

Christian J. Tarsney

Population Wellbeing Initiative
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Areas

- AOS Ethics, Decision Theory
AOC Effective Altruism, Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE), Philosophy of Time, Logic

Primary academic positions

- 2022 - **Research Fellow**, *Population Wellbeing Initiative, University of Texas at Austin*
2018 -2022 **Research Fellow**, *Global Priorities Institute, Oxford University*
- Assistant Director (Philosophy), May 2022 - present
- Acting Director (parental leave cover), Dec 2021 - April 2022.
- Acting Assistant Director (Philosophy), Jan 2020 - Dec 2021
2017-18 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, *Centre for Philosophy, Politics and Economics, University of Groningen*

Education

- August 2017 **PhD**, *University of Maryland*
Title: *Rationality and Moral Risk: A Moderate Defense of Hedging*
Supervisor: Dan Moller
May 2011 **BA**, *University of Minnesota*

Other affiliations and visiting positions

- 2022 - **Senior Research Affiliate**, *Global Priorities Institute, Oxford University*
Spring 2017 **Visiting Student**, *Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford University*

Books

- under contract **Small Probabilities and High Stakes**, *Cambridge University Press (Cambridge Elements series)*

Peer-Reviewed Research Articles

- forthcoming **Belief in Robust Temporal Passage (Probably) Does Not Explain Future-Bias**, *Philosophical Studies*, with Andrew Latham, Kristie Miller, & Hannah Tierney
forthcoming **Average Utilitarianism Implies Solipsistic Egoism**, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*

- 2022 **Robust Passage Phenomenology Probably Does Not Explain Future-Bias**, *Synthese*, with Andrew Latham, Kristie Miller, & Hannah Tierney
- 2021 **Vive La Différence? Structural Diversity as a Challenge for Metanormative Theories**, *Ethics*
- 2020 **Future Bias in Action: Does the Past Matter More When You Can Affect It?**, *Synthese*, with Andrew Latham, Kristie Miller, & James Norton
- 2019 **Normative Uncertainty and Social Choice**, *Mind* (discussion)
- 2019 **Rejecting Supererogationism**, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*
- 2018 **Moral Uncertainty for Deontologists**, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*
- 2018 **Intertheoretic Value Comparison: A Modest Proposal**, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*
- 2017 **Thank Goodness That's Newcomb: The Practical Relevance of the Temporal Value Asymmetry**, *Analysis*
- 2017 **Does a Discount Rate Measure the Costs of Climate Change?**, *Economics & Philosophy*

Survey Articles

- forthcoming **Bias Towards the Future**, *Philosophy Compass*, with Preston Greene, Andrew Latham, Kristie Miller, James Norton, & Hannah Tierney

Book Reviews

- 2020 **Review of *Normative Externalism* by Brian Weatherson**, *Mind*

Work in Progress

- R&R **The Epistemic Challenge to Longtermism**
- under review **Metnormative Regress: An Escape Plan**
- under review **Non-Additive Axiologies in Large Worlds** (with Teruji Thomas)
- under review **Exceeding Expectations: Stochastic Dominance as the Criterion of Rational Choice**
- in preparation **Minimal and Expansive Longtermism** (with Hilary Greaves)
[Commissioned for volume on longtermism under contract with Oxford University Press.]
- in preparation **Longtermism in an Infinite World** (with Hayden Wilkinson)
[Commissioned for volume on longtermism under contract with Oxford University Press.]
- in preparation **Moral Decision-Making under Uncertainty** (with Teruji Thomas and William MacAskill)
[Commissioned for Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.]

Refereed Conference/Workshop Talks (Selected)

- Nov 2022 (upcoming) **Fanaticism and Longtermism**, *PPE Society Meeting*, New Orleans

