

KIAN MINTZ-WOO

CONTACT INFORMATION

email mintzwoo@ucc.ie
website research.ucc.ie/en/persons/kian-mintz-woo/
orcid <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9216-9561>
address 4 Elderwood, College Rd, Cork, Ireland, T12 AW89

AREAS OF RESEARCH

*Areas of
Specialization*

applied ethics (esp. climate ethics) · philosophy of economics · metaethics

*Areas of
Competence*

political philosophy · logic · metaphilosophy

EMPLOYMENT

2024– Senior Lecturer (Assoc. Prof. equivalent)

2022–2024 Lecturer Above the Merit Bar (Asst. Prof. equivalent)

2020–2022 Lecturer Below the Merit Bar (Asst. Prof. equivalent)

Univ. College Cork

Tenured, permanent, focus on HEALTH AND SOCIETY Programme · Cork, Ireland

2021 Early Career Conference Programme

Oxford University

Month-long funded summer research stay at the GLOBAL PRIORITIES INSTITUTE working on fundamental issues in cost-benefit analysis and internalizing externalities · <https://globalprioritiesinstitute.org/>

2018–2020 Lecturer and Postdoctoral Fellow

*Princeton
University*

Lecturer in the PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE
Postdoc co-appointed by UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR HUMAN VALUES and PRINCETON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS · <https://uchv.princeton.edu/>
Supervisor: Marc FLEURBAEY

2018 Young Scientist

*International
Institute for
Applied Systems
Analysis*

Examined the links between losses and damages (climatic effects beyond our ability to adapt) and the obligations of private market actors, especially historically disproportionate contributors to climate change · <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/>
Supervisors: Thomas SCHINKO & Reinhard MECHLER

EDUCATION

2022–2023 University College Cork, Ireland

PG Diploma

Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

2021–2022 University College Cork, Ireland

PG Certificate

Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

2014–2018 University of Graz, Austria

PhD

Philosophy *with distinction* · Doctoral College in Climate Change
Dissertation: *Moral Uncertainty Over Policy Evaluation*
In the context of intertemporal cost-benefit analyses, like for climate policies, the thesis argues for eliciting moral parameter assignments from domain experts.

Supervisors: **Lukas MEYER & Karl STEININGER**

External Examiner: Stephen GARDINER

- 2012–2014 Oxford University, United Kingdom
 BPhil Thesis: *A Moral Accounting of Climate Change*
 Supervisor: John BROOME
- 2010–2011 University of Reading, United Kingdom
 MA Ethics and Political Theory *with distinction*
 Thesis: *A Nested Theory of Morality*
 Supervisor: Brad HOOKER
- 2008–2010 University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
 MSc Logic *with distinction* · Institute for Logic, Language and Computing
 Thesis: *Independence Weakening in Judgment Aggregation*
- 2003–2008 University of British Columbia, Canada
 BA Fields: Philosophy, Creative Writing and English Literature *with honours*

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- Apr 2026 Climate Nudging, Catastrophes, and Cost Benefit
European Journal for Philosophy of Science
 16 (2): article 39. doi:[10.1007/s13194-026-00740-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13194-026-00740-1)
 Co-Authors: C. Tyler DESROCHES, Paul BARTHA, Angela RODRIGUEZ &ct.
 This paper argues that catastrophic risks, such as in climate change, require consideration of lexical precautionary principles—linking these risks to the potential value of green nudges.
- Apr 2026 Rights of Nature, Intercultural Respect & Climate
The Monist
 109 (2): 204–219. doi:[10.1093/monist/onago06](https://doi.org/10.1093/monist/onago06)
 Co-Authors: Daniel STEEL, Andrea VÁSQUEZ-FERNÁNDEZ, Rachel CRIPPS &ct.
 This paper considers rights of nature from a Peruvian Indigenous perspective, contrasting this with a traditional environmental ethics approach, connecting rights of nature with a normative account of cultural disrespect.
- Mar 2026 Exploring patterns of distributional justice in global climate change mitigation scenarios
npj Climate Action
 5: article 39. doi:[10.1038/s44168-026-00364-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s44168-026-00364-4)
 Co-Authors: Karl SCHEIFINGER, Elina BRUTSCHIN, . . . , Keywan RIAHI
 In order to determine attitudes towards distributional justice, it is necessary to distinguish between shapes or patterns of justice in future pathways. This study proposes methods of testing extant scenarios and stakeholder preferences with respect to distributional justice.
- Feb 2026 Advancing representations of equity and justice in climate mitigation futures
PLoS Climate
 5 (2): article e0000763. doi:[10.1371/journal.pclm.0000763](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000763)
 Co-Authors: Shonali PACHAURI, Elina BRUTSCHIN, . . . , Keywan RIAHI
 A variety of concerns have been raised with respect to the implementation of justice in mitigation futures. For each of these concerns, this paper presents a typology as well as assesses the state of the literature and the potential for addressing them.
- Jan 2026 Speed and Justice in a Renewable Energy Transition
Ethics, Policy & Environment
 Forthcoming. doi:[10.1080/21550085.2026.2614931](https://doi.org/10.1080/21550085.2026.2614931)
 Co-Authors: Daniel STEEL, Andrea VÁSQUEZ-FERNÁNDEZ &ct.
 This paper uses the concept of inductive risks to show a moral asymmetry

between errors with respect to beliefs about potential trade-offs between speed and justice in the context of a renewable energy transition.

