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# Sarah-Jane Leslie

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## Employment

### *Current Positions*

2014 – Present	<b>Class of 1943 Professor of Philosophy</b> Department of Philosophy, Princeton University
2014 – Present	<b>Acting Director</b> Program in Linguistics
2013 – Present	<b>Professor</b> Department of Philosophy, Princeton University
	<b>Affiliated Faculty</b>
2006 – Present	Department of Psychology
2006 – Present	Program in Linguistics
2014 – Present	University Center for Human Values

### *Prior Positions*

2007 – 2013	<b>Assistant Professor</b> Department of Philosophy, Princeton University
2006 – 2007	<b>Instructor</b> Department of Philosophy, Princeton University

## Education

2002 – 2007	<b>Princeton University</b> <i>Ph.D. in Philosophy, June 2007</i>
1998 – 2002	<b>Rutgers University</b> B.A., <i>Summa cum laude</i> Majors: Philosophy; Mathematics; Cognitive Science

### **Primary Research Areas:**

Cognitive Science; Empirical Philosophy of Mind; Race, Gender, and Prejudice

### **Secondary Research Areas:**

Metaphysics; Aesthetics; Philosophy of Language

## **Administration, Service and Professional Activities**

### Administrative Experience:

- Acting Director, *Program in Linguistics, Princeton University*, 2014 – present
- Organizer, *Cognitive Science Initiative, Princeton University*, 2014-present
- Chair of the Faculty Board, *Minorities and Philosophy (MAP)*, 2013 – present
- Director of Graduate Student Placement, *Department of Philosophy, Princeton University*, 2012 – present

### Other Significant Professional Activities:

- Interviewer, *Philosophical Conversations with Sarah-Jane Leslie, The Marc Sanders Foundation*, [www.youtube.com/PhilConversations](http://www.youtube.com/PhilConversations), 2013-present
- Mentor, *Networking and Mentoring Workshop for Graduate Women in Philosophy*, 2014
- Faculty Fellow, *Rockefeller College, Princeton University*, 2014-present
- Executive Committee, *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, 2013-2016
- Lifetime Member, *Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni*

### Outreach Addresses and Public Lectures:

- *Freshman Assembly*, Princeton University, “Comments on *Meaning in Life*”, 2014
- *Brooklyn Public Philosophers*, Brooklyn Public Library, “How Language Shapes our Perception of the Social World”, 2014
- *Freshmen Parents’ Weekend*, Princeton University, “Gender Gaps and Conceptions of Ability”, 2013
- *Freshmen Scholars Institute*, Princeton University, Philosophy lecturer, 2013
- *Inclusiveness Address*, Northwestern University, “Gender Gaps and Conceptions of Ability”, 2012
- *Institute for Diversity*, Rutgers University, “The Philosophy and Psychology of Generic Language”, 2012
- *Epic Theatre Ensemble*, 47<sup>th</sup> Street Theater, “Comments on Macbeth”, 2012

### University Committees:

- Advisory Committee on Faculty Diversity, 2013-present
- Search Committee for the Program in Linguistics, 2013-2014
- Committee for the Course of Study, 2013-present
- Executive Committee for the Program in Linguistics, 2006-present (chair 2014-present)

### Departmental Committees:

- Placement Committee, 2010-2011, 2012-present (chair)
- Graduate Committee, 2004-2005, 2010-2011, 2012-2014

- Ad-hoc Committee on Research Networks, 2010-2011
- Appointments Committee, 2003-2004, 2006-2007, 2009-2010
- Library Committee, 2010-2011
- Seminar Committee, 2009-2010
- Colloquium Committee, 2006-2007
- Undergraduate Committee, 2005-2006
- Senior Search Committee, 2003-2004

### **Recent Awards, Grants, and Fellowships**

Gareth Evans Memorial Lecture, *Oxford University*, 2014

Class of 1943 Professor of Philosophy, *Princeton University*, 2014

Behrman Faculty Fellow, *Princeton University*, 2013-2015

National Science Foundation grant BCS-1226942, 2012-2015, “The Development of Social Essentialism” (co-PI; Marjorie Rhodes, PI; \$299,976)

Seed Money Award, *Institute of Human Development and Social Change*, 2012  
“The Role of Generic Language in the Development of Essentialism” (co-PI; Marjorie Rhodes, PI; \$10,000)

Jacob Viner University Preceptorship, *Princeton University*, 2010-2013

Mrs. Giles Whiting Honorific Fellowship, *Princeton University*, 2005-2006

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, *Philosophy of Science*, 2002-2005

