

Eric Kerr, PhD MLitt MA LLB

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Teaching Position: Tembusu College
Research Position: Asia Research Institute

Biography

Dr Eric KERR is a philosopher and currently Senior Lecturer and Director of Residential Life at Tembusu College, National University of Singapore. In his research, Dr Kerr explores how knowledge is imagined and governed within epistemic communities. His work has appeared in venues such as *Information, Communication and Society*, *Philosophy & Technology*, *East Asian Science, Technology and Society*, *First Monday*, *Philosophical Issues*, and *Theoretical Issues in Ergonomics Science*.

Dr Kerr is the Editor-in-Chief of *Social Epistemology: A Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Policy* since January 2024 and an Advisory Board Member of *East Asian Science, Technology and Society*. He is a Fellow in Client Counseling of the American Association of Philosophical Practitioners and Visiting Researcher at Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

Academic Positions

- 2022-Present. Senior Lecturer, Tembusu College, National University of Singapore (NUS).
- 2016-Present. Research Fellow, Science Technology and Society (STS) Cluster, Asia Research Institute.
- 2018-2021. Lecturer, Tembusu College, NUS.
- 2013-2018. Teaching Fellow, Tembusu College, NUS.
- 2015-2016. Postdoctoral Fellow, Asian Urbanisms Cluster, ARI, NUS.
- 2015. Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Philosophy, NUS.
- 2013-2015. Postdoctoral Fellow, STS Cluster, ARI, NUS.

Additional Affiliations and Appointments

- 2024-Present. Editor-in-Chief, *Social Epistemology: A Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Policy*.
- 2024-Present. Member, *Centre for Computational Social Science and Humanities*, National University of Singapore (NUS).
- 2023-Present. Visiting Researcher, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China.
- 2022-2024. Advisory Board Member, *East Asian Science, Technology and Society*.

Academic Expertise

Areas of Specialty: Social Epistemology, Philosophy of Technology, Science and Technology Studies.

Areas of Competence: Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Sociology of Scientific Knowledge, Sociology of Technology, Internet Studies, Philosophy of Mind, Ethics and Moral Philosophy, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Law and Jurisprudence, Critical Thinking and Argumentation, Logic.

Education

2013. Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Edinburgh. Title: Engineering Anti-Individualism: A Case Study in Social Epistemology. Supervisor: Prof. Duncan Pritchard.

2008. M.Litt. Philosophy (1st in year), University of Aberdeen.

2007. M.A. Philosophy (1st Class Honours), University of Aberdeen.

2004. LLB. Law, University of Aberdeen.

Awards and Grants

Awards (9)

2023. Residential Colleges Teaching Excellence Award, NUS.

2023. Annual Teaching Excellence Award, NUS.

2022. Residential Colleges Teaching Excellence Award, NUS.

2020. Provost's Young Educator Award. NUS.

2011. New Generation Thinkers. AHRC and BBC Radio candidate.

2008-2011. AHRC Doctoral Competition Full Award.

2009. AHRC Overseas Funding Award for fieldwork in Southeast Asia.

2007. Croom Robertson Fellowship for best student in Masters programme. University of Aberdeen.

2007. College of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate School Award for best student in class. University of Aberdeen.

Grants (9)

2024. Co-PI. Epistemic Cultures in the Management of Chronic Illness in Singapore. Ministry of Education Tier 2 Grant (under review).

2024. Co-PI. The Ideological Mobility of the "Smart City" from Singapore to Kigali. Humanities and Social Sciences Seed Fund, NUS (SGD60,000).

2023. PI. Treating Lifestyle Disease Infodemics: Building Trust and Literacy in the Clinical Encounter. Humanities and Social Sciences Seed Fund, NUS (SGD39,700).

2023. Member. Technology for Social Good. Teaching Enhancement Grant. NUS (SGD5,000).

2022. Co-PI. Exploring Instructional Approaches to Develop Students' Ethical Mindset for a Better Understanding of the Ethical and Social Implications of Technology. Teaching Enhancement Grant. NUS (SGD15,000).

2021. Member. Teaching in Residential Colleges. Teaching Enhancement Grant. NUS (SGD5,000).

2017. Collaborator. Haw Par Villa. Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée (CNC / DI-CRÉAM), France (EUR8,000).

2016. Collaborator. Folklore and Digital Technology in (South) East Asia. Humanities and Social Sciences Seed Fund (SGD39,950).