Sep 2025 Assessing Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies through Transitional Justice

Ethics, Policy & Environment

Forthcoming. doi:[10.1080/21550085.2025.2567824](https://doi.org/10.1080/21550085.2025.2567824)

Co-Author: Daniele FULVI.

This paper discusses the ethics of carbon dioxide removal in the context of explicit intertemporal tradeoffs in terms of a new form of “transitional justice”, a meta-form of justice about the dynamics and tradeoffs of justice. It also argues against moral hazard concerns, suggesting that positing carbon dioxide removal as a moral hazard engenders the risk of insufficient mitigation.

Sep 2025 Explicit Methodologies for Normative Evaluation in Public Policy, as Applied to Carbon Budgets

Journal of Applied Philosophy

Forthcoming. doi:[10.1111/japp.70047](https://doi.org/10.1111/japp.70047)

Considering roles philosophers could play in public policy committee contexts, this paper argues against two obvious potential roles (“the Partisan” and “the Populist”) and defends a new role where the philosopher acts as a conduit for the discipline (“the Convergent Evaluator”).

Dec 2025 How Moral Philosophers can Help Society

Synthese

206 (6): article 294. doi:[10.1007/s11229-025-05382-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-025-05382-z)

This paper proposes a way of thinking of moral expertise that connects philosophers with the public. The claim is that a role (normative) philosophers can contribute to the public is providing valid arguments and valid inferences.

Dec 2025 Sufficierianism, Thresholds, and Climate Loss and Damage

Erasmus Journal for Philosophy & Economics

18 (2): 109–125. doi:[10.23941/ejpe.v18i2.1017](https://doi.org/10.23941/ejpe.v18i2.1017)

This paper makes three main claims. First, it argues that the way that García-Portela adopts a Polluter Pays Principle means that her sufficientarianism would be largely practically otiose for polluters. Second, it argues that her account of harm leaves questions unanswered about how to classify and respond to climate impacts above her threshold. Finally, it argues that an alternative account, the Polluter Pays, Then Receives Principle has a better practical and theoretical fit.

Jul 2025 Freedom and the Ethics of Plant-Based Diets in University Food Services

Food Ethics

10: article 17. doi:[10.1007/s41055-025-00176-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s41055-025-00176-y)

Co-Authors: Daniel STEEL, Brynmor CROOKALL, Charly PHILLIPS &ct.

This paper considers a variety of freedom- and liberty-based concerns about making food options plant-based (predominantly in universities). It provides some guidance which mitigate against such concerns, such as calibrating transitions to student demand and not having exclusively vegetarian options.

Jun 2025 Subnational Survey Data Reveal Persistent Gaps in Living Standards Across 75 Low and Middle-Income Countries

Nature Communications

16: article 4986. doi:[10.1038/s41467-025-60195-5](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-60195-5)

Co-Authors: Roman HOFFMANN, Omkar PATANGE, Caroline ZIMM, &ct.

This paper tracks progress and inequalities with respect to the sufficientarian Decent Living Standards using international Demographic and Health Survey data. [*Top 0.5% attention in all research scored by Altmetric*]

Jun 2025 Why We Should Support Carbon Prices

Think

24 (70): 71–76. doi:[10.1017/S1477175625000247](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1477175625000247)

This argues that carbon pricing generates consistent market signals and promotes fairness in society. It also defends carbon prices from a variety of objections.

Feb 2025 Climate Justice Discussions Need New Participants and New Audiences

Nature Climate Change
(Correspondence)

15 (2): 122–123. doi:[10.1038/s41558-024-02219-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-024-02219-4)

Co-Authors: Caroline ZIMM, Elina BRUTSCHIN, Susanne HANGER-KOPP &ct.

This Correspondence argues in response to criticism from colleagues that there is an important role to play for stance-independent justice concepts that are not tied to specific social, political or critical perspectives. These can be valuable for climate research audiences, but also as a basis upon which to critically debate and research injustices.

Dec 2024 A Dynamic Collapse Concept for Climate Change

Environmental Values

33 (6): 606–625. doi:[10.1177/09632719241255857](https://doi.org/10.1177/09632719241255857)

Co-Authors: Daniel STEEL, Giulia BELOTTI and ROSS MITTIGA

This paper critically examines existing definitions of societal collapse, arguing that none adequately address climate change. It proposes an alternative conception, where collapse is a reduction of collective capacity resulting in a pervasive and difficult-to-reverse loss of basic functionality.

