

Hrafn Asgeirsson

Senior Lecturer (Associate Prof.) in Philosophy and Law
Co-Director, Surrey Centre for Law and Philosophy
University of Surrey, School of Law
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EMPLOYMENT

Senior Lecturer (eq. of Associate Professor) in Philosophy and Law, University of Surrey, School of Law, Sept 2016–present
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Iceland (IRF grant), Jan 2014–Sept 2016
Adjunct Lecturer (Law), Bifrost Univ., June 2010–June 2015
Part-Time Lecturer (Philosophy), U. of Iceland, Aug 2013–June 2016
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Monash University, Faculty of Law, July 2012–June 2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D., *Philosophy*, University of Southern California, May 2012 (Advisor: Andrei Marmor)
B.A., First Class with Distinction, *Philosophy*, University of Iceland, June 2005

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My main interests lie in Philosophy of Law and a broad range of related areas, including – especially – Philosophy of Language and Metaethics.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, U. of Surrey, Pump-priming Award (to forge links in legal theory, and beyond, with Peking U., School of Transnational Law), 2020
Institute for Advanced Study, U. of Surrey, Visiting Fellowship Award (to host Prof. Norman P. Ho (Peking U., School of Transnational Law)), 2019
H.L.A. Hart Visiting Fellowship, Oxford Centre for Ethics and Philosophy of Law, Hilary Term 2015
Icelandic Research Fund, Postdoctoral Research Grant: *The Pro Tanto View About Legal Content*. 2014-17. Proposal rated A.1 “Exceptionally strong”
Winner of the Australian Society for Legal Philosophy (ASLP) Annual Essay Competition, 2011. “Vagueness and Power-Delegation in Law: A Reply to Sorensen.”
USC Provost’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Fall 2011–Spring 2012

PUBLICATIONS

The Nature and Value of Vagueness in the Law (Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2020)

- “The Sorites Paradox in Practical Philosophy,” in E. Zardini and S. Oms (eds.), *The Sorites Paradox* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019), pp. 229–245
- “On the Possibility of Non-Literal Legislative Speech,” in A. Capone & F. Poggi (eds.), *Pragmatics and Law: Theoretical and Practical Perspectives* (Dordrecht: Springer, 2017), pp. 67–101
- “Can Legal Practice Adjudicate Between Theories of Vagueness?” in R. Poscher and G. Keil (eds.), *Vagueness and Law: Philosophical and Legal Perspectives* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), pp. 95–126
- “Expected Applications, Contextual Enrichment, and Objective Communicative Content: The Linguistic Case for Conception-Textualism,” *Legal Theory* 21 (2015): 115–135
- “On the Instrumental Value of Vagueness in the Law,” *Ethics* 125:2 (2015): 425–448
- “From the Nature of Things to Nature Itself: The Philosophy of Ólafur Páll Jónsson,” in G. Malenfant and J. Dagsson (eds.), *Heimspæki – For the Wisdom of the World: Inquiring into Contemporary Icelandic Philosophy* (University of Iceland Press, 2015)
- “Vagueness and Power-Delegation in Law: A Reply to Sorensen,” in M. Freeman and F. Smith (eds.), *Current Legal Issues: Law and Language* (Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 344–355
- “Vagueness, Comparative Value, and the ‘Lawmakers’ Challenge,” *Archiv für Rechts- & Sozialphilosophie* 98:3 (2012): 299–316

WORK UNDER REVIEW

- “A Puzzle About Vagueness, Reasons, and Judicial Discretion”
- “Reasons for Treating Something as a Reason for Action”

WORK IN PROGRESS

Authority, Communication, and Legal Content (monograph)

EDITORIAL WORK

Gylfason, Thorsteinn. *Sal og mal* [Language and Mind] (ed. Hrafn Asgeirsson) (Reykjavik: Mal og menning / Edda – Publishing, 2006).

TRANSLATIONS

- Wacks, Raymond. *Lögspeki í hnótskurn* [Philosophy of Law: A Very Short Introduction] (transl. Hrafn Asgeirsson). To be published by The Icelandic Literary Society. English into Icelandic
- Gylfason, Thorsteinn. “Tulkun eda skilningur,” [Interpretation or Understanding?] (transl. Hrafn Asgeirsson). In Thorsteinn Gylfason, *Sal og mal* [Language and Mind] (ed. Hrafn Asgeirsson) (Reykjavik: Mal og menning / Edda – Publishing, 2006). English into Icelandic

