

Christopher Essert

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Academic Positions — Full Time

2024- Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto
2020- Associate Dean, JD Program, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto
2018-2024 Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto
2019- Affiliated Faculty Member, School of Cities, University of Toronto
2010-18 Assistant (-'16) Associate Professor ('16-18), Queen's University Faculty of Law

Visiting Academic Positions — Visiting

2024 Visiting Academic, Auckland Law School
2017 Visiting Professor, UCLA School of Law
2009-10 Visiting Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto

Education

JSD, *Yale Law School*, 2011.
LLM, *Yale Law School*, 2008.
JD, *University of Toronto Faculty of Law*, 2005.
BA, *McGill University*, 2001.

Publications

Books

Property Law in the Society of Equals (OUP 2024)

Tort Law: Cases and Materials (6th Ed, Emond Publishing, forthcoming 2025, with Jason Neyers and Ernest J Weinrib)

The Law of Bilingual Interpretation (with Michel Bastarache, Naiomi Metallic and Regan Morris; Carswell 2008) In French as: *Le droit de l'interprétation bilingue* (LexisNexis 2009)

Articles, Chapters, Reviews

“Form, Function, and Property in *Bound by Convention*” forthcoming in *Jurisprudence*.

“On the Form and Justification of Some Private Law Rights, Liberties, and Powers” in *Interstitial Private Law* (Samuel Bray, John Goldberg, Henry Smith, and Paul Miller, eds, OUP forthcoming)

“Towards a Framework for Reconciling Climate Justice and Housing Justice” (with Olivia O'Connor) in *Law in a Changing World: How Climate Change is Affecting Law and What to do about it* (Jutta Brunnée, Brenda Cossman, and Andrew Green, eds, UTP, forthcoming 2023)

“The Value of the Neighbour Relation” in *Private Law and Practical Reason* (Haris Psarras and Sandy Steel, eds, OUP 2022)

“The Nature and Value of Public Space (with some Lessons from the Pandemic)” 50 *Fordham Urban Law Journal* 61 (2022)

“Homelessness as a Legal Phenomenon” in *The Routledge Handbook of Property, Law & Society* (Nicole Graham, Margaret Davies, and Lee Godden, eds, Routledge 2022)

“What Makes a Home: A Reply” 41 *Law & Philosophy* 469 (2022)

“The Office of Ownership Revisited” 70 *University of Toronto Law Journal* (Supplement 2) 287 (2020)

“Property Wrongs and Egalitarian Relations” in *Civil Wrongs and Justice in Private Law* (Paul Miller and John Oberdiek, eds, OUP 2020)

“Thinking Like a Private Lawyer” 68 *University of Toronto Law Journal* 166 (2018)

“Property and Homelessness” 44 *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 266 (2016)

“Nuisance and the Normative Boundaries of Ownership” 52 *Tulsa Law Review* 85 (2016)

“Intentional Action and Law” 8 *Jurisprudence* 110 (2016)

“A Theory of Legal Obligation” in *The Legacy of Ronald Dworkin* (Stefan Sciaraffa and Wil Waluchow, eds, OUP 2016)

“Legal Powers in Private Law” 21 *Legal Theory* 136 (2015)

“How Law Matters in Why Law Matters” 12 *Jerusalem Review of Legal Studies* 1 (2015)

Review of James Penner and Henry Smith (eds.), *Philosophical Foundations of Property Law*, in Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews (2014)

“Property in Licences and the Law of Things” 59 *McGill Law Journal* 559 (2014)

“The Office of Ownership” 63 *University of Toronto Law Journal* 418 (2013)

“Legal Obligation and Reasons” 19 *Legal Theory* 63 (2013)

“From Raz’s Nexus to Legal Normativity” 25 *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence* 465 (2012)

“A Dilemma for Protected Reasons” 31 *Law & Philosophy* 49 (2012)

“Tort Law and Happiness” 36 *Queen’s Law Journal* 1 (2010)