Nov 2024 Review: *Philosophical Foundations of Climate Policy*

Economics and Philosophy
(Book Review)

40 (3): 732–737. doi:[10.1017/S0266267123000251](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266267123000251)

This review critically discusses Joseph HEATH's book (Oxford University Press, 2021), which attempts to work backwards from climate policy to determine the moral assumptions that would be needed to justify them.

Oct 2024 Unilateral Action on Climate Change and the Moral Obligation to Take Leadership

Journal of Social Philosophy

Forthcoming. doi:[10.1111/josp.12592](https://doi.org/10.1111/josp.12592)

Co-Authors: Daniel STEEL, Rachel CRIPPS, C. Tyler DESROCHES and Paul BARTHA

We claim that a moral obligation to take climate leadership by means of unilateral mitigation depends on the existence of a plausible follow-the-leader mechanism whereby unilateral mitigation by some increases the probability of sufficient mitigation by others to avert catastrophic climate impacts.

Sep 2024 The Promises and Pitfalls of Taxing Carbon

Revista de Ciencia Política (Editorial)

44 (3): 491–495. doi:[10.4067/s0718-090x2024005000117](https://doi.org/10.4067/s0718-090x2024005000117)

Co-Authors: ROSS MITTIGA and Yogi HENDLIN

The ethics of carbon taxes are underdiscussed, especially given their importance in the climate policy toolbox. This special issue discusses some moral issues arising from carbon taxes, including the theoretical economic case (John BROOME), a Kantian approach to coordinating action (Lisa ELLIS) and a comparison of the justice of carbon taxes with personal carbon allowances (Steve VANDERHEIDEN).

Aug 2024 Collapse, Social Tipping Dynamics, and Framing Climate Change

Politics, Philosophy & Economics

23 (3): 230–251. doi:[10.1177/1470594X231196432](https://doi.org/10.1177/1470594X231196432)

Co-Authors: Daniel STEEL and C. Tyler DESROCHES

We argue that established climate pathways are sufficiently dire that for many in the current generation, avoiding the worst climate outcomes constitutes a massive benefit. We argue that this shows that thinking of climate change as purely an intergenerational problem is unsupported by current science.

Jul 2024 Carbon Offsets and Concerns About Shifting Harms: A Reply to Elson

Erasmus Journal for Philosophy & Economics
(Comment)

17 (1): 310–317. doi:[10.23941/ejpe.v17i1.870](https://doi.org/10.23941/ejpe.v17i1.870)

Luke Elson recently defended carbon offsetting. I offer a few critical remarks related to the timing of emissions, rational defaults and the role of ethics for individual and policy responses.

May 2024 A Directional Dilemma in Climate Innovation

*Journal of
Responsible
Innovation*

11 (1): article 2346972. doi:[10.1080/23299460.2024.2346972](https://doi.org/10.1080/23299460.2024.2346972)

This paper provides an example dilemma illustrating the concept of innovation directionality (that plural values could support a variety of innovation pathways). The dilemma concerns which values underlie different strategies for carbon dioxide removal development and deployment.

May 2024 **Moral Hazards and Solar Radiation Management:
Evidence from a large-scale online experiment**

95: article 102288. doi:[10.1016/j.jenvp.2024.102288](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2024.102288)

Co-Author: Philipp SCHÖNEGGER

We report a large-scale preregistered, money-incentivised, online experiment with a representative US sample. We fail to find a significant impact of receiving information about solar radiation management and, based on equivalence tests, we provide evidence in favour of the absence of a meaningfully large effect. Our results provide evidence that there is no detectable moral hazard.

*Journal of
Environmental
Psychology*

Apr 2024 **A Forward-Looking Approach to Climate Change
and the Risk of Societal Collapse**

158: article 103361. doi:[10.1016/j.futures.2024.103361](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2024.103361)

Co-Authors: Daniel STEEL, Charley PHILLIPS and Amanda GIANG

This paper proposes a forward-looking approach to studying societal collapse risks related to climate change. Our approach is based on three postulates: (1) collapse, if it occurred, would be a lengthy process rather than an abrupt event; (2) significant collapse risks already exist in some places; and (3) diminishing returns on adaptation to intensifying impacts are key drivers of collapse risks.

Futures

Feb 2024 **Strengthening Midwifery in Response to Global
Climate Change to Protect Maternal and Newborn Health**

16 (1): 24–34. doi:[10.1016/j.wombi.2023.10.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wombi.2023.10.004)

Co-Authors: Maeve O'CONNELL, Christine CATLING and Caroline HOMER

In recognition of midwives and other healthcare professionals being included in the agenda for COP28, we urge further study on necessary changes to their work (mitigation strategies) and adjusting to changing conditions due to climate change to reduce risk and promote resilience (adaptation strategies).

