

# TAMMO LOSSAU

Ph.D. candidate, Johns Hopkins University

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## EDUCATION

- 2015-2022      Ph.D. (expected Spring 2022), Johns Hopkins University
- Dissertation: *“Knowledge First” and Its Limits*  
I explore three ways of making precise the popular idea of putting “Knowledge First” in epistemology. First, we can focus on the concept of knowledge and our linguistic practice: this can give us insight into our thinking, but should not be mistaken as justification for metaphysical claims. Second, we can take our intuitive judgments as good prima facie evidence for metaphysical claims. This is the approach implicit in Timothy Williamson’s original proposal for “Knowledge First Epistemology”, but it struggles to find explanatory resources for the apparent disparity of our intuitions. Finally, we can take a hint from Edward Craig and focus on the primary purpose of the concept of knowledge, which I argue is to evaluate information. This allows us to explain our linguistic practices, find grounds for epistemic rights, and explain the paradox of skepticism.
- 2012-2015      Master of Arts, University of Göttingen · *with distinction*
- 2014            Heythrop College, University of London · *exchange student*
- 2009-2012      Bachelor of Arts, University of Göttingen

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, History of Analytic Philosophy

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Logic, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion

## PUBLICATIONS (PEER REVIEWED)

Mackie and the Meaning of Moral Terms. Forthcoming in *Journal for the History of Analytic Philosophy*.

Knowledge and Cancelability. *Synthese* 199 (2021), 397-405.

Three Things to Do With Knowledge Ascriptions. *Episteme* 18, 1 (2021), 99-110.

“Putting the linguistic method in its place”: Mackie’s distinction between conceptual and factual analysis. *Logical Analysis and History of Philosophy* 22 (2019), 92-105.

The Basis-Access Dilemma for Epistemological Disjunctivism. *Logos & Episteme* 9, 2 (2018), 151-172.

Was heißt “sich vorstellen, eine andere Person zu sein”? *Grazer Philosophische Studien* 90 (2014), 307-316.

## PRESENTATIONS

- January 2022      *“Unhinged” – Wie Verschwörungserzählungen Evidenz aus den Angeln heben, Wo liegt die Wahrheit? Verschwörungserzählungen und ihre Rezeption, University of Augsburg (online, in German).*
- January 2022      *“What is religion?” as a structuring question for inclusive syllabi, AAPT-APA Teaching Hub, Eastern Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Baltimore (poster).*
- October 2021      *The Significance of Agreement Despite Irrelevant Factors, Agreement and Disagreement Beyond Ethics and Epistemology, University of Kent (online).*
- July 2020          *Craigian Functionalism and Grounding Epistemic Rights, Social Ontology 2020 - The 12th Biennial Collective Intentionality Conference, University of Geneva (online).*
- June 2019         *“Putting the linguistic method in its place”: Mackie’s distinction between conceptual and factual analysis, Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of the History of Analytic Philosophy, Boston University.*
- March 2019        *Inferences as the Subject of Epistemology, North Carolina Philosophical Society Conference, UNC Greensboro.*
- August 2017       *What I Talk About When I Talk About Knowledge, European Congress of Analytic Philosophy 9, Munich University.*
- July 2017          *Knowledge and Conversation, Tübingen Masterclass in Theoretical Philosophy 2017 with Jonathan Schaffer.*
- May 2014          *Epistemically Rigid Expressions, 13<sup>th</sup> Göttinger Philosophisches Kolloquium with David Chalmers.*

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

- Spring 2022        Dean’s Teaching Fellowship  
School-wide teaching fellowship.
- Fall 2021          David Sachs Fellowship  
Departmental dissertation completion fellowship
- Fall 2020          Dean’s Teaching Fellowship  
School-wide teaching fellowship.
- 2020                Finalist for the Excellence In Teaching Awards  
at the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Johns Hopkins.
- 2016 & 2019        Miller Prize  
Departmental essay prize.
- 2014                Erasmus Scholarship  
Scholarship funding a semester abroad at Heythrop College, London.
- 2013                GAP Essay Prize (first prize)  
Essay competition of the German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP) for philosophy students · Prize question: *Can I imagine being a different person?*
- 2011-13            Deutschlandstipendium (“Germany Scholarship”)  
Federal scholarship based on student performance.