INVITED TALKS

- “Can We Dispense with Legal Ontology?”
Law and Philosophy Group seminar, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Jan 2020
- “Can We Dispense with Legal Ontology?”
Surrey Centre for Law and Philosophy, Hart Seminar Series, University of Surrey School of Law, Nov 2019
- “Can We Dispense with Legal Ontology?”
Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell University, Nov 2019
- “Authority, Communication, and Legal Content”
2019 IVR Congress, Lucerne, July 2019
- “Authority, Communication, and Legal Content”
III Lisbon Meeting on Legal Theory, University of Lisbon, School of Law, June 2019
- “Authority, Communication, and Legal Content”
Legal Theory Festival, University of Edinburgh, School of Law, May 2019
- “Authority, Communication, and Legal Content”
Law and Metaphysics series, University of Glasgow, School of Law, October 2018
- “The Pro Tanto Account of Legal Content”
Oxford Jurisprudence Discussion Group, University of Oxford, October 2017
- “Reasons for Treating Something as a Reason for Action”
New Directions in Philosophy of Law, University of Oxford, July 2017
- “A Puzzle About Vagueness, Reasons, and Judicial Discretion”
CSMN workshop on law and language, University of Oslo, October 2016
- “Can Legal Practice Adjudicate Between Theories of Vagueness?”
Staff seminar, University of Surrey, School of Law, April 2016
- “A Puzzle About Vagueness, Knowability, and Judicial Discretion”
Colloquium, University of Girona, Legal Philosophy Research Group, February 2016
- “Can Legal Practice Adjudicate Between Theories of Vagueness?”
Colloquium, LOGOS Research Group, University of Barcelona, February 2016
- “A Puzzle About Vagueness, Knowability, and Judicial Discretion”
Colloquium, Pompeu Fabra University, Law and Philosophy Research Group, February 2016
- “A Puzzle About Vagueness, Knowability, and Judicial Discretion”
Special Workshop on the Normativity of Law, IVR 2015 (Wash., D.C.), July 2015
- “Can Legal Practice Adjudicate Between Theories of Vagueness?”
Workshop in Semantics and Philosophy of Language, University of Chicago, April 2015

- “Can Legal Practice Adjudicate Between Theories of Vagueness?”
Colloquium, Georgetown University Law Center, April 2015
- “Can Legal Practice Adjudicate Between Theories of Vagueness?”
Oxford Jurisprudence Discussion Group, University of Oxford, January 2015
- “Can Legal Practice Adjudicate Between Theories of Vagueness?”
Legal Theory Seminar, University of Edinburgh, January 2015
- “A Few Words on Meaning and Expression in Language and Music”
Disko Bay Sessions for Contemporary Music and Theatre, Oqaatsut, Greenland, August 2014
- “Can Legal Practice Adjudicate Between Theories of Vagueness?”
Reykjavik Summer Philosophy Workshop, July 2014
- “Textualism and Pragmatic Enrichment”
Colloquium, Institute of Law and Institute of Philosophy, University of Iceland, May 2014
- “On the Instrumental Value of Vagueness in the Law”
Department of Philosophy, San Francisco State University, April 2014
- “On the Instrumental Value of Vagueness in the Law”
Blurred Boundaries conference, Hannover, Germany, April 2013
- “On the Possibility of Non-Literal Legislative Speech”
Monash Workshop on Law and Language, December 2012
- “On the Instrumental Value of Vagueness in the Law”
Department of Philosophy, Monash University, September 2012
- “Textualism and the Objective Communicative Content Theory of Law”
The Australian Society for Legal Philosophy Annual Conference, Macquarie University, July 2012
- “Textualism and the Objective Communicative Content Theory of Law”
CSMN Workshop on the Pragmatics of Legal Language, Center for the Study of Mind in Nature (CSMN), University of Oslo, Norway, May 2012
- “Vagueness, Necessity, and Instrumental Value”
CSMN Colloquium Series, Center for the Study of Mind in Nature (CSMN), University of Oslo, Norway, December 2011
- “Does the law ever assert something other than what it literally says?”
CSMN Language and Rationality seminar, Center for the Study of Mind in Nature (CSMN), University of Oslo, Norway, December 2011
- “Does the law ever assert something other than what it literally says?”
Colloquium Series, Center for Law and Cosmopolitan Values, University of Antwerpen, Belgium, December 2011

“Vagueness, Comparative Value, and the ‘Lawmakers’ Challenge’”
13th International Conference on AI and Law, Workshop on Artificial Intelligence, Coherence
and Judicial Reasoning, University of Pittsburgh, School of Law, June 2011

“Some Remarks on the Value of Vagueness for Law”
Mini-Symposium on Vagueness and Law, University of Iceland, March 2011

“Some Remarks on the Value of Vagueness for Law”
Faculty of Law Colloquium, Bifrost University, March 2011

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“A Puzzle About Vagueness, Reasons, and Judicial Discretion”
International Workshop on Reason-Giving in Law, European University Institute, Florence,
April 2017

