

FRANS SVENSSON

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
 Umeå University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. (Practical Philosophy), Uppsala University, 2006
 MA (Major in Practical Philosophy), Uppsala University, 2001
 BA (Major in History of Science and Ideas), Uppsala University, 2000

* I was promoted to *Docent* in practical philosophy at Uppsala University in September, 2011

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Senior Lecturer, Gothenburg University, 2018-
Senior Lecturer, Umeå University, 2015-2018
Forskarassistent, Stockholm University, 2012-10-01 to 2017-12-31
Researcher and Teacher at the Centre of Excellence, *Understanding Agency*, Uppsala University (Philosophy Department), 2010-01-16 to 2011-09-30, and at Stockholm University (Philosophy Department), 2011-10-01 to 2012-10-01
Visiting Scholar, University of Arizona (Philosophy Department), 2008-01-15 to 2010-01-15
Lecturer in Philosophy, University of the Witwatersrand, 2007
Lecturer in Philosophy (fixed-term position), Uppsala University, 2006
Visiting Graduate Scholar, UC Berkeley, 2004
Instructor, Uppsala University (Philosophy Department), 2001-2006
Research Assistant within the project *Actions and Passions of the Mind in Western Philosophy from 1300 to 1700*, Uppsala University (Philosophy Department), 2001

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Metaethics
 Normative Ethics
 History of Ethics
 Moral Psychology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Applied Ethics (Business Ethics)
 History of Philosophy
 Political and Social Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Dissertation

Some Basic Issues in Neo-Aristotelian Virtue Ethics. Uppsala University (2006).

Papers and book chapters

In preparation: "Living Well for Humans: Descartes on Happiness, Virtue and Wisdom".

For *Mind, Nature and Morality: New Perspectives on Descartes and Spinoza*, eds. M. Reuter and F. Svensson. Under contract with Routledge.

"Mill and the Meaning of Life". For *The Meaning of Life and the Great Philosophers*, eds. S. Leach and J. Tartaglia, Routledge. *Forthcoming*.

"Objections to Virtue Ethics" (with Jens Johansson). *The Oxford Handbook of Virtue*, ed. Nancy E. Snow, Oxford University Press. *Forthcoming*.

"A Subjectivist Account of Life's Meaning". *De Ethica* 4:3 (2017). Special issue on meaning in life.

Editorial introduction. *De Ethica* 4:3 (2017). Special issue on meaning in life.

"Non-Eudaimonism, The Sufficiency of Virtue for Happiness, and Two Senses of the Highest Good in Descartes's Ethics". *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 23:2 (2015).

"Eudaimonist Virtue Ethics and Right Action: A Reassessment". *Journal of Ethics* 15 (2011).

"Happiness, Wellbeing and Their Relation to Virtue in Descartes' Ethics". *Theoria* 77 (2011).

"Does Eudaimonism Rest on a Mistake?" *Neither/Nor – Philosophical Papers Dedicated to Erik Carlson on the Occasion of His Fiftieth Birthday*, eds. R. Sliwinski and F. Svensson, Uppsala Philosophical Studies 58 (2011).

"The Role of Virtue in Descartes' Ethical Theory, or: Was Descartes a Virtue Ethicist?". *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 27 (2010).

"Virtue Ethics and the Search for an Account of Right Action". *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 13 (2010). [An earlier version of this paper was published in *Logic, Ethics, and All that Jazz – Essays in Honour of Jordan Howard Sobel*, eds. L-G Johansson, J. Österberg, and R. Sliwinski, Uppsala Philosophical Studies 57 (2009).]

"Virtue Ethics and Elitism". *Philosophical Papers* 37 (2008).

"Does Non-Cognitivism Rest on a Mistake?" *Utilitas* 19 (2007).

"Regimenting Reasons" (with Jonas Olson). *Theoria*, LXXI (2005).

"A Particular Consequentialism: Why Moral Particularism and Consequentialism Need Not Conflict" (with Jonas Olson). *Utilitas* 15 (2003). (Reprinted in *Patterns of Value – Essays on Formal Axiology and Value Analysis vol. 1*, eds. W. Rabinowicz & T. Rønnow-Rasmussen, Lund Philosophy Reports (2003), and in Swedish as "Partikularistisk konsekventialism", *Filosofisk Tidskrift* 25:3 (2004).)

"Sorting Out Reasons - On Stoutland's Criticism of the Belief-Desire Model" (with Jonas Olson). *A Philosophical Smorgasbord – Essays on Action, Truth, and Other Things in Honour of Frederic Stoutland*, eds. K. Segerberg & R. Sliwinski, Uppsala Philosophical Studies 52 (2003).

“Descartes on Virtue” (with Lilli Alanen). *Hommage á Wlodek – Philosophical Papers Dedicated to Wlodek Rabinowicz*; online publication.