2014. Collaborator. Governing Compound Disasters in Urbanizing Asia. Ministry of Education Tier 2 Grant (SGD834,410).

Research

Works-in-Progress

under review. Epistemic Humility: Why the Medical Profession Needs it and How to Get it (Kathryn Muyskens, Chloe Ang, and Eric Kerr). *Journal of Medical Ethics*.

in progress. Opticality and Hapticity in Photogrammetry (Olivier Perriquet and Eric Kerr). *International Journal of Stereo & Immersive Media*.

in progress. Can Epistemic Humility be Taught? Fostering Epistemic Habits in Medical Education through a Role-playing Intervention (Eric Kerr, Ian Paul Tan, and Kathryn Muyskens). *Medical Education*.

in progress. Boundary Work in Social Epistemology (Georg Theiner and Eric Kerr).

in progress. How Can Generative Artificial Intelligence Enhance the Question Generation Process for Interviews in Research? (Eric Kerr, Faith Chng, and Naren Sreekanth).

Publications (21)

2022. Seeing Danger: Safety on an Offshore Oil and Gas Platform. *Ethnographic Studies* 19:1-28 (Tom Anderson, Connor Graham, Mark Rouncefield, Jerry Busby, and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).

2022. Clarifying the Nature of Failure in Sociotechnical Systems: Ambiguity-based Failure and Expectation-based Failure. *Theoretical Issues in Ergonomics Science* 25(1): 1-20. (Eric Kerr and Vivek Kant). [Link](#).

2022. Knowing and Doing: Making Learning Spaces in a Residential College. In Tambyah, Siok Kuan (Ed.), *Student Growth and Development in New Higher Education Learning Spaces: Student-Centred Learning in Singapore*. Taylor & Francis. [Link](#).

2020. "Platforms, Precarity, and Entrepreneurship: Mobile Communication in Asia." Introduction to special section, *Information Society* 36(5): 237-241 (Eric Kerr and Rich Ling). [Link](#).

2020. Trolls at the Polls: What Cyber Harassment, Online Political Activism, and Baiting Algorithms Can Show Us About the Rise and Fall of Pakatan Harapan (May 2018 - February 2020). *First Monday* 25(6). (Clarissa Ai Ling Lee and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).

2020. Seeing the Turn: Microscopes, Gyroscopes, and Responsible Analysis in Petroleum Engineering, in Birgit Beck and Michael Kuhler (Eds.) *Technology, Anthropology, and Dimensions of Responsibility. Techno:Phil – Aktuelle Herausforderungen der Technikphilosophie*, vol 1. J.B. Metzler, Stuttgart & Springer. [Link](#).
2019. Trolls Maintained: Baiting Technological Infrastructures of Informational Justice. *Information, Communication and Society* (Eric Kerr and Clarissa Ai Ling Lee). [Link](#).
2019. Breaking the Ground. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, Essays and Features. [Link](#). (Malini Sur and Eric Kerr).
2019. Epistemology Without Borders: Epistemological Thought Experiments and Intuitions in Cross-Cultural Contexts, in Peter Graham, Miranda Fricker, David Henderson, and Nikolaj Pedersen (Eds.) *Routledge Handbook of Social Epistemology*. [Link](#).
2019. Taking Stock of Engineering Epistemology: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives, *Philosophy & Technology* 32(4): 685-726. (Vivek Kant and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).
2018. The Internet in Asia Through Singapore, *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* 12(4): 479-494, (Connor Graham, Eric Kerr, Natalie Pang, and Michael M.J. Fisher). [Link](#).
2017. Survey Techniques, in Bryan Turner, Peter Kivisto, William Outhwaite, Chang Kyung-Sup, Cynthia Epstein, and J. Michael Ryan (Eds.) *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, Wiley-Blackwell. [Link](#).
2016. Evidence in Engineering, in Diane Michaelfelder, Byron Newberry, and Qin Zhu (Eds.) *Philosophy and Engineering: Exploring Boundaries, Expanding Connections*. Springer: 43-59. [Link](#).
2016. Richard Rorty and Epistemic Normativity, *Social Epistemology*, 30(1): 3-24, (Eric Kerr and J. Adam Carter). [Link](#).
2016. Are You Thinking What We're Thinking?, in James H. Collier (Ed.) *The Future of Social Epistemology: A Collective Vision*, Rowman and Littlefield. [Link](#).
2014. The "Extendedness" of Scientific Evidence, *Philosophical Issues (Noûs supplementary volume)*, 24(1): 253-281, (Eric Kerr and Axel Gelfert). [Link](#).
2014. Engineering Differences Between Natural, Social, and Artificial Kinds, in Maarten Franssen, Peter Kroes, and Pieter E. Vermaas (Eds.) *Artefact Kinds*, Synthese Library Volume 365: 207-225. [Link](#).
2013. Meaning, in Phyllis Ilari et al. (Eds.) *The Philosophy of Information: A Simple Introduction*, London, UCL: 77-89 (Eric Kerr and Simon d'Alfonso). [Link](#).
2013. Knowledge, in Phyllis Ilari et al. (Eds.) *The Philosophy of Information: A Simple Introduction*, Society for Philosophy of Information, London: UCL: 90-100 (Simon d'Alfonso and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).
2013. Truth, in Phyllis Ilari et al. (Eds.) *The Philosophy of Information: A Simple Introduction*, Society for Philosophy of Information, London: UCL: 101-114 (Simon d'Alfonso and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).
2012. Skepticism and Information, in Hilmi Demir (Ed.) *Luciano Floridi's Philosophy of Technology: Critical Reflections* (Eric Kerr and Duncan Pritchard). [Link](#).

