

## University of Pretoria, Department of Philosophy Areas of Supervisory Expertise

The following topics are those that staff affiliated with the University of Pretoria Department of Philosophy could supervise in the first instance at Doctoral level; some staff could supervise additional topics at Honours and Master's levels. Furthermore, kindly note that the Department is expecting to make additional hires by the end of 2021. Enquire to the [Postgraduate Coordinator](#) or a particular staff member for more information.

**Prof Philippe Van Haute** (extraordinary appointment; based at Radboud University)

- **Philosophical anthropology** (incl. theories of subjectivity and of the human from Kant to Foucault; Hacking and historical epistemology; status of psychiatric diagnostic categories; the normal vs. the pathological)
- **Psychoanalytic theory** (eg, relation between psychoanalysis and philosophy – historical and systematic aspects; Freud and the history of psychiatry)

**Prof Ulrike Kistner** (emerita)

- **Political philosophy** (incl. sovereignty and the state; the concept of the political; theories of nationalism, ideology, totalitarianism; modernity; subjectivity; political theology; politics of human rights; theories of populism; critical race theory)
- **Social philosophy** (incl. collective action; collective self-constitution; theories of economic/social/symbolic exchanges; debates on social pathologies)
- **Psychoanalytic theory** (theories of sexuality; group psychology; aspects of the history of psychoanalysis and psychiatry)

**Prof Thaddeus Metz**

- **African philosophy** (moral/political/legal theory, but possibly religion/metaphysics)
- **Comparative philosophy** (incl. African/Confucian/Islamic/South American/Western)
- **The meaning of life** (and related issues, eg, well-being; mental health; death; axiology of theism)
- **Applied ethics** (incl. bioethics; animal rights; media ethics)
- **Political/legal philosophy** (incl. rights; economic justice; political power; punishment; reconciliation)
- **Philosophy of higher education** (esp. aims; decoloniality; accountability)

**Prof Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem**

- **The philosophy and ethics of technology** (incl. human-technology relations; data ethics; machine ethics; ethics and social robotics; policy research in AI ethics)
- **The philosophy of science** (esp. the structure of scientific theories; scientific realism; scientific methodology in the era of big data)
- **Formal logic** (non-classical logics, eg, preferential logic; modal logics, eg, epistemic logic)

### Dr Jonathan Chimakonam Okeke

- **African philosophy** (methodology; epistemology; metaphysics; ethics; political philosophy; and history of African philosophy)
- **Conversational thinking** (foundation; method; doctrine; applications on selected topics in political philosophy and ethics)
- **Logic** (African contributions, especially the three-valued class as in complementary logic, harmonious monism, Ezumezu logic; Aristotelian and modern western logic, esp. Frege, Gödel, etc)
- **Decoloniality and coloniality** (esp. modernity; colonialism, neo-colonialism, and coloniality; imperialism; border thinking; epistemicide; epistemic marginalization; curriculum transformation)
- **Identity** (eg, politics of identity; cultural ramifications; relationality theory; digital and technological dimensions)
- **Poverty** (incl. politics of poverty; Odera Oruka; measurements; intellectual impacts)

### Dr Mpho Tshivhase

- **Uniqueness of persons** (incl. irreplaceability; incomparability; and their bearing on morality)
- **Personhood** (African and Western; implications for gender, race, and AI ethics)
- **Ubuntu** (its nature; principles; criticisms thereof)

### Ms Keo Mbebe (currently able to supervise at Honours level)

- **Metaethics and normative ethics** (esp. the nature of ethics, justice, and rationality)
- **Epistemology** (eg, the nature of rationality, knowledge, truth, reasons for belief)
- **Philosophy of race** (esp. the nature of race and related conceptual matters)
- **Philosophy of emotions** (incl. the relations with rationality and ethics)
- **Philosophy of law** (incl. the nature of law and its bearing on justice)
- **Philosophy of history** (esp. how to understand the nature of history and how to approach it)