“Normativity, Fairness and the Problem of Factual Uncertainty” (with Andrew Botterell) 47 *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 665 (2009)

“Dignity and Membership, Equality and Egalitarianism: Economic Rights and Section 15” 19 *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence* 407 (2006)

In Progress & Under Review

“Minimum Adequate Housing Size as an Element of the Right to Housing” (with Olivia O’Connor, Gabriel Eidelman, and Shoshanna Saxe), *under review*

“Persons and Bodies” (with Abraham Drassinower), *in progress*

“The Law of Public Trespass,” *in progress*

Selected Presentations

(presentations marked “*” are based on parts of *Property Law in the Society of Equals*)

“Persons and Bodies / The Purely Juridical Person / The Form of Battery”
Private Law Theory Workshop, Osgoode Hall Law School, 2023
University of Auckland, 2024

“Public Trespass”
University of Auckland, 2024
Obligations X, Banff, 2023
PLTZW (online), 2021

“Discussion of nuisance law in *Property Law in the Society of Equals*”
Obligations Discussion Group / Property Discussion Group, Oxford University, 2023

“Property within Private Law”
LSE Private Law Hub, 2023

“Towards a Framework for Reconciling Climate Justice and Housing Justice”
With Olivia O’Connor, Law in a Changing World conference, Toronto, 2023

“Rights, Powers, and Privileges in Private Law”
Interstitial Private Law, Notre Dame Global Gateway, Rome, 2022

“Extracts from *Yours & Mine*”
Analytic Legal Philosophy Conference, Penn, 2022

“Property and Contract” aka “Some Liminal Cases of Property”
Property Law Connections, Oxford University (online), 2021
PLTZW (online), 2020

- “What Makes a Home”
Private Law Theory Workshop, Tel Aviv University, 2021
- “Property Law in the Society of Equals”*
University of Michigan Law School Faculty Workshop, 2019
Berkeley Kadish Workshop, 2020
- “The Problem of Yours and Mine”*
Dartmouth University, 2019
- “The Egalitarian Explanation of Property Law”*
Property Works in Progress Conference, Northeastern University, 2019
- “The Nature and Value of Public Space”*
401 Private Law Theory Workshop, Osgoode Hall, 2019;
U of T – ULCA – Oxford Legal, Moral, and Social Philosophy Colloquium, 2019;
Dartmouth University, Legal and Political Philosophy Workshop, 2019;
PPE Public Lecture, Western University 2019;
North American Workshop in Private Law Theory VII, 2019
- “The Office of Ownership Revisited”
Offices Symposium, University of Toronto, 2019
- “Property and Alienability”*
Stanford Law and Philosophy Workshop, 2018
- “Property Wrongs and Egalitarian Relations”*
Conference on *Civil Wrongs and Justice in Private Law*, Rutgers Law School, 2018;
King’s and Queen’s Symposium in Legal Philosophy, King’s College London, 2018
- “Some Thoughts on Tortious Regulation of Market Relations”*
Obligations Discussion Group, Oxford University, 2017
- “Unfair Competition and Property in the Market”*
LSE Law School, 2017;
Western University Law School, 2018;
The Wharton School, 2019
- “Justifying Property”*
School of Law, University of Surrey, 2017;
Binghamton University Philosophy Department Colloquium, 2017
- “Property Law in the Society of Equals”*
Harvard Law and Philosophy Colloquium, 2017;
University of Southern California Centre for Law and Philosophy Workshop, 2017;
Property Works in Progress Conference, Boston University Law School, 2016

“Property and Homelessness”

Dickson Poon School of Law, King’s College London, 2015;
Jurisprudence Discussion Group, Oxford University, 2015;
North American Workshop in Private Law Theory III, 2015;
Association for Law, Property, and Society, University of Georgia 2015

“Nuisance and the Normative Boundaries of Ownership”