*Women and Birth
(Editorial)*

Jan 2024 **Justice Considerations in Climate Research**

14 (1): 22–30. doi:[10.1038/s41558-023-01869-0](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-023-01869-0)

Co-Authors: Caroline ZIMM (we co-lead authored), Elina BRUTSCHIN, &ct.

This paper lays out a justice framework (distributional, procedural, corrective, recognitional and transitional) for scientists and policy-makers. It introduces the main choice points, links this framework to existing equity principles and applies it to climate scenario development. [*Top 1% attention in all research scored by Altmetric*]

*Nature Climate
Change*

Jan 2024 **Carbon Tax Ethics**

15 (1): article e858. doi:[10.1002/wcc.858](https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.858)

This paper discusses the moral drivers for estimates of the social cost of carbon; how national self-interest can block climate action; some of the social science literature about political acceptability of carbon taxes; and several carbon revenue usage options.

*WIREs Climate
Change*

Jan 2024 **Carbon Pricing is Not Unjust**

8 (1): article 2300089. doi:[10.1002/gch2.202300089](https://doi.org/10.1002/gch2.202300089)

This paper argues that carbon pricing can be defended from charges of distributive injustice (by considering judicious redistribution of revenues) and from charges of procedural injustice (by adopting ideal observer theory and taking the Irish Citizens' Assembly to be a good proxy for what an informed representative citizen would endorse).

Global Challenges

Nov 2023 **Compensation Duties**

Handbook of the
Philosophy of
Climate Change
(Book Chapter)

Springer: 779–797. doi:[10.1007/978-3-030-16960-2_54-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-16960-2_54-1)
This chapter begins by discussing several principles in climate ethics: polluter pays, beneficiary pays, ability to pay, and polluter pays, then receives principles. It then covers policies and institutions that might be relevant for compensation, whether internationally (Green Climate Fund) or intergenerationally (World Climate Bank). It closes by discussing some climate litigation and the policy pillar of Loss & Damage (edited by Gianfranco Pellegrino & Marcello Di Paola).

Mar 2023 The NET Effect: Negative Emissions Technologies
and the Need-Efficiency Trade-off

6: article e5. doi:[10.1017/sus.2023.3](https://doi.org/10.1017/sus.2023.3)
When developing and deploying Negative Emissions Technologies (NETs), little attention has been paid to where they are developed. One might want to deploy NETs where they are likely to contribute most to global mitigation targets. Alternatively, one might want to deploy NETs where they can help support development on a regional basis. I defend these arguments and suggest that they reflect the moral values of efficiency and responding to need. To the extent that these values conflict, they introduce what I call the Need-Efficiency Trade-off Effect (“NET Effect”).

Global
Sustainability

Feb 2023 How Climate Winners May Help Climate Justice

2 (2): article e0000127. doi:[10.1371/journal.pclm.0000127](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000127)
Co-Author: Justin LEROUX
This comment argues that, provided that emitters compensate climate losers, they may be (somewhat counterintuitively) entitled to gains from some climate winners.

PLoS Climate
(Comment)

Jan 2023 Fossil Fuels

Routledge, ch. 26: 317–326. doi:[10.4324/9781315768090-32](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315768090-32)
This chapter introduces several debates in environmental ethics regarding fossil fuels: whether offsetting emissions is morally required and practically possible; what role forms of local resistance can take, especially divestment and pipeline protesting; and how trade in natural goods on international markets could be priced or curtailed (edited by Benjamin Hale, Andrew Light & Lydia Lawhon).

Routledge
Companion to
Environmental
Ethics

Oct 2022 Climate Change and the Threat to Civilization

119 (42): article e2210525119. doi:[10.1073/pnas.2210525119](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2210525119)
Co-Authors: Daniel STEEL and C. Tyler DESROCHES
This comment calls for treating the mechanisms and uncertainties associated with climate collapse as a critically important topic for scientific inquiry. Doing so requires clarifying what “civilization collapse” means and explaining how it connects to topics addressed by natural and social scientists. [*Read over 50,000 times, top 0.1% attention in all research scored by Altmetric*]

PNAS
(Comment)

Aug 2022 Need-Efficiency Tradeoff for Negative Emissions

1 (8): article e0000060. doi:[10.1371/journal.pclm.0000060](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000060)
This comment argues that scarce resources for developing certain negative emissions technology capacities can prioritize efficiency in terms of total mitigation potential, or need in terms of expected development demand, but that these values would suggest investing in different ways.