Books and Special Issues (3)

2020. Platforms, Precarity, and Entrepreneurship: Mobile Communication in Asia, *The Information Society* 36(5) (with Rich Ling).
2018. Networked Human, Network's Human: Humans and Networks Inter-Asia, *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* 12(4) (with Connor Graham and Alfred Montoya). [Link](#).
2013. The Philosophy of Information: A Simple Introduction, (with Phyllis Illari et al.), London, UCL. [Link](#).

Book Reviews, Media Writing/Coverage, and Other Writing (13)

2024. Exploring Activity-based Instructional Approaches to Develop Students' Understanding of the Ethical Implications of ICT. *Teaching Connections*. (Alex Mitchell, Weiyu Zhang, Jingyi Xie, Bimlesh Wadhwa, and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).
2020. Belonging to the Land: A Review of Bruno Latour's "Down to Earth". *The Berlin Review of Books*. [Link](#).
2020. The Day Real Conversation Died? *Teaching Connections*. (Connor Graham and Eric Kerr). [Link](#).
2020. Distraction and Attention in a Pandemic: Designing a Virtual Classroom. *Teaching Connections*. [Link](#).
2020. Australia's bushfire smoke is lapping the globe, and the law is too lame to catch it. *The Conversation*. [Link](#). (Eric Kerr and Malini Sur)
2019. What do Sydney and Other Cities Have in Common? Dust. *The Conversation*. [Link](#). Article was featured on *ABC News*. (Malini Sur and Eric Kerr).
2019. The Social Epistemology of Book Reviews, *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 7(12): 48-52. [Link](#).
2019. Kino Kino film-philosophy event covered in TimeOut. [Link](#).
2019. Internet Life and Lore in Southeast Asia, ARI Newsletter 43 (Eric Kerr and Connor Graham). [Link](#).
2018. Hidden Nature: Fernando and Stengers on scientific communities, solutions, and memories. *Singapore Review of Books*. [Link](#).
2018. A Hermeneutic of Non-Western Philosophy, *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*, 7(4): 1-6. [Link](#). Translated into Chinese by Wu Wanwei. [Link](#).
2018. Haw Par Villa project covered in FishEye Magazine (French), [Link](#) and Revue Trait d'Union (French). [Link](#).
2018. Curatorial Statement for Techno-Imaginations: Internet Lore in Asia (Eric Kerr and Nancy Mauro-Flude). Originally published: [Link](#). Republished by *Institute of Network Cultures* and the *Cyber-feminism Index* (entry #604).

Other Works (2)

2019. Art-Philosophy Collaboration. REC: [Haw Par Villa](#) and [project description](#) (with Olivier Perriquet).
2017. Film based on a linguistic thought experiment. *Something Beautiful*. Premiere: F3 (Fågelbo Film Festival), Fort Lauderdale, Florida. November 2018 (with Sarah-Tabea Sammel).

