

Philosophy, School of Humanities (M204)  
University of Western Australia  
35 Stirling Highway  
Crawley, WA 6009  
Australia  
✉ remco.heesen@uwa.edu.au  
📧 remcoheesen.eu

# Remco Heesen

## Areas of Specialization

- Philosophy of Science
- Decision and Game Theory
- Epistemology (especially formal and social epistemology)
- Social Structure of Science

## Areas of Competence

- Logic
- Ethics

## Employment

- 2019– **Senior Lecturer in Philosophy**, *University of Western Australia*.  
Tenurable appointment in the School of Humanities.
- 2019–2023 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *University of Groningen*.  
Primary Investigator on the project “Understanding Statistical Biases in Peer Review”, carried out in the Department of Theoretical Philosophy.
- 2016–2019 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, *University of Cambridge*.  
Primary Investigator on the project “Organizing Science: The Social Epistemology of Scientists and Their Incentives”, carried out in the Faculty of Philosophy. Secondary appointment as Junior Research Fellow in St Edmund’s College (2017–2019).

## Education

- 2016 **PhD**, *Carnegie Mellon University*, Department of Philosophy.  
Dissertation title: “To Expedite the Flow of Knowledge”. Committee: Kevin Zollman (advisor), Michael Strevens, Stephan Hartmann, Teddy Seidenfeld.
- 2013 **MS**, *Carnegie Mellon University*, Logic, Computation and Methodology.
- 2010 **MSc (with distinction)**, *London School of Economics and Political Science*, Philosophy and History of Science.
- 2009 **MSc (cum laude)**, *Tilburg University*, Operations Research and Management Science.
- 2009 **BA (cum laude)**, *Tilburg University*, Philosophy.
- 2008 **BSc (cum laude)**, *Tilburg University*, Econometrics and OR.

---

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

- forthcoming Remco Heesen. “The Credit Incentive to Be a Maverick.” *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*. [Published version \(open access\)](#)
- forthcoming Remco Heesen, Liam Kofi Bright and Andrew Zucker. “Vindicating Methodological Triangulation.” *Synthese*. [Published version \(open access\)](#)
- 2018 Remco Heesen. “Why the Reward Structure of Science Makes Reproducibility Problems Inevitable.” *The Journal of Philosophy* 115(12): 661–674. [Published version](#) [Penultimate](#)
- 2018 Remco Heesen. “When Journal Editors Play Favorites.” *Philosophical Studies* 175(4): 831–858. [Published version \(open access\)](#)
- 2018 Liam Kofi Bright, Haixin Dang and Remco Heesen. “A Role for Judgment Aggregation in Coauthoring Scientific Papers.” *Erkenntnis* 83(2): 231–252. [Published version \(open access\)](#)
- 2017 Remco Heesen. “Communism and the Incentive to Share in Science.” *Philosophy of Science* 84(4): 698–716. [Published version](#) [Penultimate](#)
- 2017 Remco Heesen. “Academic Superstars: Competent or Lucky?” *Synthese* 194(11): 4499–4518. [Published version \(open access\)](#)
- 2016 Remco Heesen and Pieter van der Kolk. “A Game-Theoretic Approach to Peer Disagreement.” *Erkenntnis* 81(6): 1345–1368. [Published version \(open access\)](#)
- 2015 Remco Heesen. “How Much Evidence Should One Collect?” *Philosophical Studies* 172(9): 2299–2313. [Published version](#) [Penultimate](#)
- 2011 Jan Sprenger and Remco Heesen. “The Bounded Strength of Weak Expectations.” *Mind* 120(479): 819–832. [Published version](#) [Penultimate](#)



---

## Outreach

- May 2019 Remco Heesen. Interview on Sci Phi Podcast. [Podcast](#)
- Feb 2019 Jan-Willem Romeijn, Remco Heesen and Hendrik Siebe. Opinion piece on opinion formation in groups (in Dutch). [Article](#) [Mirror](#)
- Jul 2014 Remco Heesen and Konstantin Genin. Introductory discussion of the St. Petersburg Paradox and decision theory at the Swiss Institute. [Video](#)
- Apr 2011 Remco Heesen and 45 co-authors. *Onze Tijd: Wat is waar?* Exchange of letters on truth, published by Kon. Holl. Mij. der Wetenschappen (in Dutch).
- Dec 2010 Remco Heesen and 21 co-authors. *Zelf Vertrouwen*. Report on trust in society, with my contribution focusing on trust in science (in Dutch). [Report](#)