Editor

& M. Reuter: *Mind, Nature and Morality: Themes from Spinoza and Descartes*; under contract with Routledge.

Guest Editor for *De Ethica*, special issue on Meaning in Life. *Forthcoming*.

& R. Sliwinski: *Neither/Nor – Philosophical Papers Dedicated to Erik Carlson on the Occasion of His Fiftieth Birthday*, Uppsala Philosophical Studies 58 (2011).

Reviews

Review of Anders Hansson, *Aristoteles etik*. *Filosofisk Tidskrift* (2017:2).

Review of Ingmar Persson, *From Morality to the End of Reason*. *Philosophical Quarterly* (2017:1).

Review of Göran Greider, *Den solidariska genen*. *Filosofisk tidskrift* (2015:2).

Review of Ann Heberlein, *Etik: människa, moral, mening*. *Tidskrift för Politisk Filosofi* (2014:2).

Review of Thaddeus Metz, *Meaning in Life*. *Theoria* 80 (2014).

Review of *Dygdernas renässans*, eds. E. Österberg, M. Lindstedt Cronberg, C. Stenqvist. *Filosofisk Tidskrift* (2014:1).

Review of Johan Wennström, *Dygdens glädje*. *Tidskrift för Politisk Filosofi* 3 (2013:3).

Review of Michael Winter, *Rethinking Virtue Ethics*. *Notre Dame Philosophy Reviews* (2012).

Translation

“Dygdteori och Abort” [Virtue Theory and Abortion], by Rosalind Hursthouse. In *Vad är moraliskt rätt?* [What is Morally Right?], ed. H. Ahlenius, Thales (2004).

In progress:

Descartes on Living Well for Humans (tentative title; book ms.)

“Eudaimonistic Virtue Ethics: Does It Have A Future?”

“Might (At Least Some) Virtues Be Skills Of Life?”

“Virtues and Traditions”

“Why Should We Care about the Objective Worth of Our Projects?”

“Personal Good and Practical Reasons”

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Descartes on Living Well for Humans”. Talk at the *Descartes Society* at the *Pacific APA* (San Diego), March 2018.

“Living Well for Humans”. *Virtue, Skill and Practical Reason*. Cape Town, August 2017.

“Enjoying Freedom: Value, Virtue and Happiness in Descartes’ Ethical Thought”. History of Philosophy Research Seminar. Department of Philosophy, University of Helsinki. 8 December, 2016.

“Subjective Attraction Meets Subjective Attractiveness: Towards A Plausible

- Subjectivism About Meaning In Life". *Meaning in Life and Objective Value*, conference at Umeå University. 30 November, 2016.
- "Eudaimonistic Virtue Ethics: Does It Have A Future?" Conference on Virtue Theory. Oslo University. 17-18 November, 2016.
- "Wolf's Critique of Subjectivism About Meaning in Life: A Critical Response". *Eudaimonia and the Meaning of Life*. Workshop with Susan Wolf, Oslo University (CSMN). 10 September, 2016.
- "The Possibility of Living Well: Value and Virtue in Descartes' Ethical Thought". *Mind, Nature, and Morality: A Conference in Honour of Lilli Alanen*. Helsinki. 2-4 September, 2016.
- "Enjoying Freedom: Descartes on Virtue and Happiness". *Happiness and Virtue*. Dublin. June 13-14, 2016.
- "The Possibility of Living Well: Value and Virtue in Descartes's Ethical Thought". Workshop on Descartes's ethics. Turku. 6 June, 2016.
- "The Possibility of Living Well: Value, Virtue and Knowledge in Descartes's Ethical Philosophy". *Self-Interest and Other-Regard*, workshop in Reykjavik. November, 2015
- "Why Subjectivism About Meaning In Life Might Not Be So Bad After All". *Ethics and Explanations*, conference in Nottingham. October, 2015.
- "Why Subjectivism About Meaning In Life Might Not Be So Bad After All". *Virtue, Law and the Organization of a Good Life*, workshop at Uppsala University. September 2015.
- "Two Types of Answer to the Question, 'What Count as an Ethical Excellence in Humans?'" Swedish National Congress in Philosophy, June 2015.
- "Two Types of Answer to the Question, 'What Counts as an Ethical Excellence in Humans?'" Workshop at Lund University, May 2015.
- "Varför vara dygdig? Descartes om dygd, motivation och lycka". Conference on *Understanding Agency*. Uppsala University, December 2014.
- "Virtue as the Skill of Life". Workshop on *Morality and the Good Life*. Uppsala University, November 2014.
- "Objections to Virtue Ethics". Gothenburg University, June 2014.
- "Objections to Virtue Ethics" (with Jens Johansson). Uppsala University, June 2014.
- "Virtue and Value". Workshop with Julia Annas. Oslo University, September 2013
- "Välfärd och normativa skäl". Filosofiska föreningen. Linköping University, May 2013.
- "Välfärd och normativa skäl". *Ratio Institute*, Stockholm, May 2013.
- "Personal Good and Normative Reasons". Workshop on *Agency and the Good*. Uppsala, April 2013.
- "Non-Eudaimonism, The Sufficiency of Virtue for Happiness, and Two Senses of the Highest Good in Descartes's Ethics". *PSSA*, Durban, January 2013.
- "On Being Virtuous but Bored with Virtuous Activity". Conference on *Virtue and Pleasure: Ancient and Modern Perspectives*. Stockholm University, March 2012.
- "Does Eudaimonism Rest on a Mistake?" *Stockholm June Workshop in Philosophy*, Stockholm University, May 2011.
- "Does Eudaimonism Rest on a Mistake?" College of Lewis & Clarke, April 2011.