- Jan 2021 **Average Utilitarianism Implies Solipsistic Egoism**, *APA Eastern Division Meeting (Colloquium Paper)*
- Jan 2020 **Maximizing Expected Choiceworthiness: A Guide for Bounded Agents**, *APA Eastern Division Meeting (Colloquium Paper)*
- July 2019 **Maximizing Expected Choiceworthiness: A Guide for Bounded Agents**, *Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association*, Durham University
- June 2019 **Vive La Différence? Structural Diversity as a Challenge for Metanormative Theories**, *Formal Ethics*, Ghent University
- July 2018 **Non-Identity, Times Infinity**, *International Society for Utilitarian Studies*, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- June 2018 **Can First-Order Stochastic Dominance Constrain Risk Attitudes?**, *"Norms and Normativity" (4th International Conference on Economic Philosophy)*, University of Lyon
- June 2018 **Can First-Order Stochastic Dominance Constrain Risk Attitudes?**, *Foundations of Utility and Risk*, University of York
- Nov 2017 **Normative Uncertainty and Regress**, *"Hard Cases and Rational Choice"*, University of Bern
- Nov 2017 **Ideal Theory for Consequentialists**, *Dutch Research School of Philosophy (OZSW) Annual Conference*, Utrecht University
- Oct 2017 **Normative Uncertainty and Regress**, *REAPP Workshop on Moral and Rational Uncertainty*, University of Reading
- Sept 2017 **Moral Uncertainty for Deontologists**, *Young Philosophers Lecture Series*, Prindle Institute for Ethics, Depauw University
- Aug 2017 **Two Regress Problems for Rational Choice Under Normative Uncertainty**, *Philosophy Days 2017*, Uppsala University
- Aug 2017 **Moral Uncertainty for Deontologists**, *European Congress of Analytic Philosophy*, LMU Munich
- July 2017 **Moral Uncertainty for Deontologists**, *British Society for Ethical Theory*, University of Bristol
- June 2017 **Thank Goodness That's Newcomb**, *International Association for Philosophy of Time*, Gargnano del Garda, Italy
- Apr 2017 **Intertheoretic Value Comparisons: A Modest Proposal**, *APA Pacific Division Meeting (Symposium Paper)*
- Jan 2017 **Competitive Debate as a Vehicle for Philosophy Education**, *"Teaching Philosophy across the Pre-College/College Boundary" (APA Eastern Division Meeting)*
- Oct 2016 **Intertheoretic Value Comparisons: A Modest Proposal**, *Virginia Philosophical Association*
- Mar 2016 **The Relevance of Moral Uncertainty**, *APA Central Division Meeting (Colloquium Paper)*
- Jan 2016 **Thank Goodness That's Newcomb**, *Philosophy of Time Society (APA Eastern Division Meeting)*

- Nov 2015 **A Cure for Infinitarian Paralysis**, *Philosophers' Cocoon Conference*, University of Tampa
- Aug 2015 **Rejecting Supererogationism**, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado
- June 2015 **The Heritable Wealth Dividend**, *Association for Social and Political Philosophy*, University of Amsterdam

Invited Colloquium Talks (Selected)

- Dec 2022 (upcoming) **Small Probabilities and High Stakes**, *Philosophy Department colloquium*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Oct 2021 **Non-Additive Axiologies in Large Worlds**, *Philosophy Department colloquium*, Kansas State University
- June 2021 **The Epistemic Challenge to Longtermism**, *Legal Priorities Seminar*, Harvard University
- April 2021 **Non-Additive Axiologies in Large Worlds**, *Interdisciplinary Centre for Ethics (INCET) research seminar*, Jagiellonian University, Kraków
- May 2020 **Exceeding Expectations: Stochastic Dominance as the Criterion of Rational Choice**, *Decision Research at Warwick (DR@W) Forum*, University of Warwick
- Oct 2018 **Exceeding Expectations: Stochastic Dominance as a General Decision Theory**, *Choice Group*, London School of Economics
- Feb 2017 **Moral Uncertainty for Deontologists**, *Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics*, University of Oxford

Invited Workshop Talks (Selected)

- Dec 2018 **Useful Ignorance: How Extreme Uncertainty *Might* Save Infinite Axiology**, *"Population Ethics and Uncertainty" workshop*, Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm
- June 2018 **Vive La Différence? Structural Diversity as a Challenge for Metanormative Theories**, *"Moral Decisions" workshop*, University of Hamburg
- June 2018 **Metanormative Regress: An Escape Plan**, *"Ethics and Uncertainty" workshop*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Public Lectures

- Jan 2020 **Making Choices Under Moral Uncertainty**, *Effective Altruism Society: Warwick and Warwick PPL Society*, University of Warwick
- Dec 2019 **The Epistemic Challenge to Longtermism**, *LSESU Effective Altruism, LSESU Philosophy Society, and LSE PPE Society*, London School of Economics
- Oct 2019 **Can We Predictably Influence the Far Future?**, *Effective Altruism Global*, London
- July 2018 **Normative Uncertainty and Cause Diversification**, *EA Global x Netherlands*, Utrecht

- May 2018 **Hedging Our Bets: Is Moral Uncertainty a Reason to Support Multiple Causes?**, *Effective Altruism Groningen*
- Sept 2017 **The Ethics of Low-Probability Risk**, *Young Philosophers Lecture Series*, Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics, Depauw University