Graduate School Summer Stipend, *Princeton University*, 2003-2005

Centennial Graduate Fellowship, *Princeton University*, 2002

Sanford A. Doolittle Prize in Philosophy, *Rutgers University*, 2002

Aresty Research Scholarship, *Rutgers University*, 2002

Weill Mathematics Scholarship, *Rutgers University*, 2002

## Publications

### Books

*Generics and Generalization*

Under contract at Oxford University Press

### Articles

Gelman, S.A., **Leslie, S.J.**, Was, A.M., & Koch, C.M. (in press). Children's interpretations of general quantifiers, specific quantifiers, and generics. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*.

Sutherland, S., Cimpian, A., **Leslie, S.J.**, & Gelman, S.A. (in press). Evidence for an implicit motivation to learn about kinds. *Cognitive Science*.

**Leslie, S.J.** (in press). Carving up the Social World with Generics. *Oxford Studies in Experimental Philosophy*.

**Leslie, S.J.** (in press). Generics Oversimplified. *Noûs*. Early view, 2013, DOI: 10.1111/nous.12039.

**Leslie, S.J.** (in press). 'Hilary Clinton is the only man in the Obama administration': Dual Character Concepts, Generics, and Gender. *Analytic Philosophy*.

**Leslie, S.J.** (in press). 'Real Men': Polysemy or Implicature? *Analytic Philosophy*.

**Leslie, S.J.** (in press). The Original Sin of Cognition: Fear, Prejudice and Generalization. *The Journal of Philosophy*.

**Leslie, S.J.** (in press). Generic Generalizations. In E. Zalta (ed.), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

**Leslie, S.J.** (in press). Generics. In R. Audi (ed.), *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*.

Lerner, A., & **Leslie, S.J.** (2013). Generics, Generalism, and Reflective Equilibrium: Implications for Moral Theorizing from the Study of Language. *Philosophical Perspectives*, 27, 366-403.

Prasada, S., Khemlani, S., **Leslie, S. J.** & Glucksberg, S. (2013). Conceptual distinctions amongst generics. *Cognition*, 126(3), 405-422.

**Leslie, S.J.** (2013). Essence and Natural Kinds: When Science Meets Preschooler Intuition. *Oxford Studies in Epistemology*, 4, 108-166.

Meyer, M., **Leslie, S. J.**, Gelman, S. A., & Stilwell, S. (2013). Essentialist beliefs about organ transplants in the United States and India. *Cognitive Science*, 37(4), 668-710.

- Covered by several media outlets in the US and India, including *NPR*

Johnston, M., & **Leslie, S.J.** (2012). Concepts, Analysis, Generics, and the Canberra Plan. *Philosophical Perspectives*, 26, 113-171.

**Leslie, S.J.** (2012). Generics Articulate Default Generalizations. *Recherches Linguistiques de Vincennes: New Perspectives on Genericity at the Interfaces* (A. Mari (ed.)), 41, 25-45.

Rhodes, M., **Leslie, S. J.** & Tworek, C. (2012). Cultural Transmission of Social Essentialism. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 109(34), 13526-13531.

- Chosen for a *Trends in Cognitive Sciences (TICS)* Spotlight feature, written by Sandra Waxman
- Covered by several media outlets, including the *LA Times* and the *Huffington Post*

**Leslie, S. J.**, & Gelman, S. A. (2012). Quantified statements are recalled as generics: Evidence from preschool children and adults. *Cognitive Psychology*, 64, 186-214.

Khemlani, S., **Leslie, S. J.** & Glucksberg, S. (2012). Inferences about members of kinds: The generic hypothesis. *Language and Cognitive Processes*, 27, 887-900.

Brandone, A., Cimpian, A., **Leslie, S. J.** & Gelman, S. A. (2012). Do lions have manes? For children, generics are about kinds, not quantities. *Child Development*, 83(2), 423–433.

**Leslie, S.J.** (2012). *Eros and the Redemption of the Gods: Themes from Wagner*. In N. Zangwill and A. Hamilton (eds.), *Scruton's Aesthetics*, Palgrave-MacMillan.

**Leslie, S.J.** (2012). Generics. *The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Language*, G. Russell and D. G. Fara (eds), New York: Routledge, pp.355-367.

**Leslie, S. J.**, Khemlani, S., & Glucksberg, S. (2011). All ducks lay eggs: The Generic Overgeneralization Effect. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 35, 15-31.