“A Puzzle About Vagueness, Knowability, and Judicial Discretion”
Aristotelian Society Open Sessions, Cardiff University, July 2016

“A Puzzle About Vagueness, Knowability, and Judicial Discretion”
Legal Philosophy Workshop, University of Edinburgh, June 2015

“Vagueness and Power-Delegation in Law: A Reply to Sorensen”
16th UCL Current Legal Issues Colloquium: Law & Language, University College London, July
2011

“Vagueness and Legal Reasons”
SDSU Stephen L. Weber Graduate Conference in Ethics, April 2011

“Vagueness and Legal Reasons”
Graduate Conference for Legal Theory, McMaster University, March 2010

“Vagueness, Comparative Value, and the ‘Lawmakers’ Challenge’”
2nd International Conference on Quantitative Aspects of Justice and Fairness: Proportionality
and Justice, European University Institute (EUI), Florence, February 2011

“Pragmatic Enrichment and Some Consequences for Law”
CSMN Roundtable on Language and Law, Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature (CSMN),
University of Oslo, Norway, June 2008

OTHER TALKS (COMMENTARY, ETC)

Commentator on Ezequiel Monti (KCL/Universidad Torcuato Di Tella), “On the Moral Impact
Theory of Legal Obligations,” Oxford/Surrey Conference on New Directions in Philosophy
of Law, University of Surrey, July 2019

Commentator on Julie Dickson (Oxford), “Does it matter where we start?,” John Gardner
symposium, University of Oxford, March 2018

TEACHING

University of Surrey

Fall 2019

Law and Contemporary Social Issues (UG, module/course design, lectures/seminars)
Introduction to Tort Law (UG, tutorials)

Fall 2018

Introduction to Tort Law (UG, tutorials)
Jurisprudence I (UG, tutorials)

Fall 2017

Introduction to Tort Law (UG, tutorials)
Jurisprudence I (UG, tutorials)

Spring 2017

Tort II (UG, tutorials)

Fall 2016

Tort I (UG, tutorials)
Jurisprudence I (UG, tutorials)

University of Iceland

Sources of Law and Statutory Interpretation, Spring 2016 (masters-level, lectures)
Introduction to Logic, Spring 2014 & Spring 2016 (UG, module/course design, all teaching)
Applied Ethics, Fall 2013 (masters-level, lectures)

Bjfrst University, Iceland

Philosophy of Law, intensive seminar, Summer 2012, 2013, 2014, & 2015 (master)
Seminar in Legal Philosophy, intensive seminar, January 2014
Seminar in Legal Philosophy, intensive seminar, January–February 2012
Introduction to Logic, intensive seminar, June–July 2010

OTHER RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

Rector's Office, University of Iceland, April–June 2006
Project Manager for the University of Iceland Youth Program (summer educational project)

REFEREEING

Mind ×1; *Legal Theory* ×1; *Ratio Juris* ×1; *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* ×1; *Jurisprudence* ×2; *Erkenntnis* ×1; *Rules* ×2; *Argumentation: International Conference on Alternative Methods of Argumentation in Law* ×2; *Canadian Journal of Linguistics* ×1; *UCLA/USC Graduate Conference* ×2; *Hugur* ×1

EXTERNAL EXAMINER/READER

King's College, external examiner for 2 LLB (UG) modules, Jan 2019–present; Humboldt University, 2017 (PhD dissertation)

ADMINISTRATION

Co-Director, Surrey Centre for Law and Philosophy, 2019–present; Director of PhD admissions, 2016–present; School of Law representative for a €200,000 research network by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), involving research centres in Kraków, Paris, Milan, Zagreb, and Surrey; Host/organizer for U. of Surrey IAS visiting fellowship, 2019; TECHNE steering committee member, U. of Surrey, 2019–present

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

Surrey Workshop on Recent Work on Consent, September 2019; Surrey/Jagiellonian Workshop on Law, Language, and Social Ontology, June 2019; Surrey Law and Philosophy Book Symposium, September 2018; Surrey Workshop on Legal Interpretation, June 2018; Surrey Workshop on Recent Work in Law and Philosophy (Brooklyn, NY), January 2018; Surrey Workshop on Recent Work in Law and Metaethics, December 2017; Edinburgh Workshop in Law and Metaphysics, June 2017; Surrey Workshop on Law, Language, and Normativity, January 2017; CUNY/University of Iceland Workshop on Philosophy of Law, May 2016; Reykjavik Summer Philosophy Workshop, July 2014; Monash Workshop on Law and Language, December 2012

OTHER

Associated Faculty, Surrey Centre for Law and Philosophy; Early Career Researcher mentor at U. of Surrey ×1

REFERENCES

Andrei Marmor
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University of Oxford
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