

# DR. SHYANE SIRIWARDENA

Leeds Trinity University

**AoS:** Metaphysics; Metametaphysics; Counterfactuals

**AoC:** Logic; Philosophy of Language; Epistemology; Philosophy of Science; Ethics;  
Philosophy of Technology; History of Philosophy; Philosophy of Religion

## EDUCATION

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### **PhD Philosophy**

University of Cambridge (2016)

*The Trouble with Tokens: Old Problems for the New Agency Theory of Causation*

Supervisors: Arif Ahmed and Huw Price

Examiners: Tim Crane (Cambridge) and Helen Beebee (Manchester)

### **MPhil Philosophy**

University of Cambridge (2012)

### **BA Hons with Specialisation in Philosophy and Minor in Political Science**

University of Ottawa (2011)

## EMPLOYMENT

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### **Acting Programme Coordinator for BA Hons. in Philosophy Ethics and Religion**

Leeds Trinity University (Sept 2021 – Present)

### **Lecturer in Philosophy**

Leeds Trinity University (Sept 2019 – Present)

### **Temporary Lecturer in Philosophy**

University of Cambridge (Oct 2018 – Sept 2019)

### **Director of Studies in Philosophy**

Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (Oct 2018 – Sept 2019)

### **Director of Studies in Philosophy**

Trinity Hall College, Cambridge (Jan 2019 – Sept 2019)

### **Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Philosophy**

University of Leeds (Sept 2016 – Sept 2018)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Graduate Teaching

#### University of Leeds

*Seminar: Causation and Manipulationism* (2017, 2018)

#### University of Cambridge

*MPhil Advisor* (2018-2019)

*MPhil Supervisor* (2019)

### Undergraduate Lecturing

#### Leeds Trinity University

*PER4015 Critical Thinking and Logic* (since 2021)

*PER4023 Introduction to Philosophy* (since 2019)

*TRS5412 Mind, Self and World* (since 2019)

*HUM5012 Philosophy of Technology* (since 2019)

*HUM6032 Modern Philosophy of the Person* (since 2019)

*HUM6022 Science and Religion* (since 2019)

#### University of Cambridge

*Part IA Personal Identity* (2019)

*Part IA/B Causal Theory of Names* (2019)

*Part IB Sources of Knowledge* (2019)

*Part IB Scepticism* (2019)

*Part IB Metaphysics of Modality* (2019)

*Part II Persons* (2019)

*Part II Time* (2019)

*Part II Causation* (2019)

*Part IB Nature of Knowledge* (2018)

*Part IA Introduction to Essay-Writing* (2018)

*Part IA Causation* (2014)

#### University of Leeds

*PHIL2422 Epistemology: Knowledge and Justification* (2017)

### **Undergraduate supervising**

*Supervising involves setting reading lists and essay questions, critiquing students' essays, marking essays and completing progress reports.*

#### University of Cambridge, Philosophy Tripos

<i>Part IA Metaphysics</i>	(2012-2016, 2018-2019)
<i>Part IA Logic</i>	(2012-2016, 2018-2019)
<i>Part IB Metaphysics &amp; Epistemology</i>	(2012-2016, 2018-2019)
<i>Part IB Philosophy of Science</i>	(2012-2016, 2018-2019)
<i>Part II Metaphysics</i>	(2012-2016, 2018-2019)

### **Small Group Teaching**

#### University of Cambridge, Philosophy Tripos

Formal Logic Tutorial	(2012-2015, 2018-2019)
Metaphysics and Ethics Discussion Group	(2012-2015)

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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### **Stuart Low Trust Philosophy Forum**

*Volunteer Discussion Group Facilitator* (2014 – 2016, 2018)

Lead break-out group discussions with approximately five participants. Participants are adults with an interest in philosophy (though often without experience) who suffer from mental illness.

*Volunteer Speaker* (2014 – 2016, 2018)

Gave talks introducing a topic in philosophy to the Forum. The talks provide the basis for the break-out discussions.

### **Royal Institute of Philosophy, Philosophy in Schools**

*Lecturer* (2018)

Gave a one-day workshop on epistemology to sixth form students at Kimberly College.

### **Bell Kaetsu Course**

*Instructor* (2016, 2018)

Gave a 90-minute interactive lesson on a topic in philosophy to a group of approximately 25 students (16 y.o.) for whom English is their second language.

