

CV: NIKHIL MAHANT

AOS: Philosophy of Language.

AOC: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science, Phil. of AI, Logic, Ethics, Indian Philosophy.

EDUCATION:

Doctoral Degree:

Degree: PhD in Philosophy (Sept. 2018 – Dec. 2022)
University: Central European University, Vienna
Thesis Title: *Names are Words*
Examiners: [Tim Crane](#) (CEU), [Zoltan Szabó](#) (Yale), [Hanoch Ben-Yami](#) (CEU).

Academic Visits:

1. Dept. of Philosophy, University of Texas, Austin (Supervisor: [Mark Sainsbury](#); Summer 2021).
2. Co-enrolled (visiting) Student, Institute of Philosophy, University of Vienna, Vienna.
(Supervisor: [Max Kölbel](#); Winter Semester 2021-22.)

Master's Degree

Degree: Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy (2014 – 16)
College/University: St. Stephens College | Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi
MA Thesis: *Deflationism and Truth Conditional Semantics*
Supervisor: Nilanjan Bhowmick

Bachelor's Degree

Degree: Bachelor of Technology in Civil Engineering (2004 – 08)
University: Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow (August 2024 – July 2026)

Project Title: Do AI generated outputs have content?
Institution: Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University, Sweden

Postdoctoral Fellow (October 2022 – October 2023)

Institution: CEU Intellectual Themes Initiative project on 'Belief', CEU, Vienna.

Assistant Professor (fixed term) (2016 – 18)

Employer: St. Stephens College, University of Delhi
Courses (selected): Philosophy of Language; Philosophy of Science; Logic; Critical Thinking

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED):

- (2026). Being Metalinguistic Does Not Make it Circular. *Inquiry*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2026.2624386>
- (2026) Is AI deception deception? in Müller, V. C., Dewey, A. R., Dung, L., & Löhr, G. (Eds.). *Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence: The State of the Art*. Synthese Library.
- (2026) Moral Responsibility without Moral Agency. *Palgrave handbook on the ethics of artificial intelligence*.
- (2025). A Criterion of Literality for Names. *Crítica*. 57(171), 133–161.
<https://doi.org/10.22201/iifs.18704905e.2025.1754>
- (2025). The Cross Linguistic Uses of Proper Names. *Theoria*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/theo.12578>
- (2022). The metaphysical burden of Millianism. *Synthese* 200, 293.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-022-03754-3>

- (2022). Frege’s Puzzle and Act-based Propositions. *Acta Analytica* 37, 219–226.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12136-021-00475-z> [read-only link [here](#)]
- (2023). Review of Herman Cappelen and Josh Dever’s ‘Making AI Intelligible: Philosophical Foundations’. *The Philosophical Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pq/pqad088>
- (2023). Review of Dolf Rami’s ‘Names and Context: A Use-Sensitive Philosophical Account’. *Erkenntnis*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10670-022-00579-x>

PUBLIC-FACING ARTICLES (SELECTED):

- (in progress) Public facing article on religious language.
- Article on Alien languages for *Aeon* <https://aeon.co/essays/why-alien-languages-could-be-far-stranger-than-we-imagine>
- Review of Matti Eklund’s Alien Structure: Language and Reality. *NDPR* <https://ndpr.nd.edu/reviews/alien-structure-language-and-reality/>

ACADEMIC TALKS (SELECTED):

1. ‘What’s left of rigidity’ at the Workshop on [Proper Names and their Relation to Singular Terms](#) (organized by [Dolf Rami](#) and Stefano Pugnaghi), Dortmund. 22-23 August 2024.
2. ‘Russell and Strawson on Descriptions’ at [HOPOS 2024](#), Vienna. 10 July 2024.
3. ‘Moral Responsibility without Moral Agency’ at the [AI Ethics Colloquium](#), University of Vienna. June 20, 2024.
4. ‘Is AI deception deception?’ at [5th Conference on Philosophy of AI](#), Erlangen, Germany. 15-16 December 2023.
5. ‘The Cross Linguistic Uses of Proper Names’ at [APA Pacific 2022](#), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. 13-16 April 2022.
6. ‘[Proper Names and their Extended Uses](#)’, Philosophy of Language, Logic, and Information Research Colloquium, Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany. 27 October 2021.
7. ‘The Syntactic Complexity of Proper Names’ at the [24th Oxford Philosophy Graduate Conference](#). 6-7 February 2021. (Online)

ACADEMIC AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS:

1. [Award for Advanced Doctoral Students](#), CEU Academic Year 2021/22.
2. [Academic Achievement Award for First-Year Doctoral Students](#), CEU. 2019/20.
3. Certificate for excellence in Teaching, [Centre for Teaching & Learning](#), CEU. 27 May 2019.
4. Indian Philosophy Congress Gold Medal, University of Delhi, 2016.
5. BN Ray Memorial Philosophy Prize, St. Stephens College. 2015.

ORGANIZATIONAL WORK (SELECTED):

Co-organizer, <i>Uppsala Vienna AI Colloquium</i> https://uv-colloquium.com/	Ongoing since June 2024
Organizer, Workshop, ‘Is AI deception deception?’ at <i>WASP-HS AI for Humanity and Society 2024</i> Conference	19 November 2024
Organizer, <i>11th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP)</i> https://philevents.org/event/show/105121	21-25 August 2023

OTHER DETAILS

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 Philpeople Page: <https://philpeople.org/profiles/nikhil-mahant>