---

## Book Reviews

- 2019 Thomas Boyer-Kassem, Conor Mayo-Wilson, and Michael Weisberg's "Scientific Collaboration and Collective Knowledge." *Philosophy of Science* 86(1): 192–198.  Published version  Penultimate

---

## External Research Funding

- 2019–2023 **NWO Veni**, *Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research*, € 250,000. Research grant for the project “Understanding Statistical Biases in Peer Review”.
- 2016–2019 **Early Career Fellowship**, *The Leverhulme Trust*, £ 162,000. Research grant for “Organizing Science: The Social Epistemology of Scientists and Their Incentives”, with matching funding from Cambridge’s Isaac Newton Trust.

---

## Prizes and Fellowships

- 2019 **SILFS Prize for Philosophy of Science**, *Italian Society for Logic and the Philosophy of Science*.  
Best philosophy of science paper by any scholar under 40, for “The Necessity of Commensuration Bias in Grant Peer Review”.
- 2017 **Emanuel Miller Prize**, *St John’s College (University of Cambridge)*.  
Best philosophy of science paper by any member of the University of Cambridge, for “Why the Reward Structure of Science Makes Reproducibility Problems Inevitable”.
- 2014–2015 **Visiting Fellowship**, *Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy*.  
Funding for a three-month visit to Munich.
- 2013– **Various Travel Grants**.  
Funding towards travel and accommodation expenses for conferences and invited talks from over a dozen different sources.
- 2010 **Imre Lakatos Prize**, *London School of Economics*.  
Best master’s thesis on philosophy of science of the academic year 2009–2010.
- 2009 **Master’s Thesis Award**, *Tilburg University*.  
Best master’s thesis of the academic year 2008–2009 (university-wide).
- 2009–2010 **HSP Talent Programme**, *Dutch ministry of education*.  
Scholarship awarded by the Huygens Scholarship Programme to excellent students continuing their education abroad, covering tuition and living expenses.
- 2009–2010 **VSB Fund Scholarship**, *VSB Fund (Dutch charity)*.  
Scholarship for passionate and highly motivated students.
- 2009 **Excellence Scholarship**, *Tilburg University*.  
Scholarship for graduate studies awarded to *cum laude* undergraduates.

---

## Research Presentations

43 in total, 19 invited (marked with \*) and 24 at peer-reviewed conferences. 3 presentations were given with a coauthor (marked with †).

### **The Necessity of Commensuration Bias in Grant Peer Review.**

- Jun 2019 *Keynote speaker*, SILFS Postgraduate Conference, University of Urbino. \*
- Jun 2019 Asian Conference on the Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Nankai University.

### **Is Peer Review a Good Idea?**, with Liam Kofi Bright.

- Nov 2018 Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, Seattle. †

### **Why Should Scientists Do Good Science?**

- Jun 2018 *Keynote speaker*, Computational Modeling in Philosophy, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. \*

- May 2018 Formal Social Epistemology Workshop, University of California Irvine. \*

### **Statistical Biases in Peer Review.**

- Apr 2018 HPS Departmental Seminar, University of Cambridge. \*
- Feb 2018 Philosophy Seminar Series, National University of Singapore. \*
- Nov 2017 Choice Group, London School of Economics. \*
- Jun 2017 Brown Bag Seminar, RAND Europe. \*
- Jun 2017 Mini-workshop Social Epistemology, University of Groningen. \*

### **Epistemic Diversity and Editor Decisions: A Statistical Matthew Effect**, with Jan-Willem Romeijn.

- Mar 2018 PEERE International Conference on Peer Review, Rome.
- Jul 2017 Formal Models of Scientific Inquiry, Ruhr-University Bochum.
- Jun 2017 Progress in Science and Society, University of Hannover.
- May 2017 Philosophy Research Seminar, University of Bristol. \* †

### **The Credit Incentive to Be a Maverick.**

- Apr 2017 Risk and the Culture of Science, University of Cambridge. \*
- ### **The Incentive to Share in the Intermediate Results Game.**
- Jul 2017 European Meeting on Game Theory, Paris Dauphine University.

