

Dr Ryan Nefdt is a senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town in the department of philosophy. He completed his undergraduate, honours and first Masters at UCT before becoming only the second South African at the time to graduate with a Master of Logic from the world-renowned Institute for Logic, Language and Computation at the University of Amsterdam. After his MSc, he pursued a PhD in philosophy at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. He completed his PhD dissertation in a record time of 2 years with no corrections.

During his studies on three continents spanning over 10 years, Dr Nefdt received research fellowships at the Universities of Michigan, Leeds, Texas at Austin, Yale, Edinburgh and Minnesota. He has recently received a prestigious fellowship at the Center for the Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh for 2021. He has also been invited to spend a year of research at MIT's renowned linguistics and philosophy department for 2022.

His research is truly interdisciplinary. The primary area is broadly in cognitive science with specialisations in theoretical linguistics and the philosophy of language. He has published 11 peer-reviewed articles in some of the highest ranking international linguistics and philosophy journals, four invited book chapters and a forthcoming edited volume with Palgrave Mcmillan. Most recently he has published articles on mathematical linguistics, machine learning, and the philosophy of science respectively.

Since arriving at UCT, some of his highlights have been (1) being invited to co-author the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* subject entry on the philosophy of linguistics, (2) receiving the *Faculty of Humanities Emerging Researcher Award* for 2020, and (3) being confirmed and promoted to Senior Lecturer early within one year of appointment.

In the near future, he hopes to continue expanding his research into the philosophy of AI with a special focus on Africa and the effective implementation of machine learning and Big Data on the Continent.