- “Descartes on Happiness and Wellbeing”. Workshop on *Virtuous Agency: On the Development and Practice of the Virtues*. Uppsala University, September 2010.
- “Virtue Ethics and Right Conduct: A Reconsideration”. *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME)*. Boulder, August 2010.
- “Eudaimonist Virtue Ethics and Right Conduct: A Reassessment”. Oslo University, May 2010.
- “Descartes om förhållandet mellan dygd och lycka”. The Swedish National Conference in Philosophy. Lund University, June 2009.
- “The Primacy of the Virtuous Reconsidered, or: Why Virtue Ethicists Should Love Particularism”. *Action, Life and Happiness: A Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy*. Uppsala University, May 2009
- “The Primacy of the Virtuous Reconsidered, or: Why Virtue Ethicists Should Love Particularism”. University of Arizona, March 2009.
- “Descartes on Happiness and the Pursuit of Virtue” (with Lilli Alanen). *Oxford Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy 5 (OSEMP)*. Oxford University, October 2008.
- “Virtue, Advice, and Approval”. Oxford University, June 2008.
- “A Design for Life – Descartes on Happiness and the Pursuit of Virtue” (with Lilli Alanen). *Ethical Aspects of the Emotions*, Oslo University, June 2008.
- “Virtue Ethics and Elitism”. University of the Witwatersrand, February 2007.
- “Virtue and Elitism”. *International society for utilitarian studies (ISUS)*. Dartmouth College, August, 2005.
- “Does Non-Cognitivism Rest on a Mistake?”. University of Arizona, Fall 2004.
- “A Particular Consequentialism: Why Moral Particularism and Consequentialism Need Not Conflict” (with Jonas Olson). *International society for utilitarian studies (ISUS)*. Lisbon, April 2003.
- “Descartes on Virtue and the Good Life”. *European Congress of Analytical Philosophy (ECAP)*. Lund University, June 2002

* INVITED COMMENTATOR/DISCUSSANT

- Invited commentator. *Stockholm June Workshop in Philosophy*, Stockholm University. June, 2015 .
- Invited commentator. Workshop on a book manuscript by Thaddeus Metz. Goethe University (Frankfurt), May 2015.
- Discussant at a panel meeting on *Dygdernas återkomst? (The return of the virtues?)* at St. Katharina Stiftelsen. Stockholm, October 2014.
- Invited commentator. *Stockholm June Workshop in Philosophy*, Stockholm University. June 2012.
- Invited commentator on “Virtues, Particularism, and Reasons for Action” by Andrew Jordan. *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME)*. Boulder, August 2009.

REFeree WORK

- American Philosophical Quarterly*
Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie
British Journal of the History of Philosophy
Canadian Journal of Philosophy

De Ethica
Ethical Theory and Moral Practice
European Journal of Analytical Philosophy
History of Philosophy Quarterly
Journal of Value Inquiry
Journal of Moral Philosophy
Journal of Philosophical Research
Journal of Ethics
Philosophers' Imprint
Philosophia
Philosophical Papers
Southern Journal of Philosophy
Theoria

GRANTS

Faculty of humanities, Umeå University: Funding for the organization of an international workshop on *Meaning in life and objective values*, 2016
 The Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences (RJ): *Understanding Agency*. Centre of excellence at the Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University, 2008-2013. The project involved close to 20 researches, both from Sweden and other countries.
 The Swedish Research Council (VR): International post doc (University of Arizona), 2007- 12-01 to 2009-12-01.
 The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT): Visiting graduate scholar (UC Berkeley), 2003-2004.
 Göransson-Sandviken (G-H Nation, Uppsala): Doctoral stipend, 2001-2003.

