JESSICA SUTHERLAND

Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL
jessica.sutherland@warwick.ac.uk | jsutherland.philosophy@hotmail.com
https://jessicasutherland.co.uk

AOS: Applied Ethics, AI Ethics, Political Philosophy
AOC: Normative Ethics, Metaethics, Feminist Philosophy

CURRENT POSITIONS

Sep 2023-Present   **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**   **Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick**

I am currently a research fellow on various projects including the Horizon-funded projects, Knowledge Technologies for Democracy (KT4D) which explores how AI and big data pose a threat, or create opportunities, for democracies, KEEPCARING which develops an AI-assisted solution package to (re)build resilience and mental wellbeing in the EU Health and Care workforce, and NewWorkTech which enhances the work-related capacities of both individuals with disabilities and the general workforce, focusing on technology-mediated tasks and interactions. I also work on the Ethics in Policy Deliberation project which provides a structured method for thinking through how issues of ethics and fairness bear on decisions made by local governments.

Dec 2018-Present   **Research Assistant**   **#EverydayLookism and Beauty Demands Project**

In my current role, I support Professor Heather Widdows in tasks relating to research impact. This includes social media and website management, content creation for the #EverydayLookism campaign, collecting quantitative and qualitative data to show research impact, and co-authoring blog posts related to the campaign.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Jul 2023-Feb 2025   **Research Assistant**   **Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Media, De Montfort University**

I assisted on the Horizon-funded project SHARESPACE. I worked as part of a multidisciplinary team to advise on the ethical aspects of developing new technology to enable social interaction in Extended Reality Shared Hybrid Spaces using an Ethics by Design approach.

Feb 2024-Apr 2024   **Visiting Lecturer**   **School of Theology and Philosophy, Birmingham Newman University**

Jun 2023-Jun 2023   **Research Assistant**   **School of Law, University of Birmingham**
Aug 2020-Sep 2021

Nov 2022-Feb 2023   **Research Associate**   **Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, University of Birmingham**

Apr 2021-Jul 2021   **Social Research Intern**   **Home Office, Civil Service**
Funding: Midlands4Cities Studentship Extension (detailed in funding awarded)

EDUCATION

2019-2024   PhD Global Ethics   University of Birmingham
Thesis Title: Are They to Blame? An Examination of the Moral Responsibility of Current and Former Child Soldiers
Minor corrections accepted Jan 2024, graduated Jul 2024.
Supervisors: Dr Jussi Suikkanen, Professor Lisa Bortolotti, and Professor Victor Tadros
Funding: AHRC Midlands4Cities Doctoral Training Partnership (detailed in funding awarded)

2018-2019   MRes Philosophy   University of Birmingham
Thesis Title: Requests and Entreaties in Humanitarian Intervention
Supervisors: Dr Jonathan Parry and Dr Iain Law
Pass with no corrections, Sep 2019, graduated Dec 2019.
Funding: College of Arts and Law Masters Scholarship, University of Birmingham (detailed in funding awarded)

2015-2018   BA Philosophy, Religion, and   University of Birmingham
**   Ethics**
First-Class (Honours)

TEACHING

Qualifications

Apr 2024	**Fellowship**	**Higher Education Academy**
Mar 2023	**Associate Fellowship**	**Higher Education Academy**
Jul 2021	**HEFi Horizon Award for Postgraduate Teachers**	**University of Birmingham**

Experience

Feb 2024-Apr 2024   Visiting Lecturer   Birmingham Newman University
Lecturing and leading seminars on topics in applied ethics and philosophy of mind.

Nov 2023   Guest Lecturer   De Montfort University
Lecturing on the ethics of AI and robotics for undergraduate students in the School of Computer Science and Informatics.

Feb 2023-Jun 2023   Postgraduate Teaching Assistant   University of Birmingham
Feb 2022-Jul 2022
Teaching small group seminars in philosophy of ~25 students and essay marking on the following module:
• *22/23 Moral and Political Philosophy*
• *21/22 Problems of Philosophy*
• *21/22 Moral and Political Philosophy*

Jun 2019-Sep 2019   MOOC Co-Creator   University of Birmingham, Future Learn
During my time as a research assistant to Professor Heather Widdows, I assisted in the creation of an online module titled *Perfect Me: Understanding the Beauty Ideal.* [~2000 learners].

PUBLICATONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

• Sutherland, J. (2024). Perpetrator disgust as the embodiment of guilt in morally complex cases. Philosophical Psychology. https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2024.2367081 [commentary on Ditte Marie Munch-Jurisic's *Perpetrator Disgust: The moral limits of gut feelings*. Munch-Jurisic's reply is here: https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2024.2422943]

• Sutherland, J. (2023). The Spectrum of Liability to Defensive Harm and the Case of Child Soldiers. *Res Publica.* https://doi.org/10.1007/s11158-023-09636-w

Book Reviews

• Sutherland, J. (2024). A Holistic Account of Subjective Wellbeing. Review of Fabian, M. A Theory of Subjective Wellbeing. *Philosophical Psychology.* https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2024.2352551

Conference Proceedings

• Bryson, K., Sutherland, J. & Richardson, K. (2025). Five Reality Types: The Embedded Ethicist in VR and Mixed Reality Platforms. In: Nakamatsu, K., Kountcheva, R. & Patnaik, S. (eds). *Recent Trends of AI Technologies and Virtual Reality: Proceedings of 8th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality (AIVR 2024), July 2024, Fukuoka, Japan.* Singapore: Springer. https://link.springer.com/book/9789819611539

• Bryson, K., Sutherland, J. & Richardson, K. (2024). The Unfaithful Copy: Performed AI 'Personhood' in Mixed Reality Platforms. In: Helin, K., Michael-Grigoriou, D., Katika, T., Schiavi, B. & Tsaknaki, E. (eds) *EuroXR 2024: Proceedings of the 21st EuroXR International Conference, November 2024, Athens, Greece.* Finland: VTT. pp.131-137. https://publications.vtt.fi/pdf/technology/2024/T432.pdf

Project Deliverables

• Knowledge Technologies for Democracy
    • Hyams, K., Sutherland, J., Ojanen, A., Björk, A., Bettiol, A., Francis, K., Kuyoh, W. & Hanafy, R. Social Risk Toolkit.

• SHARESPACE
    • Richardson, K., Bryson, K. & Sutherland, J. Ethical Framework.
    • Richardson, K., Sutherland, J. & Bryson, K. Ethical Evaluation.

In Preparation

• 'Who Are You to Call Me Responsible?': Solving the Puzzle of Strawsonian Moral Responsibility and Standing to Blame *(in progress)*

• What is Blame? Developing a Unified Account *(in progress)*

• Epistemic Harms and Artificial Intelligence. With Keith Hyams. *(in progress)*

• AI in Democratic Deliberation. With Keith Hyams. *(in progress)*

POLICY

Written Parliamentary Committee Evidence

• Hyams, K. & Sutherland, J. (2024). *Social Media, Misinformation and Harmful Algorithms*.

• Hyams, K. & Sutherland, J. (2024). *Defending Democracy.*
    • Press release from the KT4D project available here.

• Hyams, K. & Sutherland, J. (2024). *Use of Artificial Intelligence in Government.*
    • Press release from the KT4D project available here.

• Hyams, K. & Sutherland, J. (2024). *The Role of Human Rights in the UK Democratic Process*.

Policy Briefs

• Richardson, K., Sutherland, J & Bryson, K. (2024). Ethics by Design: A Roadmap for Good Enough Ethics.

• Byskov, M., Hyams, K., Lee, J., Sutherland, J. & Ziervogel, G. (2024). A Framework for Ethical Deliberation in Municipal Planning and Management. Full toolkit including explainer videos available here.

Citations

• With Widdows, H. Research cited by the Mental Health Foundation, *in Image Editing Apps and Mental Health: Briefing on reducing the influence of the commercial determinants of health.*

Advisory

• Assisted the Archbishop of Coventry ahead of a select committee inquiry on autonomous weapons systems.

Training

• AHRC Institute for Government Engaging with Government 2025.