PLoS Climate
(Comment)

Jan 2022 Carbon Pricing Ethics

17 (1): article e12803. doi:[10.1111/phc3.12803](https://doi.org/10.1111/phc3.12803)
This survey introduces the ethics of carbon pricing, both for quantity and price instruments, asking (1) whether carbon pricing is preferable to command and control regulation and (2) what the arguments are for both forms of carbon pricing. [*Teaching and learning guide also available at doi:10.1111/phc3.12816.*]

Philosophy
Compass

Dec 2021 Carbon Pricing and COVID-19

21 (10): 1272–1280. doi:[10.1080/14693062.2020.1831432](https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2020.1831432)

Climate Policy

Co-Authors: Francis DENNIG, Hongxun LIU and Thomas SCHINKO

This policy analysis argues that it is better to introduce a carbon price during the COVID-19 context than under normal conditions due to low energy prices, the need for diversified revenue streams, and better long-term fiscal and environmental sustainability. [*Top 2% attention in all research scored by Altmetric*]

Dec 2021 Why & Where to Fund Carbon Capture and Storage

27 (6): article 70. doi:[10.1007/s11948-021-00344-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11948-021-00344-3)

Co-Author: Joe LANE

This paper offers two justifications for expanding carbon capture and storage and then draws attention to a moral tension about where to site it: whether it should be developed where it has the best prospects for success (e.g. United States and the Middle East) or where there is greatest expected need (e.g. developing Asian regions). [*Top 2% attention in all research scored by Altmetric*]

Nov 2021 What Do Climate Winners Owe, and to Whom?

37 (3): 462–483. doi:[10.1017/S0266267120000449](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266267120000449)

Co-Author: Justin LEROUX

This paper considers climate ethics as a constellation of externalities, positive and negative, with different associated demands of justice. It is argued that those who are subject to positive climate externalities owe gains not to the net losers, but to the emitters, just as the emitters owe it to the net losers to compensate them for the negative externalities. [*Top 5% attention in all research scored by Altmetric*]

Nov 2021 Infant Feeding and the Energy Transition

324: article 129280. doi:[jclepro.2021.129280](https://doi.org/10.1017/jclepro.2021.129280)

Co-Authors: Aoife LONG, Hannah DALY, Maeve O'CONNELL, Beatrice SMYTH, Jerry D MURPHY

In order to achieve a just energy transition, it is necessary to consider social and health impacts of choices of decarbonization as well as the climate ones. This paper calculates potential costs of decarbonizing infant formula. [*Top 3% attention in all research scored by Altmetric*]

Nov 2021 Will Carbon Taxes Help Address Climate Change?

16 (1): 57–67. doi:[10.7202/1083645ar](https://doi.org/10.7202/1083645ar)

This paper rebuts three common objections to carbon taxes: (1) that they do not change behaviour, (2) that they generate unfair burdens and exacerbate inequality, and (3) that fundamental, systemic change is needed instead of carbon taxes.

May 2021 A Philosopher's Guide to Discounting

Oxford University Press, ch 4: 90–110. doi:[10.1093/oso/9780198796282.003.0005](https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198796282.003.0005)

This chapter introduces discounting to philosophers in the context of climate change. It draws attention to, inter alia, the difference between discounting in pure and impure terms while arguing that appeals to expertise in setting values may be justified for such problems (edited by Mark Budolfson, Tristram McPherson & David Plunkett).

Apr 2021 The Ethics of Measuring Climate Change Impacts

Elsevier, ch 23: 521–535. doi:[10.1016/B978-0-12-822373-4.00023-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-822373-4.00023-9)

This chapter qualitatively lays out some of the ways that climate change impacts are evaluated in integrated assessment models (IAMs). It first discusses some key social or structural assumptions, such as the damage functions and the way growth is modeled. Second, it turns to the moral assumptions, including parameters associated with intertemporal evaluation and interpersonal inequality aversion, but also assumptions in population ethics about how different-sized populations are compared and how we think about distributing goods across or within times (edited by Trevor M Letcher).

Science and
Engineering Ethics

Economics &
Philosophy

Journal Of Cleaner
Production

Les Ateliers de
L'Éthique/The
Ethics Forum

Philosophy &
Climate Change
(Book Chapter)

The Impacts of
Climate Change
(Book Chapter)

Jan 2020 Public Values in the Right Context

*Australasian
Philosophical
Review
(Comment)*

4 (1): 57–62. doi:[10.1080/24740500.2020.1926891](https://doi.org/10.1080/24740500.2020.1926891)

This comment defends the importance of philosophical arguments being accessible to the public, inverting appeals to values common in the philosophy of science

Apr 2019 Principled Utility Discounting Under Risk

*Moral Philosophy
and Politics*

6 (1): 89–112. doi:[10.1515/mopp-2018-0060](https://doi.org/10.1515/mopp-2018-0060)

Utility discounting can be defended normatively; it is rational for future utility to be discounted to take into account model-independent outcomes when decision-making under risk. I suggest a principle for utility discounting on this basis and defend the principle against objections from Parfit and Broome. A sample utility discount rate is derived from the principle.

Mar 2019 Security and Distribution, or Should You Care About Merely Possible Losses?

