

Professor Sophie Grace Chappell

Professional biography

Sophie Grace Chappell has been Professor of Philosophy at The Open University since 2006. Before that she was Reader in Philosophy at the University of Dundee (1998-2006), and before that she held posts at Wolfson College, Oxford (1991-1994), Merton College, Oxford (1992-1994), UEA (1994-1996), and Manchester (1996-1998). Her main interests in philosophy are ethics, the philosophy of literature, the philosophy of sex and gender, ancient and mediaeval philosophy, epistemology, and philosophy of religion.

She has published over 100 articles. Her books include:

Aristotle and Augustine on Freedom <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1057/9780230379510>

Reading Plato's Theaetetus <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Reading-Platos-Theaetetus-Timothy-Chappell/dp/0872207609>

Ethics and Experience <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ethics-Experience-Beyond-Moral-Theory/dp/0773536426>

Knowing What To Do <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/knowing-what-to-do-9780198798859?cc=gb&lang=en&>

Epiphanies: an Ethics of Experience [Epiphanies - Sophie Grace Chappell - Oxford University Press \(oup.com\)](https://www.oup.com/9780198798859)

Sophie Grace wrote *Epiphanies* with the support of a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship, 2017-2020. Some idea of what it is about can be gleaned from here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/epiphanies-experiences-and-ethics-sophie-grace-chappell/id1151965239?i=1000485619138>

Sophie Grace is now pursuing a number of different writing projects, mostly on the ethics of virtue. The biggest thing she is currently engaged with is a new book: *Trans Figured: How to survive as a transgender person in a cisgender world*. A sneak-peek at some of the things that she hopes to say in this can be found here: https://iai.tv/articles/does-consciousness-have-a-gender-auid-2033?_auid=2020

Sophie Grace Chappell was Director of the Scots Philosophical Club 2003-2006, a Governor of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy 2012-2018, and Treasurer of the Mind Association 2000-2021. Since 2021 she has been Executive Editor of *The Philosophical Quarterly*. She is a member of the REF Sub-Panel for Philosophy 2022.

Sophie Grace Chappell is apparently the first openly transgender philosophy professor in the UK; she transitioned in autumn 2014. She has no objection to having her work from before her transition cited in her previous name.

She likes cycling, skiing, ski-mountaineering, hillwalking, and climbing (but [not falling off](#)) [PDF, 66 KB]. She is a member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, with over 50 FWAs to

her name. <https://www.ukclimbing.com/user/profile.php?id=191896> She has translated some of the works of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Virgil, Horace, Catullus, and Rilke into English verse, and is engaged in long-term projects to translate the Iliad and the Divina Commedia. She dreams of someday being good enough at the piano to be heard in public. She is married with four children, and is a long-term member of [All Souls' Episcopalian Church, Dundee](#).

Some of her published and in-progress work is available online: <https://open.academia.edu/Sophiegrace>

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sophie-Grace-Chappell> **teaching interests**

Teaching Interests

There is no area of philosophy that Sophie Grace Chappell is not interested in teaching, though she is probably not the Go-To Person for philosophy of quantum physics.

She is an Open University course author on

A222 (Philosophy of religion)

A333 (Philosophy of narrative art)

A853 (Plato's *Meno*)

Impact and engagement

Sophie Grace Chappell gives frequent talks in schools and public philosophy clubs and other such forums, both in Britain and elsewhere: for example at the [Barnes Philosophy Club](#) (at least when she doesn't stand them up), at the [Pinner Philosophy Group](#), at [Chigwell School](#), at [Wellington College](#), at [How The Light Gets In](#), and at [Harris Academy](#). She also gives the sermon in her church sometimes, and on one occasion in [Magdalen College Chapel, Oxford](#).

She is always happy to consider invitations for further banging on and sounding off in public.