OUTREACH

• Jul 2023. Year 10 Campus Visit - Conspiratorial Ideation and Pathological Belief, University of Birmingham. *Leading a session for ~ 50 14-15-years old students on the philosophy of conspiracy theories.*

• Jul 2023. UNIFEST Summer School Academic Session Leader, University of Birmingham. *Leading an academic taster session for ~50 year 10 students (14-15-year-olds) on the philosophy of conspiracy theories.*

• Jul 2022 & Jul 2023. Access to Birmingham Seminar Leader, University of Birmingham *Teaching an Access to Birmingham (A2B) seminar to ~15 incoming students with little or no experience of higher education titled 'Hell and the Argument from Justice'.*

• Feb 2024, Feb 2025. Philosothon Judge, Midlands Philosothon, King Edward's School, Birmingham

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Podcast
• I am a co-founder and host of *Democracy:Differently*, a podcast about democratic innovation and challenges to democracy. We publish new episodes bi-weekly from July 2025.

Talks

• Nov 2024. Democracy in the Age of AI. *ESRC Festival of Social Sciences, University of Warwick.* Recording available here (18:00 – 36:30), and press release.

• May 2023. Why Do We Blame? *Pint of Science Festival, Birmingham.*

• Mar 2023. Arts Matters: Meet our PhD Researchers. *University of Birmingham.* (online) Recording available here.

Articles

• 2023-2025. #EverydayLookism Blog Series. With Heather Widdows. *Psychology Today.* [>48 000 reads]
> • The Showgirl Without her War Paint
> • Million Dollar Smiles
> • Is 'The Substance' Really a Feminist Film?
> • Netflix's 'Uglies': a Yassified Dystopia
> • Social Media and Unrealistic Beauty Ideals
> • Making Up to Make the Grade
> • Bustles and Butt Lifts: What Won't We Do for Beauty?
> • Baby-Faced: The Rise of Children Using Anti-aging Products
> • Picture Perfect? Mental Health, Social Media, and Body Image
> • Netflix's 'Uglies': a Yassified Dystopia
> • Will Weight-Loss Drugs Change our Ideal Bodies?
> • AI Confirms our Unrealistic Body Ideals

• 2022. Agency Intersections Conference Report. With Kathleen Murphy-Hollies and Sean Shields. *Imperfect Cognitions.*

• 2021. #EverydayLookism Blog Series. With Heather Widdows and Helen Ryland. *Psychology Today.* [>2 900 reads]
> • How the Global Beauty Ideal Pressures Women to be "Perfect"
> • Dad Bods and Six Packs: Are we all to be Looked at Now?
> • Eat and be Merry, for Tomorrow we Diet!

• 2020. #EverydayLookism Blog Series. With Heather Widdows. *Psychology Today.* [>73 000 reads]
> • Beauty Without the Beast" Can We Learn from Lockdown?
> • "Girls who Wear Makeup are Fake": #EverydayLookism Stories Tell Us That We May Never Get It Right
> • "I Can't Believe You Don't Have a Thigh Gap": #EverydayLookism and Why We Should be Ashamed to Body Shame
> • How Women are Shamed for Their Body Hair

• 2020. <u>Be Ashamed of Body Shaming</u>. With Heather Widdows. *Beauty Demands Blog*. [>19 000 reads]
This blogpost was cited by the Mental Health Foundation in *<u>Image Editing Apps and Mental Health: Briefing on reducing the influence of the commercial determinants of health.</u>*

Videos

• 2025. SHARESPACE Explained: Building XR on Ethics by Design. (With Kathleen Richardson). *Ars Electronica*. Available <u>here</u>.
• 2023. Child Soldiers and Moral Responsibility. *University of Birmingham Women in Philosophy*. Available <u>here</u>.

• 2021. Jessica Sutherland on Should Child Soldiers be Tried for War Crimes? *Philosophy PhD Focus, University of Birmingham*. Available <u>here</u>.

SELECTED TALKS
* Invited talk

• Sep 2024. With Keith Hyams. Epistemic Harms and Artificial Intelligence. *Nokia Bell Labs**

• Sep 2024. Trust, Truth or Engagement? What Should Recommender Algorithms Prioritise? MANCEPT Workshops: Truth in Democracy from Misinformation to AI panel, *University of Manchester*

• May 2024. With Kathleen Murphy-Hollies. The Philosophy Garden. SOPHIA Network Meeting

• Dec 2023. With Keith Hyams. Epistemic Harms and Artificial Intelligence. IGS AI Ethics Summit*