**Leslie, S.J.** (2011). Generics. *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.  
“Essence, Plenitude, and Paradox” (2011), *Philosophical Perspectives*, 25, 277-296.

**Leslie, S.J.** (2009). ‘If’, ‘Unless’, and Quantification. In R. Stainton and C. Viger (eds.) *Compositionality, Context and Semantics. Studies in Linguistics and Philosophy (SLAP)*, 85, Dordrecht: Springer.

**Leslie, S.J.** (2008). Generics: Cognition and Acquisition. *Philosophical Review*, 117(1), 1-47.

**Leslie, S.J.** (2007). Generics and the Structure of the Mind. *Philosophical Perspectives*, 21, 375-403.

**Leslie, S.J.** (2007). Moderately Sensitive Semantics. In G. Preyer (ed.), *Context Sensitivity and Semantic Minimalism: Essays on Semantics and Pragmatics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### **Conference Proceedings**

**Leslie, S. J.**, Khemlani, S., Prasada, S., & Glucksberg, S. (2009). Conceptual and linguistic distinctions between singular and plural generics. *Proceedings of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Cognitive Science Society*. Amsterdam: Cognitive Science Society.

Khemlani, S., **Leslie, S. J.**, & Glucksberg, S. (2009). Generics, Prevalence, and Default Inferences. *Proceedings of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Cognitive Science Society*. Amsterdam: Cognitive Science Society.

Khemlani, S., **Leslie, S. J.**, Glucksberg, S. & Fernandez, P. R. (2007). Do ducks lay eggs? How people interpret generic assertions. *Proceedings of the 29th Annual Cognitive Science Society*. Nashville, TN: Cognitive Science Society.

### **Submitted and In Preparation**

**Leslie, S.J.**, Cimpian, A, & Meyer, M., A new perspective on gender gaps in academia: The role of discipline-specific beliefs about what is required for success.

Rhodes, M., **Leslie, S.J.**, Bianchi, L.B., & Chalik, L. The cultural origins of social categorization.

Essence and Accident: Against Limited Variety.

Meyer, M, Gelman, S. A., & **Leslie, S. J.**, My heart made me do it: Children's essentialist beliefs about heart transplants.

### **Academic Presentations**

*See above for outreach and public addresses;  
Talks sponsored by local philosophy department, unless otherwise noted*

#### **2014**

- *Inaugural Science of Learning Conference*, Johns Hopkins University, "You have to be a genius to succeed!": Why some disciplines have large gender gaps"
- *New York Society for Women in Philosophy – Analytic*, "Gender Gaps and Conceptions of Ability"

#### **2013**

- *Behrman Faculty Fellows*, "Gender Gaps and Conceptions of Ability"
- *Yale University, Conference on Generics*, "Generics and Social Cognition"

- NYU Mind and Language Seminar, “Generics, Concepts, Analysis and the Canberra Plan”
- *Society for Research in Child Development*, “Gender Gaps and Conceptions of Ability”
- *Society for Research in Child Development*, “Generic Language Shapes the Development of Social Essentialism”
- *Society for Research in Child Development*, discussant, *The Developmental Origins of Psychological Essentialism*
- Johns Hopkins University, “Generics and Generalization” (Cognitive Science Colloquium)
- Johns Hopkins University, “Gender Gaps and Conceptions of Ability”

### 2012

- *Society for Experimental Social Psychology*, “The Cultural Transmission of Social Essentialism”
- Northwestern University, *Inclusiveness Address*, “Gender Gaps and Conceptions of Ability”
- Northwestern University, *Cognitive Science Colloquium*, (Co-sponsored by the Program in Cognitive Science and the Department of Philosophy), “Generics and Generalization”
- Stanford University, “Generics and Psychology”, (2 lecture series)
- Stanford University, “Generics and Semantics”, (2 lecture series)
- *Central APA*, Session on Stereotype Threat (invited speaker), “Gender Gaps and Conceptions of Ability”