COURSES TAUGHT

Applied Ethics
Aristotle's Ethics of Virtue
Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics
Business Ethics
Contemporary Virtue Ethics
Ethical Theories
History of Ethics
History of Philosophy
Introduction to Normative Ethics
Introduction to Metaethics
Meaning in Life (together with Daan Evers)
Philosophy of Freedom (lectures on Aristotle and Mill)
Social Philosophy
Theories of Justice
Welfare

+ Several individual reading courses on e.g. *Aristotle's ethics*; *Hume's moral philosophy*; *Virtue Ethics*; *Theories of Life's Meaning*; *Hume on Causality*.

PEDAGOGIC TRAINING

University Teacher Training Course (Uppsala, 2003)

Supervision of Research in Theory and Practice (Stockholm, 2012)

SUPERVISION

Doctoral dissertations:

Main supervisor for H. D. Johnsen. Dissertation: *Eros and Education: Socratic Seduction in Three Platonic Dialogues*. **Successfully defended on October 21, 2016.**

Main supervisor for S. Lindgren. Dissertation: *Four Questions Concerning Love and Friendship*. **Successfully defended on October 28, 2016.**

Assistant supervisor for A. Stöpfegeshoff. Topic: St Thomas Aquinas and the unity of the virtues. *In progress.*

Assistant supervisor for H. Ahlenius. Topic: Issues in experimental philosophy. *In progress.*

* I have supervised and examined a number of Bachelor and Master Theses on topics in normative ethics, meaning in life, well-being, political philosophy, history of philosophy, and metaethics.

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Opponent: final dissertation seminar for Frits Gåvertsson, January 25, Lund University.

Opponent: half-term dissertation seminar for Erik Svärd-Bäcklin, November 2015. Umeå University.

Tor Freyr. Dissertation: *Plato's Social Ethics*, Uppsala University, August 22, 2016

Olof Pettersson. Dissertation: *A Multiform Desire*, Uppsala University, January 23, 2013

Rikard Ekholm. Dissertation: *Identical, But Still Different: On Artistic Appropriation in Visual Art*, Uppsala University, May 19, 2012

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

A.

Main organizer of an international workshop on *Meaning in Life and Objective Value*. Umeå University, November 2016. The proceedings from this workshop are currently under review for *De Ethica*.

Main organizer of an international symposium on Jonas Olson's *Moral Error Theory: History, Critique, Defence*. Stockholm University, January 2015. The proceedings of this symposium were published in the *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 13:4 (2016).

Main organizer of the final conference within the research programme *Understanding Agency*. Uppsala University, December 2014.

Main organizer of an international workshop on *Agency and the Good*. Uppsala University, April 2013.

Co-organizer of an international workshop on ancient philosophy. Uppsala University, May 2012.

Co-organizer of an international conference on *Virtue and Pleasure: Ancient and Modern Perspectives*. Stockholm University, March 2012.

Main organizer of an international conference on *Virtuous Agency: On the Development and Practice of the Virtues*. Uppsala University, 2010.

Main organizer of a major project meeting for the members of the program of excellence, *Understanding Agency*. Uppsala University, 2010.

Co-organizer of an international conference on *Action and Agency, Aristotle and Anscombe*. Uppsala University, September 2008.

Co-organizer of a workshop on *Agency and the Human Good*. Uppsala University, 2006.

Co-organizer of an international workshop in the history of philosophy. Uppsala University, 2001.

B.

Organizer (together with Jonas Olson) of the Higher Seminar in Practical Philosophy, Stockholm University, 2015.

Organizer (together with Åsa Wikfors) of the Philosophy Colloquium series at Stockholm University, 2011-13.

Deputy member of the Department Board, Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University, 2012-2016.

Member of the Governing Board for the centre or excellence, *Understanding Agency*, in Uppsala, 2010-2014.

Member of the School of Social Sciences Research Committee, University of the Witwatersrand, 2007.

Member of the Human Research Committee (Non-Medical), University of the Witwatersrand, 2007.

Member of the Department Board, Department of Philosophy, University of the Witwatersrand, 2007.

Member of the Department Board, Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University, 2001 – 2002.

REFERENCES

Professor Lilli Alanen, Uppsala University, Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University:
lilli.alanen@filosofi.uu.se

Professor Julia Annas, Department of Philosophy, University of Arizona:
jannas@u.arizona.edu

Professor Erik Carlson, Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University:
erik.carlson@filosofi.uu.se

Professor Thaddeus Metz, Department of Philosophy, University of Johannesburg:
tmetz@uj.ac.za; thadmetz@eastcoast.co.za

Professor Jonas Olson, Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University:
jonas.olson@philosophy.su.se

Mr. Kjell Svensson, Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University (teaching reference): kjell.svensson@philosophy.su.se

Mr. Rysiek Sliwinski, Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University (teaching reference):
rysiek.sliwinski@filosofi.uu.se