AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

Mind, metaphysics and meaning
- Naturalistically-oriented philosophy of psychology, memory and distributed cognition, moral cognition
- Philosophy of language, epistemology, relationship between natural language and logic
- Metaphysics

Social philosophy and continental philosophy
- Existential phenomenology and hermeneutics, social and political philosophy particularly in the Hegelian and post-Hegelian tradition, continental aesthetics, post-structuralism, and critical social theory in the Frankfurt School tradition
- Philosophy of work
- Philosophy of film

Ethics and applied ethics
- Moral psychology, autonomy, moral responsibility, diachronic agency, selfhood
- Normative ethics, normative political philosophy
- Bioethics; clinical, surgical and public health ethics; reproductive ethics and parenting; research ethics; animal ethics
- Neuroethics, neurolaw

RESEARCH HUBS
- Macquarie University Research Centre for Agency, Values and Ethics

Macquarie’s philosophy research is of high international standing. In the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2012 evaluation our philosophy and religious studies research received a rating of ‘performance above world standard’ as did our research in the sub-discipline of philosophy. Additionally, our research in the sub-discipline of applied ethics received a rating of ‘performance at world standard’.

The philosophy program at Macquarie has long-standing research strengths in metaphysics, philosophy of mind, ethics, social philosophy, philosophical psychology, and European philosophy, and more recently has also developed specialisations in medical ethics, bioethics and moral cognition.

A distinctive feature of philosophy at Macquarie is our research focus on human agency, mind and self. Our philosophers are at the forefront of research in these fields, with expertise in philosophy of agency, moral responsibility and moral cognition, memory, and extended cognition. These are areas in which, increasingly, philosophical research proceeds in partnership with the psychological and cognitive sciences and which require a range of skills that the higher degree research program at Macquarie is uniquely placed to develop.

Much of this research is conducted within the Macquarie University Research Centre for Agency, Values and Ethics (CAVE), an interdisciplinary centre involving researchers from philosophy, cognitive science, psychology, law, and medicine, with strong links to national and international partners. CAVE researchers are involved in significant international collaborations with researchers at universities in the UK, US, Canada, Netherlands, France and Germany.

The many workshops, conferences and visitors associated with CAVE, and its research connections with the Australian School of Advanced Medicine, and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Cognition and its Disorders, provide you with an especially rich and lively research environment.
The information in this document is correct as at the date of publication but the University reserves the right to vary or withdraw any general information, any program(s) and/or fees without notice.

Highlights

• Our researchers sit on editorial or advisory boards of leading journals including Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Bioethics, BMC Medical Ethics, Critical Horizons, European Journal of Philosophy, Memory Studies, Neuroethics, Philosophical Explorations, and Philosophical Psychology, and have served on national research councils in Australia, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, UK, and USA.

• Current research being conducted by Macquarie philosophers and their collaborators include projects on the metaphysics of causation; embodied virtues and expertise; addiction and moral agency; psychopathy; innovative surgery; vulnerability, autonomy and justice; animal ethics; Kantian conceptions of dignity; neurolaw; work; and self-development.

Support

HDR candidates are provided with strong academic and administrative support. This includes:

• Annual philosophy postgraduate showcase
• Commencement and Completion programs
• Discipline-specific research training units, including workshops in research communication, presentation skills, academic writing skills, thesis planning and poster preparation
• Experienced supervisors and department-based higher degree research directors
• Financial support for eligible candidates for a range of research-related activity
• Opportunities to present and discuss projects with international visitors
• Regular opportunities for informal staff/student interaction
• Regular progress reports and interviews
• Work-in-progress workshops in which research candidates receive feedback on their work from their peers and supervisors
• Visiting speakers

Research leaders

Macquarie is home to many internationally renowned researchers, including:

Professor Jeanette Kennett has published extensively in ethics and moral psychology. Her current research focuses on the contribution the sciences can make to our understanding of the cognitive and affective underpinnings of moral reasoning, moral judgment and moral agency.

Professor Catriona Mackenzie is director of the Centre for Agency, Values and Ethics. Her research expertise is in moral psychology, social and political philosophy, feminist philosophy and applied ethics. She has received numerous awards including a Eureka Prize for Research in Ethics.

Professor Wendy Rogers is researching at the forefront of medical ethics. Her research focuses on the intersections between practical issues in health care, theoretical ethics, and health policy, and she has particular expertise in a range of areas in biomedical ethics including organ donation, research ethics, public health ethics, and feminist bioethics. More recently, she has developed a program of research on the ethics of new surgical interventions and surgical research.

Professor Nicholas Smith has research expertise in modern European philosophy, social and political philosophy, and philosophical anthropology. His current research focuses on work and the ethics of recognition. He is the author and editor of several books, most recently New philosophies of labour and Recognition theory as social research.