## TEACHING

### As primary instructor (at Johns Hopkins)

<i>Spring 2022</i>	Problems with Knowledge, Evidence, and Action (scheduled)
<i>Fall 2020</i>	Themes from the Philosophy of Religion
<i>Winter 2020</i>	Do we have souls? If so, what are they?
<i>Winter 2019</i>	Wittgenstein and the Limits of our World · co-taught with Itai Marom
<i>Winter 2018</i>	Belief in God
<i>Summer 2017</i>	Philosophical Intuitions

### Teaching Assistant at Johns Hopkins

<i>Spring 2021</i>	Introduction to Formal Logic · Instructor: Peter Achinstein
<i>Spring 2020</i>	Introduction to Metaphysics · Instructor: Eleanor Taylor
<i>Fall 2019</i>	Philosophic Classics · Instructor: Dean Moyar
<i>Spring 2019</i>	Introduction to Formal Logic · Instructor: Peter Achinstein
<i>Fall 2018</i>	Formal Methods of Philosophy · Instructor: Robert Rynasiewicz
<i>Spring 2018</i>	Introduction to Formal Logic · Instructor: Peter Achinstein
<i>Fall 2017</i>	Philosophical Problems · Instructor: Steven Gross

### Teaching Assistant in Göttingen (titles translated from German)

<i>Summer 2015</i>	Introduction to Logic · Instructor: Dolf Rami · weekly section
<i>Summer 2014</i>	Saying, Understanding, Meaning: Paul Grice's Works in Philosophy of Language · Instructor: Adriana Pavić · paper supervision
<i>Winter 2013/14</i>	Introduction to Logic · Instructor: Wilfried Keller · weekly section
<i>Summer 2013</i>	Linguistic Reference · Instructor: Adriana Pavić · paper supervision
<i>Winter 2012/13</i>	Introduction to Logic · Instructor: Dolf Rami · weekly section The Concept of Knowledge · Instructor: Adriana Pavić · paper supervision
<i>Summer 2012</i>	Introduction to Theoretical Philosophy · Instructor: Christian Beyer · weekly section
<i>Winter 2011/12</i>	Introduction to Logic · Instructor: Felix Mühlhölzer · weekly section
<i>Winter 2010/11</i>	Introduction to Logic · Instructor: Tim Kraft · weekly section

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

<i>since 2020</i>	Sustainability Leadership Council, Johns Hopkins Promoting sustainability initiatives within the university.
<i>November 2021</i>	Ethics Bowl Judge at the Northeastern regional competition.
<i>August 2021</i>	JHU Teaching Assistant Orientation Section facilitator.
<i>2018-2019</i>	Department Colloquium Chair, Hammond Society Chairing the committee organizing the Philosophy Department's 2019/20 colloquium.
<i>2016-2017</i>	Society Colloquia Chair, Hammond Society Organizing the weekly graduate student colloquium.
<i>2015-2016</i>	Representative at the Graduate Council
<i>May 2014</i>	13 <sup>th</sup> Göttinger Philosophisches Kolloquium "Masterclass"-style workshop with David Chalmers; main organizer.
<i>2011-2015</i>	Round Table Philosophy, University of Göttingen Series of talks by philosophy students from the department; co-organizer.
<i>Reviewer</i>	<i>Acta Analytica, Erkenntnis, Philosophical Papers.</i>

## REFERENCES

Michael Williams (Ph.D. advisor)  
Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of  
Philosophy  
Johns Hopkins University  
Email: [mwilliams@jhu.edu](mailto:mwilliams@jhu.edu)

Elanor Taylor (teaching reference)  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
Johns Hopkins University  
Email: [etaylo42@jhu.edu](mailto:etaylo42@jhu.edu)

Richard Bett  
Professor of Philosophy  
Johns Hopkins University  
Email: [rbett1@jhu.edu](mailto:rbett1@jhu.edu)

November 23, 2021