- Mar 2017 EIPE Twentieth Anniversary Conference, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

### **Epistemic Consequences of the Credit Economy.**

- Jan 2018 Lecture in Theoretical Philosophy, University of Groningen. \*
- Jun 2017 Philosophy Research Seminar, University of Bristol. \*
- Jan 2017 Research Seminar, Columbia University. \*

### **Why the Priority Rule Does Not Exist**, with Kevin Zollman.

- Sep 2017 European Philosophy of Science Association, University of Exeter.
- Mar 2017 Philosophy of Science Seminar (CamPoS), University of Cambridge. \*

- Sep 2016 Formal Approaches in Social Epistemology, University of Bristol. \*  
**When Journal Editors Play Favorites.**
- Jun 2017 Inclusion and Exclusion in Philosophy, University of Hannover.
- Nov 2016 Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, Atlanta.
- Jun 2016 Congrès de la Société de Philosophie des Sciences, University of Lausanne.  
**Judgment Aggregation in Medical Science**, with Liam Kofi Bright and Haixin Dang.
- Mar 2016 Medical Knowledge in a Social World, University of California Irvine.  
**Communism and the Incentive to Share in Science.**
- Sep 2015 European Philosophy of Science Association, University of Düsseldorf.
- Aug 2015 Logic Colloquium, University of Helsinki.
- Jul 2015 Bristol-Groningen Conference in Formal Epistemology, University of Bristol.  
**Why the Reward Structure of Science Makes Reproducibility Problems Inevitable.**  
Presented as “Expediting the Flow of Knowledge Versus Rushing into Print”.
- Jun 2016 Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Groningen.
- Feb 2016 Philosophy Seminar Series, National University of Singapore. \*
- Aug 2015 Congress of Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science, University of Helsinki.
- Mar 2015 Research Seminar in Epistemology and Philosophy of Science, Tilburg University. \*  
**Vindicating Methodological Triangulation**, with Liam Kofi Bright and Andrew Zucker.
- Jan 2015 Scientific Discovery in the Social Sciences, London School of Economics.
- Jan 2015 Colloquium in Mathematical Philosophy, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy. \*  
**A Game-Theoretic Approach to Peer Disagreement**, with Pieter van der Kolk.
- Oct 2014 Central States Philosophical Association, Northwestern University.  
**Academic Superstars: Competent or Lucky?.**  
Presented as “Three Ways To Become an Academic Superstar” and “Interaction Networks with Imperfect Evidence”.
- Dec 2014 Agent-Based Modeling in Philosophy, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy.
- Jun 2014 Society for Exact Philosophy, California Institute of Technology.
- Sep 2013 Philosophy and Theory of Artificial Intelligence, University of Oxford.
- Sep 2013 Congress on Logic and Philosophy of Science, Ghent University.

- The Bounded Strength of Weak Expectations**, with Jan Sprenger.  
 Sep 2010 Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Konstanz.  
 Jan 2010 Choice Group, London School of Economics. \* †

## Teaching Experience

At undergraduate level:

- 2017 **Conditionals and Counterfactuals**, *University of Cambridge*.  
 2016 **Epistemology**, *Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)*.  
 2013 **Epistemology**, *CMU*.  
 2012 **Logic and Proofs**, *CMU*.

At postgraduate level:

- 2018 **MPhil Supervision (4 students)**, *Cambridge*.  
 2017–2018 **MPhil Grading**, *Cambridge*.

As teaching assistant:

- 2014 **Medical Ethics**, *CMU*.  
 Two guest lectures given.  
 2013 **Continental Philosophy**, *CMU*.  
 One guest lecture given.  
 2012 **Introduction to Philosophy (x2)**, *CMU*.  
 One guest lecture given.  
 2006–2008 **Linear Algebra (x3)**, *Tilburg University*.

## Service

- reviewer *Philosophy of Science, Synthese, Erkenntnis, Mind, Analysis, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Episteme, Minds and Machines, European Journal of Operational Research*.
- program committees Formal Epistemology Workshop (Turin, 2019), Biases in Science (Munich, 2019), Formal Models of Scientific Inquiry (Bochum, 2017), Lund Conference on Games, Interaction, Reasoning, Learning and Semantics (2016).
- 2017–2018 Convenor of reading group “Formal Social Epistemology” at Cambridge.
- 2013–2015 Graduate student representative to the faculty at CMU.
- 2012–2016 Organizer of graduate student colloquia at CMU.