

Philosophy, School of Humanities (M204)
University of Western Australia
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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. “Cumulative Advantage and the Incentive to Commit Fraud in Science.” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.
- forthcoming Remco Heesen. “The Necessity of Commensuration Bias in Grant Peer Review.” *Ergo*.
- forthcoming Remco Heesen and Liam Kofi Bright. “Is Peer Review a Good Idea?” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.  Published (OA = open access)
- 2019 Remco Heesen and Jan-Willem Romeijn. “Epistemic Diversity and Editor Decisions: A Statistical Matthew Effect.” *Philosophers’ Imprint* 19(39): 1–20.  Published (OA)
- 2019 Remco Heesen. “The Credit Incentive to Be a Maverick.” *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 76: 5–12.  Published (OA)
- 2019 Remco Heesen, Liam Kofi Bright and Andrew Zucker. “Vindicating Methodological Triangulation.” *Synthese* 196(8): 3067–3081.  Published (OA)
- 2018 Remco Heesen. “Why the Reward Structure of Science Makes Reproducibility Problems Inevitable.” *The Journal of Philosophy* 115(12): 661–674.  Published  Penultimate
- 2018 Remco Heesen. “When Journal Editors Play Favorites.”* *Philosophical Studies* 175(4): 831–858.  Published (OA)
- * Included in *The Philosopher’s Annual* vol. 38 (2018).  Editorial
- 2018 Liam Kofi Bright, Haixin Dang and Remco Heesen. “A Role for Judgment Aggregation in Coauthoring Scientific Papers.” *Erkenntnis* 83(2): 231–252.  Published (OA)
- 2017 Remco Heesen. “Communism and the Incentive to Share in Science.” *Philosophy of Science* 84(4): 698–716.  Published  Penultimate
- 2017 Remco Heesen. “Academic Superstars: Competent or Lucky?” *Synthese* 194(11): 4499–4518.  Published (OA)
- 2016 Remco Heesen and Pieter van der Kolk. “A Game-Theoretic Approach to Peer Disagreement.” *Erkenntnis* 81(6): 1345–1368.  Published (OA)
- 2015 Remco Heesen. “How Much Evidence Should One Collect?” *Philosophical Studies* 172(9): 2299–2313.  Published  Penultimate
- 2011 Jan Sprenger and Remco Heesen. “The Bounded Strength of Weak Expectations.” *Mind* 120(479): 819–832.  Published  Penultimate

Outreach

- Jul 2021 Rob Wilson and Remco Heesen. Hale School Philosopher in Residence.
- Jan 2021 Does Peer Review Live up to its Promise? Invited panelist at APE 2021.
- Dec 2020 Brian L. Frye. Heesen and Bright on Peer Review. *Ipsa Dixit*, 669.  Podcast

- Nov 2020 Liam Kofi Bright and Remco Heesen. The Head and the Heart: Incentives and Norms. *The Sooty Empiric*. [Article](#)
- Nov 2020 Science, Trust and Misinformation. Philosophical discussion at Mello House.
- Mar 2020 Scientific Realism. Guest lecture at Christ Church Grammar School.
- Sep 2019 Laura Molenaar. Peer review, reimaged. Interview in **Research*. [Article](#)
- May 2019 Nick Zautra. Interview with Remco Heesen. *Sci Phi Podcast*, 65. [Podcast](#)
- Feb 2019 Jan-Willem Romeijn, Remco Heesen and Hendrik Siebe. Article 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](#) [Penultimate](#)

External Research Funding

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

Prizes and Fellowships

- 2019 **Included in *The Philosopher’s Annual***, vol. 38, 2018.
“When Journal Editors Play Favorites” selected among the ten best articles of 2018.
- 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.

- 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 studying abroad, awarded based on motivation.
- 2009 **Excellence Scholarship**, *Tilburg University*.
Scholarship for graduate studies awarded to *cum laude* undergraduates.

Research Presentations (selected)

49 listed, of which 22 were invited (marked with *) and 27 at peer-reviewed conferences. 3 presentations were given with a coauthor (marked with †).

Cumulative Advantage & Incentive to Commit Fraud in Science.

Nov 2021 Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, Baltimore.

Sep 2021 European Philosophy of Science Association, University of Turin.

Publication Bias is Bad for Science if not Necessarily Scientists,
with Liam Kofi Bright.

May 2021 Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science Annual Meeting,
University of Alberta.

Jury Theorems for Peer Review, with Marcus Arvan and Liam Kofi Bright.

Dec 2020 Research Forum, University of Bayreuth. *

Nov 2020 Philosophy & Ethics Group Seminar, Eindhoven University of Technology. *
Modeling Peer Review and the Credit Economy.

Aug 2020 Workshop on the History and Philosophy of the Social Sciences, University
of Western Australia. *

Frustrating Policy without Lying.

Oct 2019 Challenges of Translating Science into Public Policy, Murdoch University. *

Changing Peer Review to Open Science.

Sep 2019 Philosophy Seminar, Murdoch University. *

Sep 2019 Building Better Epistemic Networks, Australian Catholic University. *

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.
- Apr 2021 Interdisciplinary Centre for STS Colloquium, Wuppertal University. *
- Sep 2020 Center for Science and Technology Studies Seminar, Leiden University. *
- 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. *
- 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.
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.
- 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

- 2020 **Logic (Intro)**, *University of Western Australia (UWA)*.
- 2019–2021 **Logic (Advanced) (x2)**, *UWA*.
- 2019–2021 **Decision Theory (x2)**, *UWA*.
- 2017 **Conditionals and Counterfactuals**, *University of Cambridge*.

- 2013–2016 **Epistemology (x2)**, *Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)*.
 2012 **Logic (Intro)**, *CMU*.
 At postgraduate level
 2020 **Analytic Philosophy (Honours)**, *UWA*.
 2020 **MA Thesis Supervision (x1)**, *University of Groningen*.
 2019 **The Evolution of Social Behavior (MA)**, *Groningen*.
 2019 **Honours Supervision (x1)**, *UWA*.
 2019– **Honours Grading**, *UWA*.
 2017–2018 **MPhil Supervision (x4)**, *Cambridge*.
 2017–2018 **MPhil Grading**, *Cambridge*.
 As teaching assistant
 2014 **Medical Ethics**, *CMU*.
 2013 **Continental Philosophy**, *CMU*.
 2012 **Introduction to Philosophy (x2)**, *CMU*.
 2006–2008 **Linear Algebra (x3)**, *Tilburg University*.

Service

- reviewer *Philosophy of Science, Synthese, Erkenntnis, The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Mind, Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Philosophers' Imprint, Ergo, Philosophical Quarterly, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Episteme, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Australasian Philosophical Review, Economics and Philosophy, Minds and Machines, European Journal of Operational Research, Academia Letters, Collabra: Psychology, Review of General Psychology, BA / Leverhulme Small Research Grants.*
- program committees European Philosophy of Science Association (Turin, 2021), Formal Epistemology Workshop (Irvine, 2020 and Turin, 2019), Biases in Science (Munich, 2019), Formal Models of Scientific Inquiry (Bochum, 2017), Games, Interaction, Reasoning, Learning and Semantics (Lund, 2016).
- 2020– Member of UWA's Humanities Research and Research Training Committee.
- 2019– Mentor on the Philosophers' Cocoon Job-Market Mentoring Program.
- 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.