### 2011

- *Eastern APA*, Session on Racial Cognition (invited speaker), “Essentialism and Prejudice”
- Central European University, *Cognitive Science Colloquium*, (Sponsored by the Center for Cognitive Science), “Generics as Cognitive Defaults”
- *Conference on Genericity: Interpretation and Uses III*, Institut Jean Nicod, “Generics as Cognitive Defaults”
- Vassar College, Philosophy of Language Seminar, guest speaker
- Tufts University, *Cognitive Science Colloquium*, (Co-sponsored by the Philosophy Department and the Program in Cognitive Science), “Generics as Cognitive Defaults”
- University of Pennsylvania, *Cognitive Science Colloquium*, (Sponsored by the Institute for Research in Cognitive Science (IRCS)), “Generics as Cognitive Defaults”
- *Cognitive Development Society*, Symposium: *Specific Generalities: Learning at Different Levels*, discussant
- CUNY Graduate Center, “The Original Sin of Cognition”
- NYU, *Department of Psychology Summer Program*, “Generics and Generalization”
- *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, “Generics as Cognitive Defaults”
- *Metro Experimental Research Group*, “Generics and Generalization”
- University of Maryland, *Inaugural ‘Graduate Students’ Choice’ Speaker*, “The Original Sin of Cognition”

- University of Maryland, *Cognitive Science Colloquium*, (*Sponsored by the Program in Cognitive Science*), “Generics and Generalization”
- *Society for Research in Child Development*, “Quantified Statements are Recalled as Generics: Evidence from Preschool Children and Adults”, *Poster presentation*
- *Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Student Conference*, Keynote Address, “The Original Sin of Cognition”

### 2010

- Notre Dame, “The Original Sin of Cognition”
- Yale University, *Cognitive Science Colloquium*, (*Sponsored by the Program in Cognitive Science*), “Generics and Generalization”
- UMass Amherst, “The Original Sin of Cognition”
- University of Toronto, “The Original Sin of Cognition”
- Princeton Theological Seminary, “The Original Sin of Cognition”
- St. Louis University, “The Original Sin of Cognition”
- *Semantic Development: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, workshop sponsored by *The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, “Generics in Acquisition”
- *Workshop on Natural Language Semantics*, University of East Anglia, “Generics, Truth, and Psychology”
- University College London, (*sponsored by the Department of Psychology and Language Sciences*), “Generics, Quantifiers, and Cognition”
- *Workshop on Generics and Social Bias*, MIT, “The Original Sin of Cognition”
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, *Cognitive Science Colloquium*, (*sponsored by the Department of Psychology*), “Generics and Generalization”

### 2009

- *Society for Women in Philosophy*, “The Original Sin of Cognition”
- *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, comments on “Dual Task Studies of Event Perception” by Anna Papafragou & John Trueswell
- University of St. Andrews, “Generics, Semantics, and Semantic Cognition”
- Oxford University, *Philosophical Society Talk*, “Generics, Semantics, and Semantic Cognition”
- Cornell University, (*co-sponsored by the Program in Cognitive Science*), “Generics, Semantics, and Semantic Cognition”

### 2007

- Princeton University, *Cognitive Science Series*, “Generics and the Structure of the Mind”
- Princeton University, *RoLaP*, “Generics and Quantifiers”
- Vassar College, “Generics and the Structure of the Mind”

### 2006

- American Philosophical Society, Eastern Division Meeting, Invited Paper: *The Generic Session*



- Rutgers University, (*sponsored by the Center for Cognitive Science (RuCCS)*), “Generics and the Structure of the Mind”
- *Workshop on Semantics*, Rutgers University, “Generics and Quantifiers”
- MIT, “Generics and the Structure of the Mind”
- NYU, “Generics and the Structure of the Mind”
- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, “Generics and the Structure of the Mind”
- Columbia University, “Generics and the Structure of the Mind”
- University of California, Berkeley, “Generics and the Structure of the Mind”
- University of California, San Diego, “Generics and the Structure of the Mind”

*Earlier Presentations*

- *Conference on Language and Linguistics*, University of Connecticut, comments on Herman Cappellen’s ‘Shared Content’
- *Conference on Recent Research in Semantics*, Carleton University, “Conditionals and Compositionality”
- Australian National University, “Conditionals and Compositionality”

**Graduate Advising**

*Current Ph.D. Students*

Simon Cullen, (attribution and moral responsibility), 2013-present

Mark Harris, (emotions and cognition), 2013-present

Corey Maley, (guilt and shame), 2010-present

Derek Shiller, “Tracking Reasons”, 2011-present

*Former Students*

Cecilia Tilli, “On the Plurality of Thought: Beyond Dual Systems Views”, Ph.D. 2014

Carla Merino-Rajme, “A Quantum Theory of Felt Duration”, Ph.D. 2013

Helen Yetter Chappell, “Phenomenal Concepts and the Mind-Body Problem”, Ph.D. 2012