CV: NIKHIL MAHANT

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

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

Senior Assistant Professor, Philosophy (August 2026 – current)
College/University: University of Western Australia, India Campus

Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow (August 2024 – July 2026)
Project / Supervisor: Do AI generated outputs have content? / Matti Eklund
College/University: Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University, Sweden

Postdoctoral Fellow (October 2022 – October 2023)
Project / Supervisor: Intellectual Themes Initiative project on 'Belief' / Tim Crane
College/University: CEU Intellectual Themes Initiative project on 'Belief', CEU, Vienna.

Assistant Professor (fixed term) (2016 – 18)
College/University: St. Stephens College, University of Delhi

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: UT Austin (Mark Sainsbury; Summer 2021);
University of Vienna (Max Kölbel; Winter 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 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., et.al. (Eds.). *Philosophy of AI: The State of the Art*. Springer. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-032-15112-4_18
- (2026) Moral Responsibility without Moral Agency. in Gouveia, S.S. (eds) *Palgrave handbook on the ethics of AI.* https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-10073-3_20
- (2025). The Cross Linguistic Uses of Proper Names. *Theoria*. https://doi.org/10.1111/theo.12578
- (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
- (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]

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, Philosophy of AI Online Colloquium — Ongoing since June 2024
https://phil-ai-colloquium.com/

Organizer, Workshop, 'Is AI deception deception?' at WASP-HS AI for Humanity and Society 2024 Conference — 19 November 2024

Organizer, 11th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP) — 21-25 August 2023
https://philevents.org/event/show/105121

OTHER DETAILS

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