*Ethics, Policy &
Environment
(Comment)*

21 (3): 382–386. doi:[10.1080/21550085.2018.1562532](https://doi.org/10.1080/21550085.2018.1562532)

Herington's recent defence of security as a component of well-being appeals to modal concerns; it relates to what the distribution is of basic goods across future counterparts. I offer two objections, one related to whether this appeal to security is truly additional and one related to the problematic implication that cross-counterpart axiology would introduce overdemandingness.

Jan 2019 The Social Cost of Carbon: Valuing Inequality, Risk, and Population for Climate Policy

The Monist

102 (1): 84–109. doi:[10.1093/monist/ony023](https://doi.org/10.1093/monist/ony023)

Co-Authors: Marc FLEURBAEY, Maddalena FERRANNA, Mark BUDOLFSON, et al. While discounting is a familiar moral issue in determining the SCC, we survey several often overlooked issues including total utilitarianism given endogenous population growth; valuing non-human animals; and ex ante versus ex post prioritarianism in climate policy.

Jan 2019 Ethical Challenges in Climate Loss & Damage

*Loss and Damage
from Climate
Change (Book
Chapter)*

Springer, ch 2: 39–62. doi:[10.1007/978-3-319-72026-5_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-72026-5_2)

Co-Authors: Ivo WALLIMANN-HELMER, Lukas MEYER, et al.

Adverse climatic impacts beyond adaptation (“Loss & Damage”) are rarely distinguished from those impacts resulting from failure to mitigate or adapt. We argue that, at the national level, L&D costs should be covered by appeal to distributive instead of compensatory justice due to current scientific limitations regarding historical responsibility.

Jan 2019 Science for Loss and Damage. Findings and Propositions

*Loss and Damage
from Climate
Change (Book
Chapter)*

Springer, ch 1: 3–37. doi:[10.1007/978-3-319-72026-5_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-72026-5_1)

Co-Authors: Reinhard MECHLER, Elisa CALLIARI, Laurens M BOUWER, et al.

This introductory chapter summarizes key findings of the book in terms of five propositions. These propositions each build on relevant findings linked to suggestions for research, policy and practice. They proceed from setting the stage to critical issues, followed by methods and tools, to geographic perspectives, and finally to potential policy options.

Oct 2018 Moral Uncertainty Over Policy Evaluation

*Erasmus Journal
for Philosophy and
Economics (Thesis
Summary)*

11 (2): 291–294. doi:[10.23941/ejpe.v11i2.351](https://doi.org/10.23941/ejpe.v11i2.351)

When performing intertemporal cost-benefit analyses of policies, both in terms of climate change and other long-term problems, the discounting problem becomes critical. The question is how to weight intertemporal costs and benefits to generate present value equivalents. I argue that those best placed to answer the discounting problem are domain experts, not moral philosophers or the public at large. It does this by arguing that the discounting problem is a special

case of an interesting class of problems, those which are both what I call morally complex and quantitative.

Oct 2018 Blogging Climate Change: A Case Study

Addressing the Challenges in Communicating Climate Change (Book Chapter)

Springer, ch 9: 129–142. doi:[10.1007/978-3-319-98294-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-98294-6)
Co-Authors: Erangu Purath Mohankumar SAJEEV, Matthias DAMERT, et al.
Our doctoral program produced a blog discussing our climate change research for a lay audience. This chapter discusses the challenges and successes of the blog with reference to communication theory.

Aug 2018 On Parfit's Ontology

Canadian Journal of Philosophy

48 (5): 707–725. doi:[10.1080/00455091.2017.1381935](https://doi.org/10.1080/00455091.2017.1381935)
Derek Parfit denies that the introduction of reasons into our ontology is costly for his theory. I show that his arguments for this claim, the Plural Senses View and the Argument from Empty Ontology, do not establish the claim, demonstrating the instability of Parfit's claimed metaethical advantages over naturalism. [*Currently third most read article overall at this journal*]

May 2018 Two Moral Arguments for a Global Social Cost of Carbon

Ethics, Policy & Environment (Comment)

21 (1): 60–63. doi:[10.1080/21550085.2018.1448038](https://doi.org/10.1080/21550085.2018.1448038)
I provide two moral arguments against the domestic cost of carbon advocated in Trump's executive order on energy. The first argument is grounded in reinforcing international norms in the context of commons problems; the second argument is grounded in evidence that rules out the applicability of probabilistic indifference about global effects of emissions.

Jan 2017 A New Defence of Probability Discounting

The Ethical Underpinnings of Climate Economics (Book Chapter)

Routledge, ch 6: 87–102. doi: [10.4324/9781315649153](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315649153)
I argue that, for decisions under risk, Simon Caney's rights-based approach overgeneralises and that rights-based theories structurally face similar problems. I make a new moral case for probability discounting on the grounds that moral responsibility for outcomes scales with credence in outcomes (edited by Adrian Walsh, S ade Hormio & Duncan Purves).