• Jun 2023. The Spectrum of Liability to Defensive Harm and the Case of Child Soldiers. Brave New World Conference, *University of Manchester*

• May 2023. Distressing and Sensitive Topics in Research. *EUniWell MASTERY, University of Birmingham* (online)*

• May 2023. 'Who are You to Call Me Responsible?': Solving the Puzzle of Strawsonian Moral Responsibility and Standing to Blame. BPPA Spring Seminar Series, *British Postgraduate Philosophical Association* (online)

• May 2022. Are Child Soldiers Morally Ignorant? 7th Conference by Women, Genderqueer and Non-Binary Philosophers, *University of Antwerp*

• May 2022. Child Soldiers and Liability to Attack. Birmingham Women in Philosophy Workshop, *University of Birmingham*

• May 2022. Child Soldiers, Guilt, and Epistemic Injustice. Women in Philosophy Seminar, *University of Birmingham* (online)

• Apr 2021. Requesting Humanitarian Intervention. Oxford Graduate Conference in Political Theory, *University of Oxford* (online)

EVENT ORGANISATION

Conferences and Workshops

• Jul 2022. Postgraduate Workshop, Philosophy in Progress, University of Birmingham

• May 2022. Graduate Conference, *Philosophy at the Intersection of Moral Responsibility, Agency, and Regulation*. This included speakers from America, Australia, and Europe.
Funding: Midlands4Cities & Mind Association (detailed in funding awarded)

• Oct 2020-Jul 2023. Postgraduate Workshop Seminar Series, University of Birmingham.

Reading Groups and Networks

• Nov 2022-Aug 2023. First-Generation Student Network Founder, Midlands4Cities

• Feb 2022-Jun 2023. Feminist Philosophy Reading Group, University of Birmingham

• Feb 2022-Sep 2022. Moral Psychology European Reading Group

Skills Workshops

• April 2023. Grant Writing Workshop, Midlands4Cities
Funding: Midlands4Cities (detailed in funding awarded)

FUNDING AWARDED

Research Funding

• Midlands4Cities Doctoral Training Partnership (AHRC), 2019-Present. (~£76000 including tuition fees covered, and two studentship extensions for 1-month Student Advisory Forum Role, and 3-month UKRI policy internship)

• College of Arts and Law Masters Scholarship, University of Birmingham, 2018. (£2000 tuition fee waiver)

Event Organisation

• Midlands4Cities Cohort Development Fund (AHRC) for workshop organisation, 2023. (£770.00)

• Midlands4Cities Cohort Development Fund (AHRC) for conference organisation, 2022. (£2672.70)

• Mind Association Minor Grant for conference organisation, 2022. (£417)

Conference Travel

• Brave New World conference fund for conference travel and accommodation, 2023. (£100)

• Midlands4Cities Research Development Fund (AHRC) for conference travel and accommodation, 2022. (£954.25)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

• Social Media Editor: Philosophical Psychology.

• Journal Manuscript Reviewing: American Philosophical Quarterly, AI and Ethics, Philosophical Psychology, Asian Bioethics Review.

• External examination: MSt AI Ethics and Society, Institute for Continuing Education, University of Cambridge (2024).

• Peer Support: Application Writing Workshop (2022), Opportunities and Challenges: Making the Most of Your M4C Funding Panel (2022), M4C 2022 Cohort: Opportunities Available Panel (2022), Demystifying the Progress Panel (2021).

MEMBERSHIPS

• SOPHIA Network, European Foundation for the Advancement of Doing Philosophy with Children.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

• Dec 2022. Diversity Ambassador Certification, Global Equality Collective

• Dec 2022. Introduction to Data and SQL, Code First Girls

• Dec 2021. PRINCE2 Project Management Foundation, AXELOS

• Nov 2021. Mental Health First Aider, MHFA England

REFERENCES

Professor Keith Hyams
Professor of Political Theory and Ethics
University of Warwick
k.d.hyams@warwick.ac.uk

Professor Heather Widdows
Professor of Philosophy
University of Warwick
heather.widdows@warwick.ac.uk

Professor Lisa Bortolotti
Professor of Philosophy
University of Birmingham
l.bortolotti@bham.ac.uk

Dr Jussi Suikkanen
Reader in Philosophy
University of Birmingham
j.v.suikkanen@bham.ac.uk