Selected Recent Conference Papers, Talks, and Lectures

- 2025 (forthcoming). Keynote at the 2025 *Asian Network for the Philosophy of the Social Sciences (ANPOSS) conference*, Taylor's University, Malaysia.
2024. "Smart Calendar: Integrating AI for Student Mental Health and Wellbeing," Higher Education Campus Conference. NUS (with Akshay Narayan, Li Jiayao, Bimlesh Wadhwa, Alex Mitchell, and Weiyu Zhang).
2023. "Exploring Activity-Based Instructional Approaches to Develop Students' Understanding of the Ethical Implications of Technology," Higher Education Campus Conference. NUS (with Alex Mitchell, Weiyu Zhang, and Bimlesh Wadhwa).
2023. "Towards a Social Epistemology of Fakery," keynote at the 9th *East Lake Forum on Global Governance*. Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China.
2021. "Opticity and Hapticity in Photogrammetry," 4th *International Conference on Stereoscopic and Immersive Media: Photography, Sound and Cinema Research*. Lisbon, Portugal (with Olivier Perriquet).
2021. "Automation, Memory, and Recording: Thinking about Haw Par Villa through Digital Folklore and Photogrammetry," public lecture at *Baba House museum*, Singapore.
2021. "Epistemic Injustices of Trolling," the 5th Wee Kim Wee Soka International Seminar on Global Peace and Understanding, *Singapore Management University*.
2021. "Smart Citizens: Opening Remarks for *Singapore Research Nexus* conference on Smart Citizenship in and Beyond Singapore, NUS.
2019. "The Other AI: Automation, Innovation, and the Future of Work," Social Economic Policies Asia (SOPAS) Inception Workshop and Programme Launch, *Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung*, Tokyo.
2019. "Trolling and Informational Justice". *Nazerbayev University*, Kazakhstan.
2019. "Ambiguity-Based Failure in Sociotechnical Systems". *Society for Philosophy and Technology*, Texas A&M University, USA (with Vivek Kant).
2019. "Technologies of Teaching Philosophy". *Society for Philosophy and Technology*, Texas A&M University, USA.

Teaching

As Developer/Lecturer (7)

- Research Ethics for Graduate Students.
- Introduction to the Philosophy of Technology.
- Knowledge and Expertise.
- Fakes.
- Time and Life.
- Science Fiction and Hope.
- Technology, Horror, and the Unknown.

As Guest Lecturer (6)

Introduction to the Philosophy of Technology (Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan)

Philosophy of Technology (CityTech, City University of New York).

Software Studies (Department of Communications and New Media, NUS).

Interactive Storytelling (Department of Communications and New Media, NUS).

Introduction to the Philosophy of Science (Department of Philosophy, NUS).

Climate Change (Tembusu College, NUS).

As Tutor or Other Teaching Role (9)

Coordinator. Resident Assistant Programme.

Advisor. Senior Learning Experience.

Advisor. Undergraduate Research Opportunity.

Lead Fellow. [Curios](#) (a student creative writing magazine). Tembusu College, NUS.

Lead Fellow. Techne (maker group). Tembusu College, NUS.

Workshop Facilitator. A Culture of Respect and Consent (mandatory workshop for new students).

Tutor. Philosophy of Science (Department of Philosophy, University of Edinburgh).

Tutor. Introduction to Philosophy I (Department of Philosophy, University of Edinburgh).

Tutor. Introduction to Philosophy II (Department of Philosophy, University of Edinburgh).

Service

Selected Recent Service Roles (4)

2023-Present. Director of Residential Life. Tembusu College, NUS.

2022. Chair. Inter-departmental Task Force to Enhance Admissions Exercise at Residential Colleges.

2021 and 2022. Lead Fellow. Admissions Exercise.

2021-2022. Director of Student Affairs. Tembusu College, NUS.

Editorial, Committee, and Consultancy Positions (12)

2024-Present. Editor-in-Chief, *Social Epistemology*. [Link](#).

2019-2024. Editorial Board Member, Review Editor. *Frontiers in Human Dynamics: Digital Impacts*. [Link](#).

2014-2024. Editorial Board. Collective Studies in Knowledge and Society book series, *Rowman and Littlefield*. [Link](#).

2020-2023. Associate Editor, *Social Epistemology*. [Link](#).

2017-2023. Editor and Chair. Newsletter and Outreach Committee, *Asia Research Institute*, NUS (Committee Member since 2013).

2019-2022. Member. Social and Economic Governance Programme Asia. *Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Tokyo*.

2020-2021. Scientific Committee. *Society for Philosophy and Technology*.