Dec 2015 Review: *Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice*

Ethical Perspectives (Book Review)

22 (4): 732–735. doi:[10.2143/EP.22.4.3127273](https://doi.org/10.2143/EP.22.4.3127273)
Written by Marion HOURDEQUIN. Published in 2015 by Bloomsbury Academic.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

Sep 2025 Choose Your Own Philosophical Policy Role

Justice Everywhere

<https://justice-everywhere.org/general/choose-your-own-philosophical-policy-role/>
This choose your own adventure style blogpost conveys some key ideas from [this paper on philosophers in public policy](#) .

Nov 2023 Effective climate action requires us to abandon viewing our efforts as a 'sacrifice'

The Conversation

<https://theconversation.com/effective-climate-action-requires-us-to-abandon-viewing-our-efforts-as-a-sacrifice-213046>
Co-Authors: Daniel STEEL and C. Tyler DESROCHES
This article explains that we should think about climate action as an opportunity to spur us towards tipping points, and not as a sacrifice.

Dec 2021 Carbon capture and storage: Where should the world store CO₂? It's a moral dilemma

The Conversation

<https://theconversation.com/carbon-capture-and-storage-where-should-the-world->

[store-co-its-a-moral-dilemma-167453](#)

This article discusses the ethical dilemma of determining where to store captured carbon.

Nov 2021 How to talk to your children about climate change

Irish Examiner

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/spotlight/arid-40733805.html>

Co-Author: Simona CAPISANI

This article discusses evidence-based ways that you can lessen climate anxiety for children.

Nov 2021 Money talks: Who bears the brunt of cleaning up?

Irish Examiner

<https://www.pressreader.com/ireland/irish-examiner/20211104/281771337417161>

This article discusses obligations wealthy countries have to pay for mitigation.

Aug 2021 6 Ways to Take Action Now on Climate Change

RTÉ (Irish News)

<https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2021/0817/1241229-individuals-family-climate-change-action/>

This opinion discusses six ways that individuals can decrease their climate impacts.

May 2021 Climate Ethics and a New Climate Principle

*American
Philosophical
Association Blog*

<https://blog.apaonline.org/2021/05/27/introducing-climate-ethics/>

This blog post (1) introduces a fundamental debate in climate ethics (polluter pays v. beneficiary pays v. ability to pay principles) while (2) arguing for a new principle (polluter pays, then receives, or PPTR/"Peter", principle).

Nov 2020 COVID-19 is the Time to Increase Carbon Taxes

RTÉ (Irish News)

<https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2020/1202/1181940-why-covid-19-is-the-right-time-to-increase-carbon-taxes/>

This opinion for an Irish audience argues that the COVID-19 crisis is the appropriate time to strengthen the carbon tax.

May 2020 Put a Price on Carbon Now!

Project Syndicate

<https://prosyn.org/cL6cNDx>

Co-Author: Peter SINGER

This opinion argues that the COVID-19 crisis is the appropriate time to introduce a carbon tax and internalize climate externalities.

TEACHING

2022– Climate Ethics

*University College
Cork*

Instructor of record · lectured for half of the very first semester for philosophy undergraduates, introducing moral concepts in the context of climate change

2021– Philosophy of Death and Dying

Instructor of record · Masters course discussing the ethics, value theory, and metaphysics of death and immortality

2021– Moral Philosophy in Theory and Practice

Instructor of record · third-year undergraduate course applying moral theories to contemporary problems

2020– Health and Philosophy

Instructor of record · a keystone Masters course examining health issues with a focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and issues arising from it

2020– Professional Ethics

Instructor of record · combined undergraduate and Masters course on workplace

moral issues, such as career choice, discrimination, and shareholder capitalism

2019 Environmental Nexus

Princeton
University

Instructor of record co-taught with three cross-disciplinary professors · second-year undergraduate course examining environmental issues through different disciplinary lenses: biology, literature, economics and moral philosophy

2018 Values and Public Life Senior Thesis Seminar

Instructor of record · a senior thesis graduate-style workshopping seminar

2016 Introduction to Contemporary Consequentialism

University of Graz

Instructor of record · a mixed undergraduate and master class considering contemporary problems using a consequentialist approach

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Reviewer

Acta Analytica · *AI and Ethics* · *Analysis* · *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* · *British Journal of Political Science* · *Business Ethics Quarterly* · *Carbon Management* · *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* · *Climate Policy* · *Climate Resilience and Sustainability* · *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* · *Ecological Economics* · *Economics and Philosophy* · *Environmental Ethics* · *Environmental Values* · *Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics* · *Ethics* · *Ethics and International Affairs* · *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* · *Ethics, Policy & Environment* · *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* · *Global Environmental Change* · *Global Challenges* · *Global Ethics* · *Global Sustainability* · *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* · *Journal of Applied Philosophy* · *Journal of Economic Methodology* · *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* · *Journal of International Political Theory* · *Journal of Social Ontology* · *Journal of Social Philosophy* · *Journal of Value Inquiry* · *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies* · *Noûs* · *Philosophical Quarterly* · *Philosophical Studies* · *Politics, Philosophy & Economics* · *Res Publica* · *Southern Journal of Philosophy* · *Synthese* · *16th Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference* · *Oxford University Press*

