Michael E. Markunas

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Areas of specialisation: Business ethics, epistemology.

Areas of competence: Ethics of AI, meta-ethics, philosophy of mind and language, history of analytic philosophy.

EMPLOYMENT

Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin, Teaching Fellow, 2024–present.

Business ethics teaching delivered in Trinity Business School, at undergraduate level and on the MA in Law and Finance.

Birkbeck, University of London, Associate Lecturer in Philosophy, 2022–23.

King's College London, Affiliate Researcher in Philosophy, 2022–23.

EDUCATION

PhD in Philosophy, University College London, 2024.

Supervisors: Mark Kalderon, Rory Madden, Nilanjan Das.

Dissertation title: *Knowledge by Acquaintance: An Explication and Defense*.

Examiners: Eliot Michaelson (King's College London) and Keith Allen (University of York).

MPhil Stud in Philosophy, University College London, 2018.

Supervisor: Mark Kalderon.

Dissertation title: *Acquaintance with Colors*.

Examiners: Thomas Crowther (Warwick) and Susan James (Birkbeck).

BA in Philosophy (Honors) and BA in English Literature (Honors), University of California, Berkeley, 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

'Russell's Theory of Knowledge by Acquaintance' *Synthese* (forthcoming), special issue: *Celebrating 120 Years of Russell's 'On Denoting'*.

'Acquaintance, Knowledge, and Luck' *Synthese* 204 (2024). doi.org/10.1007/s11229-024-04822-6

Both papers appear in *Synthese*, the highest-ranked philosophy journal in Google Scholar Metrics (h5-index 59 as of July 2026, ahead of *Philosophical Studies* at 37).

'Acquaintance, Knowledge, and Luck' led to an invited response to Ali Hasan at the New England Workshop on Metaphysics, and to founding membership of The Acquaintance Research Network.

Conference proceedings

'On the Possibility of Acquaintance', in C. Limbeck-Lilienau and F. Stadler (eds.), *The Philosophy of Perception and Observation: Papers of the 40th International Wittgenstein Symposium* (2017), 142–146.

Book reviews

'*Present to the Mind: Acquaintance and Its Significance* by Duncan', *The Review of Metaphysics* (forthcoming). Invited.

Public philosophy

'Can a Machine Be Conscious?' (with Charles Jansen), *What To Do About Now?* (2022). Invited. whattodoaboutnow.com/post/can-a-machine-be-conscious

WORK IN PROGRESS

Under review

'Can Corporations Have Acquaintance Knowledge?' (with Kenneth Silver)

'Acquaintance with Abstract Objects'

In preparation

'Value, Engagement, and the Limits of Markets'. Enclosed as writing sample.

A paper arguing that awareness of what is good or right is not exhausted by reasons or by emotions.

A paper applying that account to managerial judgement, and to what follows for how business schools cultivate and assess it.

AWARDS

2023 Jacobsen Essay Prize, for 'Our Knowledge by Acquaintance with the Natural Numbers'.

2017–19 Dawes Hicks Postgraduate Scholarship, to undertake doctoral research at University College London.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

* = peer reviewed, † = invited

'Acquaintance beyond Phenomenology?'
† The International Acquaintance Network Workshop 2026, University of Valencia

'Is There Group Knowledge by Acquaintance?'
* Social Ontology 2025, Trinity College Dublin.

'Grounding AI knowledge'
*Philsoophy of AI, Institute of Philosophy, Paris.

Response to Ali Hasan, 'Awareness of Abstracta'
† New England Workshop on Metaphysics 2024, Rhode Island College.

'Cognitively Homeless Russell'
* MIND: The British Sources of Philosophy of Mind 1888–1949, 2024, University of Liège.

'Our Acquaintance with the Natural Numbers'
† Departmental Symposium 2024, University College London.

'Acquaintance, Knowledge, and Luck'
† Departmental Symposium 2023, Birkbeck, University of London.

'Acquaintance and Modal Luck'
* European Epistemology Network 2022, University of Glasgow.

'Acquaintance and the Natural Numbers'

* 96th Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association 2022, Open Session.
* London Graduate Conference 2021, University of London.

'On the Possibility of Acquaintance'

* 40th International Wittgenstein Symposium 2017, Kirchberg, Austria.
* MindGrad 2017, University of Warwick.

TEACHING

Lecturer

'Business Ethics', MA in Law and Finance, class-size ~180, Trinity Business School, Spring 2027 (forthcoming).

'Business Ethics', second-year undergraduate, class-size ~120, Trinity Business School, Fall 2025 and Fall 2026.

'Fundamentals of Philosophy, Ethics, and Social Science', first-year undergraduate (Global Business), year-long, class-size ~80, Trinity Business School, 2025–26 and 2026–27.

'History of Analytic Philosophy', second-year undergraduate, class-size ~100, Trinity College Dublin, Spring 2025.

'Epistemology', final-year undergraduate and MA, class-size ~80, Birkbeck, University of London, Spring 2023.

'Meta-ethics', third-year undergraduate, class-size ~40, Trinity College Dublin, Spring 2025.

'Philosophy of Language', second-year undergraduate, class-size ~40, King's College London, Spring 2023.

'Philosophy of Perception and Cognitive Science', first-year undergraduate, class-size ~30, Trinity College Dublin, Spring 2025.

Supervision

Five capstone projects (undergraduate dissertations) supervised in business ethics, AI, philosophy of law, and meta-ethics, Trinity College Dublin, 2024–25.

As graduate teaching assistant at University College London

'Predicate Logic', (with Lavinia Picollo), Spring 2021.

'Propositional Logic', (with Lavinia Picollo), Fall 2020.

'Meaning and Interpretation', (with José Zalabardo), Spring 2020.

'Knowledge and Reality', (with Nilanjan Das), Spring 2019.

'Early Modern Philosophy', (with Rory Madden), Spring 2017.

'Knowledge and Reality', (with Amia Srinivasan), Autumn 2016.

'20th-Century Philosophy', (with Mark Kalderon), Autumn 2016.

Teaching recognition and development

'Meta-ethics' (Spring 2025) ranked second-highest by student evaluation among courses in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, Trinity College Dublin.

Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy (AFHEA), 2020.

Certificate in Brain Anatomy, King's College London, 2019.

SERVICE

Founding member, The Acquaintance Research Network, 2026–present.

Head Postgraduate Teaching Assistant (joint), University College London, 2021–22.

Organiser, teacher training sessions, University College London, 2021.

Co-organiser and chair, Departmental Symposium, University College London, 2017–18.

Co-organiser, London Mind Group, 2016–18.

Organiser and chair, Philosophy Work in Progress Seminar, University College London, 2016–17.

JOURNAL REFEREEING

Analysis and *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*.

REFERENCES

Kenneth Silver
Associate Professor in Business Ethics
Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin
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Martha O'Hagan Luff
Associate Professor of Finance
Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin
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