2020-2021. Executive Editor. *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*. [Link](#).

2016-2021. Consultant. Personal Epistemology in Engineering Education. *NSF CAREER grant (US)*. Devlin Montfort (PI), Oregon State University.

2017-2020. Book Reviews Editor. *Social Epistemology*. [Link](#).

2017. Member. Roundtable on Future of Science, Technology, and Society. *Centre for Strategic Futures*, Prime Minister's Office, Singapore.

2017. Member. Steering Committee. *Asia Research Institute*, NUS.

Conferences and Workshops Organized (14)

2023. Treating Lifestyle Infodemics (with Kathryn Muyskens), *Asia Research Institute*, NUS.

2021. Techno-Imaginations: Objective Visions? (with Olivier Perriquet and Manon Maes), *Society for Philosophy and Technology*, Catholic University of Lille, France.

2019. Organizer. Workshop on Automation, Innovation, and the Future of Work for the *Konrad Adenauer Foundation*, Tokyo.

2018. Co-Organizer. "Phenomenology and Technology" workshop for the 17th HCI (human-computer interaction) India conference. Bangalore, India.

2018. Organizer. Workshop on the Fourth Industrial Revolution for the Sharjah Tatweer Foundation.

2018. Programme Committee. 9th Workshop on the Philosophy of Information, *University of Ghent*.

2018. Organizer. Writing the Internet: Internet Lore in Asia, *NUS*.

2017. Co-Organizer. The Industrial Revolution 4.0: Preparing for Disruptive Technologies in Asia (with DongHyun Song), *NUS*.

2016. Co-Organizer. THATCamp on Technology and Pedagogy (with Catelijne Coopmans and Ellen Spero), *Singapore University of Technology and Design*.

2016. Co-Organizer. Engaging Expertise in Disaster Governance (with Tyson Vaughan), *NUS*.

2016. Programme Committee. 8th Workshop on the Philosophy of Information, *University of Ferrara*.

2016. Local Organizing Committee. Society for the History of Technology Annual Conference, *NUS*.

2016. Programme Committee. 7th Workshop on the Philosophy of Information, *University College London*.

2014. Programme Committee. 6th Workshop on the Philosophy of Information, *Duke University*.

Exhibitions Organized (3)

2018. Co-Curator (with Nancy Mauro-Flude), *Techno-Imaginations: Internet Lore in Asia* held in conjunction with the *Writing the Internet* conference, Singapore.

2016. Curator and Festival Leader, *Techno-Imaginations on Screen* held in conjunction with the *Society for the History of Technology* conference, Singapore.

2010. Curator, The Art of Eric A.C. Sutherland, *Scottish Arts Club*, UK.

Reviewer (28)

Australasian Journal of Philosophy; Big Data and Society; Design Issues; Design Science; East Asian Science Technology and Society; Erkenntnis; European Journal for the Philosophy of Science; First Monday; Frontiers in Human Dynamics; Information, Communication and Society; Frontiers in Psychology; The Information Society; Journal for General Philosophy of Science; Mobile Media & Communication; New Media + Society; Ng Teng Fong foundation; Oxford Review of Education; Perspectives on Science; Philosophia; Philosophy Psychiatry and Psychology; Rowman and Littlefield; Science and Education; Science, Technology & Human Values; Science, Technology and Society; Scientonomy; Social Epistemology; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; Synthese; Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology.

Skills

Certificates, Workshops, and Completed Short Courses in Education and Student Life (19)

Certificate in Higher Education , Harvard University Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning.

Certificate in Client Counseling from the American Philosophical Practitioners Association

Programme in Philosophical Practise with the Institute of Philosophical Practise

Certified Basic First Aider and CPR (Hands Only) and AED provider, Red Cross.

Certified Yellowdig Instructor.

Designing Inclusive Classrooms for People with Disabilities, Disabled Peoples Association Singapore.

Fundamentals of Autism, Autism Resource Centre Singapore.

Social & Behavioral Research Basic Course, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative.

Short courses/workshops (NUS): First Responder Training, First Responding to Sexual Assault, Bystander Training, Respect and Consent facilitator, Risk Indicators of People in Distress, Suicide Awareness and Prevention, Breaking Bad News, Understanding Grief, Fire Safety Coordinator, Fire Warden, and Emotional First Aid.

Technical Skills

Web development (HTML, CSS, Wordpress)

Other (L^AT_EX).