

Joao Fabiano

Curriculum Vitae

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Research Areas

Areas of Specialisation: Ethics, Applied Ethics

Areas of Competence: Biomedical Ethics, Early Modern Philosophy, Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Science

Education

- 2014-2018** **Doctor of Philosophy**
University of Oxford, Faculty of Philosophy, UK
Title: Probing the risks of moral enhancement.
Supervisors: Julian Savulescu, Joshua Shepherd, Roger Crisp.
- 2012-2014** **Master of Philosophy**
University of Sao Paulo, Department of Philosophy, Brazil.
Title: Human enhancement, evolutionary heuristics and existential risks.
Supervisor: Osvaldo Frota Pessoa Junior.
- 2007-2011** **Bachelor of Philosophy**
University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Experience

- 2019-** **Postdoctoral Fellow** – University of Sao Paulo
- 2018-2019** **Researcher** – Berkeley Existential Risk Initiative
- 2015-2018** **Teaching Assistant and Tutor** (Ethics, Applied Ethics, Early Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Science) – University of Oxford
- 2012-2014** **Director and co-founder** – NGO: Institute of Ethics, Rationality and Future of Humanity – IERFH
- 2012-2013** **Teaching and Research Assistant** (Moral Psychology) – University of Sao Paulo

Publications

Fabiano, Joao. (2020). Technological moral enhancement or traditional moral progress? Why not both? *Journal of Medical Ethics*, Published Online First: 30 March 2020.

Fabiano, Joao & Sandberg, Anders. (2017). Modelling the Social Dynamics of Moral Enhancement: Social Strategies Sold Over the Counter and the Stability of Society. *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, 26(3), 431-445.

Fabiano, Joao. (2013) Humble Primary Intensions: Fixing Two-Dimensional Semantics. *Analysis and Metaphysics*, Volume 12, 2013, pp. 105–115.

Work in progress (submitted)

Fabiano, Joao. Moral Status Enhancement and Individual Interests.

Fabiano, Joao. Fragility of Moral Traits

Conference Volumes

- 2013** Humble Primary Intensions. *II^o Conference of the Brazilian Society for Analytic Philosophy*.
- How and why enhance human cognition? An application of Sandberg and Bostrom's evolutionary heuristics. *IV^o Congress of Bioethics of Rio de Janeiro*.

Other Professional Experience

- 2018** **Writer** (Philosophy high school textbook) – ETAPA Educacional
- 2012-2013** **Event Organizer** – University of Sao Paulo, Ethics of Future Technology Symposium I & II
- 2012** **Researcher** – Machine Intelligence Research Institute (MIRI)
- 2008-2010** **Seminar Chairman** – Analytic Philosophy Reading Group, University of Sao Paulo.

Grants

- \$50,000 – Brazilian government fellowship. **(2019-)**
- \$200,000 – Brazilian government full doctoral scholarship. **(2014-2018)**
- \$1,200 – Departmental funding for organizing an event. **(2013)**
- \$600 – Future of Humanity Institute travel grant. **(2013)**
- \$1,500 – Assisted obtaining travel grant for the World Social Forum. **(2012)**
- \$600 – Obtained private donation for organizing an academic event. **(2011)**
- \$400 – Departmental Graduate Travel Grant, Department of Philosophy, University of Sao Paulo. **(2010)**

Selected Talks Presented

- 2019** Virtue Theory and Moral Cognition (**Invited Speaker**). *4th Philosophy of Neuroscience Meeting* at the University of Sao Paulo.
- 2017** Paradoxical population effects of individual moral enhancement and virtue theory as a solution (**Talk**). *Postgraduate Bioethics Conference* at the University of Oxford.
- 2016** Cognitive enhancement, legalising opium, and cognitive biases (**Invited Speaker**). *PsyNAppS Symposium: Human Advancement in the 21st Century* at the University of Oxford.
- 2015** Complexity of Moral Cognition (**Invited Speaker**). *10th International Brazilian Meeting on Cognitive Science* at the University of Sao Paulo.
- 2015** Can autonomous weapons be moral in war? (**Invited Panellist**). *Intersections between Moral Psychology and AI* at the University of Oxford.
- 2014** Fragility of Moral Cognition (**Seminar**). *Ockham Society* at the University of Oxford, Faculty of Philosophy.

- 2013** Social neurochemical enhancement: present and future prospects (**Workshop**). *The Neural bases of Social Cognition* at UNISINOS, Department of Philosophy.
- 2012** Cognitive biases: How and why you are wrong since you began thinking (**Invited Speaker**). Chapter of the IEET at the University of Campinas.

Other Activities

Magazine Articles

- 2014** Interview with Anders Sandberg: Better than humans? Prospects and risks of posthumanity. *Filosofia*, Edition 90, pp. 5-13.
- 2010** Interview with Nick Bostrom: Immortals or the end of our species? *Filosofia*, Edition 48, pp. 8-13.
- Fermi's Paradox and the future of humanity. *Filosofia*, Edition 47, pp. 18-25.
- A new perspective to science: How transhumanism studies a better way to explore the new potentialities of Science and Technology. *Filosofia*, Edition 43, pp. 16-26.

Interviews and Media

Interviewed by: *Magazine of the Instituto Humanitas Unisino*, June 2016. *Newspaper Dia Melhor*, "God is in the machine", Edition 43, Year IV, pp. 12 -16. *Blog Edge of Tomorrow*, "Fixing Cognitive Biases to Shape the Next Generation of Humans". *Magazine Superinteressante*, "The intelligence Pill". Edition 271, November, 2009.

Several posts at the Oxford Practical Ethics blog at <http://blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/author/joao-lourenco-de-araujo-fabiano/>

Acted as peer-reviewer for a special issue of the academic journal *Futures*.

References

Professor Allen Buchanan, James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Duke University (placement@philosophy.ox.ac.uk)

Professor Julian Savulescu, Oxford Uehiro Professor of Practical Ethics, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford (placement@philosophy.ox.ac.uk)

Professor Joshua Shepherd, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Carleton University (placement@philosophy.ox.ac.uk)

Professor Osvaldo Pessoa, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Sao Paulo (placement@philosophy.ox.ac.uk)

Professor Adrian Moore, Professor of Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford (placement@philosophy.ox.ac.uk) (*teaching referee*)

Doctoral Thesis Abstract

Attempting to improve fundamental moral dispositions with technology is prone to unexpected consequences. These dispositions are complex, and fragile when faced with technological interventions. For instance, a drug increasing the disposition to co-operate between individuals can unexpectedly lead to group conflict because it can increase parochialism. Furthermore, these interventions might be detrimental to a person's psychological identity and thus might undermine interests whose realisation is sensitive to the continuation of this identity. Likewise, they might be detrimental to interests sensitive to the continued chain of human generations. Notwithstanding these risks, there are strong reasons in favour of attempting to improve moral dispositions; it could significantly decrease a wide range of extreme risks that arise from our moral failings (for example, nuclear war from lack of global co-operation). Appealing to a form of virtue theory as a guiding framework is likely to avoid these risks and to address other concerns expressed in the literature. If we apply such a framework, technological interventions aimed at improving fundamental moral dispositions are extremely desirable.