Awards and Honors

- May 2019 **SOPHI Research Support Grant (A\$5000)**, *University of Sydney*
With Kristie Miller, Hannah Tierney, Preston Greene, Andrew Latham, and James Norton.
- 2016–17 **Dean's Dissertation Fellowship (\$26,600 plus tuition and fees)**, *University of Maryland*
One-year fellowship awarded to 0.25% (10 of ~4000) of all graduate students at the University of Maryland annually, based on departmental nominations.
- Apr 2016 **Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award**, *University of Maryland*
Awarded to 2% (80 of ~4000) of all graduate students at the University of Maryland annually, based on departmental nominations.
- Spring 2015 **Dean's Fellowship**, *Philosophy Department, University of Maryland*
One-semester fellowship awarded by the Department of Philosophy.
- Fall 2011 **Moreland Perkins Fellowship**, *Philosophy Department, University of Maryland*
One-semester fellowship awarded by the Department of Philosophy.

Teaching (Lead Instructor)

- Trinity Term 2022 **Fanaticism**, *University of Oxford*
Graduate seminar in Philosophy.
- Trinity Term 2019 **Topics in Global Priorities**, *University of Oxford*
Graduate seminar in Philosophy. Co-taught with William MacAskill.
- Summer 2017 **The Art of Thinking (PHIL 209Q)**, *University of Maryland*
18 students. Taught as part of Terp Young Scholars, a program hosted by the University of Maryland that offers courses for college credit to academically talented high school students. Syllabus: <https://goo.gl/BPYotG>
- Summer 2016 **The Art of Thinking (PHIL 209Q)**, *University of Maryland*
19 students. Taught as part of Terp Young Scholars program (see above). Syllabus: goo.gl/N7tCj7
- Spring 2016 **Political & Social Philosophy (PHIL 245)**, *University of Maryland*
64 students. Syllabus: goo.gl/N9FFWH
- Fall 2015 **The Nature of Morality (PHIL 408K)**, *University of Maryland*
23 students. Syllabus: goo.gl/8qjcUY
- Summer 2015 **Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 100)**, *University of Maryland*
18 students. Fully online. Syllabus: goo.gl/64JUu1
- Summer 2014 **Time's Arrow (PHIL 308A)**, *University of Maryland*
20 students. Fully online. Syllabus: goo.gl/g6l4XL
- Spring 2014 **Metaphysics of Mind (PHIL 308X)**, *University of Maryland*
32 students. Hybrid course (1/3 online). Syllabus: goo.gl/swV1Am

Winter 2014 **Philosophy of Time (PHIL 308K)**, *University of Maryland*
16 students. Fully online. Syllabus: goo.gl/vssRxZ

PhD Supervision

2020–21 **Hayden Wilkinson (co-supervisor)**, *Australian National University*
Thesis: *Infinite Aggregation*.

Undergraduate/Masters Supervisions and Tutorials

2020–21 **BPhil (Masters) thesis supervision**, *University of Oxford*
Thesis: *Can The 'Fanaticism' Issue for Moral Uncertainty Be Solved? If So How?*

2020–21 **BPhil (Masters) pre-thesis supervision**, *University of Oxford*
Area: Normative and Applied Ethics

2019–20 **Senior thesis supervision in Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE) program**,
University of Oxford
Thesis: *Are you rationally required to act as though normative nihilism is false, if you believe that it is true?*

Trinity Term **Undergraduate tutorial**, *University of Oxford*
2019 Topic: Probability & Decision Theory

2018–19 **Senior thesis supervision in Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE) program**,
University of Oxford
Thesis: *The Problem of Cluelessness*

2017–18 **Individual tutorial in "Philosophy of a Specific Discipline" Masters program**,
University of Groningen
Topic: Normative Uncertainty and Effective Altruism

Service

2017–present **Reviewer for *Mind*, *Analysis*, *Utilitas*, *Ethics*, *Synthese*, *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Noûs*, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Economics & Philosophy*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of Philosophy***

Dec 2019 **Organizer, Workshop on "Predicting and Influencing the Far Future"**, *Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford*

2018 **Book manuscript review for Oxford University Press**

Jan 2018 **Organizer, "Uncertainty, Disagreement, and Conflict: A Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Winter School"**, *University of Groningen*

Sept 2017 **Co-organizer, Inaugural Conference of the Centre for Philosophy, Politics and Economics**, *University of Groningen*

2015–2017 **Faculty Adviser, VegTerps**, *University of Maryland*

2005–2017 **Teaching philosophy through competitive high school debate**

- Lecturer in philosophy (2011–2016) and curriculum director (2014–2016) at Victory Briefs Institute (VBI), the largest summer institute for high school Lincoln-Douglas debate.
- Lincoln-Douglas debate coach (2005-2017), including head coaching positions with St. Louis Park and Hopkins High Schools in Minnesota.
- Coached national champions in Lincoln-Douglas debate at high school and middle school levels.