### **Bell Young Cambridge Scholars Course**

*Instructor* (2016, 2018)

Gave three 90-minute interactive lessons on a topic in philosophy to groups of approximately 12-16 students (16 y.o.) for whom English is their second language.

**University of Leeds**

Gave Open Day lectures to potential prospective students and their parents. (2017)

**Selwyn College Access Summer School, University of Cambridge**

*Lecturer* (2016)

Gave an interactive lecture on introductory informal logic to a group of approximately 40 sixth form students.

**Cambridge Sutton Trust Summer Schools**

Gave lectures on a topic in philosophy to a group of approximately 10-15 sixth form students attending the Cambridge Sutton Trust Theology, Religious Studies, and Philosophy Summer School.

Lecture titles:

“A World of Universals?” (2014)

“What Exists?” (2015)

“What Exists?” (2016)

## **ADMINISTRATIVE & ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

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**Administrative**

*Subject-Level Recruitment Lead* (2021-present)

Liaise with the Marketing and Recruitment teams on initiatives for recruiting undergraduates to the Philosophy, Ethics and Religion programme at Leeds Trinity University.

*Co-Chair, LGBT+ Staff Network* (2021-present)

Organise and facilitate regular meetings for staff who identify as LGBT+ as well as allies of the LGBT+ community. Liaise with senior leadership on institutional issues that queer staff and students face. Run university-wide campaigns to raise awareness of queer issues.

*SCBL Research Ethics and Integrity Committee Member* (2020-present)

Member of the research ethics committee for the School of Communications, Business and Law. The committee reviews and approves research ethics applications for all research conducted in SCBL.

*Race Equality Chartermark Curriculum Subcommittee* (2020-present)

Member of the Self-Assessment Team for Leeds Trinity University. The team is working towards implementing the recommendations from the last REC application (for which LTU was awarded Bronze).

*Philosophy Equality Working Group Member (2018-2019)*

Member of this working group at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge. The committee is working towards submitting an Athena SWAN application in the next academic year.

*Athena SWAN School Assessment Team (SAT) Member (2017-2018)*

Member of the School Assessment Team for the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Cultures at the University of Leeds. The Faculty is preparing an application for a Bronze Award.

**Undergraduate Admissions**

*Interviewer (2014, 2018)*

Assisted with undergraduate philosophy admissions at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. This involved assessing applicants' UCAS forms, interviewing prospective candidates and giving final recommendations.

**Organising**

*Cambridge University Moral Sciences Club Secretary (2013-14)*

Jointly responsible (with another secretary) for the administration of the Moral Sciences Club. The Club hosts a visiting speaker each week during term. Secretaries are responsible for inviting speakers; arranging travel, accommodation, and dinner for the speaker; and, maintaining a record of the Club's finances over the academic year.

*Undergraduate Essay-Writing Workshop (2013)*

Jointly conceived and ran a workshop on essay-writing skills for first-year undergraduates.

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**PUBLICATIONS**

(2018) "Old Problems for the Agency Theory of Causal Discourse." *Erkenntnis*.

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**REFEREED & INVITED TALKS**

**2018**

"Counterfactuals and Indispensability in Williamson's Modal Epistemology." *European Non-Categorical Thinking Project (EuNoC) Workshop #3*, Amsterdam.

**2017**

"Counterfactuals and Modal Reasoning: What Probability Can Do for You!" *Philosophy Seminar*, Leeds.

"Towards a Modally Harmonious Theory of Counterfactuals: Challenging an Edgingtonian Approach." *Conditionals and Probability – A Workshop*, Leeds.

"Towards a Modally Harmonious Theory of Counterfactuals: Challenging an Edgingtonian Approach." *Issues on the (Im)Possible V*, Bratislava.

**2015**

"Causation and the Normative Placement Problem." *Canadian Philosophical Society Annual Congress*, Ottawa.

"The Agency Theory of Causation: Unsound or Incomplete." *Moral Sciences Club*, Cambridge.

**2014**

"The Suppositional Account and Morgenbesser Counterfactuals." *88th Joint Session*, Cambridge.

"Explaining Causal Concepts: Fictional Genealogies and Practical Explications." *Graduate Conference in Theoretical Philosophy*, Amsterdam.

"On Absence Causation: An examination of the predominant theories of token-level absence causation." *Sixth Conference of the Dutch-Flemish Association for Analytic Philosophy*, Groningen.