William and Mary Private Law Theory Workshop, 2014

“A Theory of Legal Obligation”

Ontario Legal Philosophy Partnership Graduate Conference Keynote Lecture, McMaster University, 2014

“Two Kinds of Justification of Property”

UCLA Legal Theory Workshop, 2014

“Legal Powers in Private Law” (aka “Legal Powers and Ownership”)

Harvard Law School Private Law Workshop, 2014;
IVR World Congress, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 2013;
401 Private Law Theory Workshop, Queen’s Law School, 2013

“Property and Alienability”

Property Workshop, New York University, 2013

“The Office of Ownership”

Queen’s Law School Faculty Works in Progress Seminar, 2011

Teaching

Property Law (2011-)	Torts (2018-)
Jurisprudence (2011-2014)	Homelessness (2017, at UCLA)
Law and Poverty (2015-17)	Patents (2015-17)
Tangibles and Intangibles (with Abraham Drassinower) (2021)	
Persons and Bodies (with Abraham Drassinower) (2022)	

Graduate Supervision

Nicolas Bucarey Ilabaca (LLM, Toronto, 2023)
Márcio Pereira (PhD, Queen’s, 2018)
Chris Peters (LLM, Queen’s, 2014)

Grants and Awards

NSERC Alliance Grant, “Building more with less: Achieving a sustainable built environment” (\$739,265), co-Investigator
U of T Urban Challenge Grant, “Urban form pathways, affordable housing, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions” (\$65,000), 2022-23, co-PI with Shoshanna Saxe, Gabriel Eidelman
SSHRC Insight Grant, “Property Law in the Society of Equals” (\$85, 240), 2017-2022

SSHRC Insight Development Grant, “Property at the Periphery” (\$58,100), 2014-2016
Queen’s University Society of Law Students Teaching Award, 2014

Service

Member, International Advisory Panel to the Fourth Restatement of the Law of Property
Member, Editorial Board, Law and Philosophy
Member, Editorial Board, Legal Theory
Consulting Editor, Canadian Journal for Law and Jurisprudence
Faculty member, Centre for the Sustainable Built Environment

Referee for: *Oxford University Press*; *Harvard University Press*; *Cambridge University Press*; *Mind*; *Ethics*; *Legal Theory*; *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*; *Law & Philosophy*; *European Journal of Philosophy*; *Canadian Journal of Law & Jurisprudence*; *University of Toronto Law Journal*; *Stanford Law Review*; *Australian Journal of Legal Philosophy*; *Law, Ethics, and Philosophy*; *Economics & Philosophy*; *Political Studies*; *American Political Science Review*; *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*; *Journal of Applied Philosophy*; *Journal of Law & Social Policy*; *Queen’s Law Journal*; *McGill Law Journal*; *Osgoode Hall Law Journal*; *UBC Law Review*; *Dalhousie Law Journal*; *Windsor Review of Social and Legal Issues*; *REVUS*

Co-Organizer, Legal Theory Workshop, University of Toronto, 2019-
Various Internal Committees (Admissions, Mental Health, etc) University of Toronto, 2018-
Various Internal Committees (Appointments, Visitors, Moots), Queen’s 2010-2018
Organizer, Symposium on Hanoch Dagan, *A Liberal Theory of Property*, 2019
Co-Organizer, Symposium on Stephen Smith, *Rights, Wrongs, and Injustices*, 2019
Local Organizer, Member of Organizing Committee, Legal Philosophy Workshop 2016
Organizer, Symposium on Abraham Drassinower, *What’s Wrong with Copying?*, 2015
Organizer, Symposium on Alon Harel, *Why Law Matters*, 2014
Organizer, “401” Private Law Theory Workshop, 2013

Other Experience

Law Clerk to Justice Michel Bastarache, Supreme Court of Canada, 2006-7
Student at Law, Paliare Roland LLP, Toronto, 2005-6

Last Updated: July, 2024