Note on Truth, Actuality and Temporalism" (with R. Dietz).
4. "Actuality in Branching Time" (with R. Dietz).
5. "Assertion, Denial and Negation" (with O. T. Hjortland).
6. "Eternalism Disproved?"

## External Talks

1. October 2008, *St Andrews*: "Inferentialism and the Categoricity Problem", Arché, St Andrews.
2. June 2008, *Canterbury*: "Knowability and Bivalence", BPPC, University of Kent. (Best paper of the 2008 edition of the BPPA.)
3. January 2008, *Cambridge*: "The Paradox of Idealisation", Graduate Conference on the Philosophies of Logic and Mathematics. Commentator: Luca Incurvati.
4. December 2007, *Baltimore*: "The Paradox of Idealisation" (with S. Florio), Eastern Division of the APA. Commentator: Joe Salerno.
5. November 2007, *Oxford*: "The Paradox of Idealisation", 11<sup>th</sup> Oxford Graduate Conference. Commentator: Tim Williamson.
6. November 2007, *Paris*: "Actuality in Branching Time", *Context-Dependence, Perspective and Relativity in Language and Thought*, Ecole Normale Supérieure and Institut Jean Nicod.
7. November 2007, *St Andrews*: "How Basic is the Basic Revisionary Argument?" (with L. Incurvati), 4<sup>th</sup> Arché/CSMM Graduate Conference. Commentator: Marcus Rossberg.
8. September 2007, *Bergamo*: "Actuality in Branching Time", International Conference on the Metaphysics of Time, University of Bergamo.
9. July 2007, *Norwich*: "The Paradox of Idealisation", Annual Conference of the BPPA, University of East Anglia.
10. July 2007, *Bristol*: "The Paradox of Idealisation", Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and of the Mind Association, University of Bristol.
11. July 2007, *Leeds*: "The Paradox of Idealisation", Second Graduate Conference of the CMM, Center for the Metaphysics and Mind, University of Leeds.
12. June 2007, *Athens*: "Lotteries, Knowledge and Vagueness", International Philosophy Conference.
13. April 2007, *San Francisco*: "The Church-Fitch Paradox and the Problem of Transworld Knowability", Pacific Division of the APA. Commentator: Roy Cook.
14. January 2007, *Geneva*: "Church-Fitch, Idealisation and Knowability" (invited talk).
15. January 2007, *Miami*: "Lotteries, Knowledge and Vagueness", International Graduate Conference in Epistemology, University of Miami. Commentator: Ben Burgis.
16. December 2006, *Washington DC*: "Lotteries, Knowledge and Vagueness", SRAD, Society for the Realist and Anti-Realist Discussion, Eastern Division of the APA.
17. September 2006, *Aix-en-Provence*: "The Church-Fitch Paradox and the Problem of Transworld Knowability", SOPHA, International Meeting of the French Society for Analytical Philosophy.
18. August 2006, *Kirchberg am Wechsel*: "Do We Really Need Relativism about Truth?" Cultures: Conflict-Analysis-Dialog, XXIX International Wittgenstein Symposium.
19. June 2006, *Nancy*: "Possible Knowledge of Actual Truths", Réalisme(s) et Anti-Réalisme(s), International Philosophy Conference, University of Nancy 2.

20. June 2006, *Lisbon*: "Possible Knowledge of Actual Truths", ENFA, Portuguese National Conference for Analytic Philosophy.

### Internal Talks

1. October 2008, *Sheffield*: "Inferentialism and the Categoricity Problem", Graduate Seminar, University of Sheffield.
2. May 2008, *St Andrews*: "Assertion, Denial and Negation" (with O. T. Hjortland), University of St Andrews, Core Seminar, Arché.
3. May 2008, *St Andrews*: "Assertion, Denial and Negation", University of Sheffield, Graduate Seminar, Arché.
4. March 2008, *Sheffield*: "Harmony and Multiple Conclusions", Graduate Seminar.
5. October 2007, *Sheffield*: "How Basic is the Basic Revisionary Argument?" (with Luca Incurvati), Graduate Seminar.
6. February 2007, *Sheffield*: "Eternalism Undermined?", Graduate Seminar, University of Sheffield.
7. December 2006, *Sheffield*: "Knowledge, Lotteries and Vagueness", University of Sheffield.
8. October 2006, *Sheffield*: "The Church-Fitch Paradox and the Problem of Transworld Knowability", Graduate Seminar, University of Sheffield.
9. July 2006, *St Andrews*: "All Truths are Known? A New Defence of an Old Solution to the Church-Fitch Paradox", University of Saint Andrews, Arché.
10. June 2006, *St Andrews*: University of Saint Andrews: "Branching Future, Absolute Truth", University of Saint Andrews, Arché.

### Other Activities

1. July 2007, *Ovronnaz* (CH): Comments on Fabian Dorsch's, "The Ontology of Artworks", École Doctorale Romande, Metaphysics Workshop.
2. September 2005, *Barcelona*: Official Discussant, 'Relativizing Utterance Truth', LOGOS, International Workshop.

### Grants and Awards

- 2008-9: Annual Scholarship, University of Sheffield (worth 13.400 £).
- 2008-9: Teaching Scholarship, University of Sheffield (worth 7.000 £).
- 2008: "Knowability and Bivalence" nominated best paper of the 2008 edition of the BPPC.
- 2007-8: Royal Institute of Philosophy, annual bursary (worth 2.500 £).
- 2007: Winner of a Travel Stipend Award at the Eastern APA, Baltimore, with the paper "The Paradox of Idealisation" (worth 300 \$).
- 2006-7: Perfectionment Grant, University of Rome "La Sapienza" (worth 15.000 €).
- 2006-9: Fee Waiver, University of Sheffield.
- 2004-2007: PhD maintenance grant from the University of Rome "La Sapienza" (worth 38.000 €).

### Professional Service

Journal Referee: *Dialectica*, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, *Synthese*.

### **Professional Memberships**

Member of the Aristotelian Society since 2007.

Member of the APA (American Philosophical Association) since 2006.

Member of the SIFA (Società Italiana di Filosofia Analitica) since 2004.

### **References**

Prof. Bob Hale, University of Sheffield, r.hale@sheffield.ac.uk

Dr. Dominic Gregory, University of Sheffield, d.gregory@sheffield.ac.uk

Prof. Stephen Read, University of St Andrews, slr@st-andrews.ac.uk

Dr. Martin Smith, University of St Glasgow, mjs@st-andrews.ac.uk

Prof. Berit Brogaard, ANU/University of Missouri, b.brogaard@gmail.com

Prof. Joe Salerno, ANU/Saint Louis University, knowability@gmail.com

Prof. Cesare Cozzo, University of Rome "La Sapienza", md1919@mclink.it