Workshop
Organizer or
Co-Organizer

February 2025 · *American Philosophical Association (Central Division) Meeting* · Main Program Committee. Invited Contributors included: Olivia BAILEY, Meagan FAIRCHILD, Deborah MCGREGOR, Thi NGUYEN and Krushil WATENE

July 2022 · *Climate Change Centre Austria, Working Group Climate Justice, Workshop* · Invited Contributors included: Lukas MEYER and Stephen GARDINER

June 2022 · *Layers of Governance* · Contributors included: Simon CANEY, Alicia COOPERMAN, Sara CONSTANTINO, Jared FINNEGAN, Federica GENOVESE, Laura KUHLE, and Säde HORMIO

February 2022 · *Climate Change: Thresholds, Uncertainties and Coping Strategies* · Invited Contributors included: Catriona MCKINNON and Stephen GARDINER

June 2021 · *Climate Solutions, Money, and Politics* · Invited Contributors included: Alyssa BERNSTEIN, John BROOME, Simon CANEY, Jessica GREEN, Rebecca HENDERSON, Robert KEOHANE, and Michael OPPENHEMER

June 2021 · *Philosophy and the Climate Crisis* · Invited Contributors included: Michael BROWNSTEIN, Marion HOURDEQUIN, Olúfemi O TÁÍWÒ, Stephen GARDINER, Bill HENDERSON, Robert KEOHANE, and Michael OPPENHEMER

February-May 2021 · *Climate Change Centre Austria Seminar Series* · Invited Contributors included: Stephen GARDINER and Clare HEYWARD

August 2020 · *Bridging Gaps of Affluence, Nation, and Time Workshop* · Invited Contributors included: Simon CANEY, Elizabeth CRIPPS, Stephen GARDINER, Marion HOURDEQUIN, Robert KEOHANE, and Haro VAN ASSELT

May 2019 · *Climate Policy and Sustainable Growth* · Invited Speakers: Michael GREENSTONE, Marc FLEURBAEY, Narasimha RAO, and Valentina BOSETTI

July 2017 · *Climate Change Economics Workshop* · Invited Speakers: Francis DENNIG, Maddalena FERRANA, Mark BUDOLFSON, and Fabian WAGNER

Commentator

June 2015 · *Climate Ethics and Climate Economics* · Invited Speakers: Dale JAMIESON, Stephen GARDINER, and Darrel MOELLENDORF

June 2024 · *International Society for Environmental Ethics* (University of Fribourg) · on a presentation by Britta CLARK

April 2024 · *Graz Conference on Needs-Based Justice* (University of Graz) · on a presentation by Keith WILLIGES

August 2022 · *Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference* (University of Colorado) · on a presentation by Brendan CLINE

December 2020 · *TiLPS History of Analytic Philosophy Workshop* (Tilburg University) · on a presentation by Frederique JANSSEN-LAURET

September 2020 · *MANCEPT Panel on Democracy & Intergenerational Justice* (University of Manchester) · on a presentation by Tyler JOHN

July 2020 · *New Methods in Applied Ethics* (University of Tübingen) · on a presentation by Nora HEINZELMANN

July 2019 · *International Society for Environmental Ethics* (HJ Andrews Forest Research Station) · on a presentation by Jeremy BENDIK-KEYMER

June 2019 · *Canadian Philosophical Association* (University of British Columbia) · on a presentation by Juliette ROUSSIN

February 2019 · *American Philosophical Association—Central Division* (Denver) · on a presentation by Chris TWEEDT

May 2018 · *Current Perspectives on Climate Justice* (University of Graz) · on a presentation by Àfrica Bauza GARCIA-ARCICOLLAR

June 2017 · *Responding to an Uncertain Future* (University of Graz) · on a presentation by Maria Paola FERRETTI

November 2014 · *Ethical Underpinnings of Climate Economics* (University of Helsinki) · on a presentation by Simo KYLLÖNEN and Alessandra BASSO

March 2013 · *Postgraduate Student Association Conference* (University of Waterloo) · on a presentation by Avery ARCHER

September 2011 · *British Philosophical Postgraduate Conference* (University of Reading) · on a presentation by Renée Jorgensen BOLINGER

SELECTED AWARDS AND FUNDING

2026 · Elected Member, [Young Academy of Ireland](#) · Royal Irish Academy · Elected member of a network for exceptional early career researchers from the island of Ireland, part of the Global Young Academy network

2025 · Early-Stage Researcher of the Year · [University College Cork Research and Innovation Awards](#) · For research excellence across the university with fewer than ten years since award of PhD

2022 · Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grant · \$225,000 · Collaborator · 5 year grant (2023–2028), on climate change and civilization collapse

2021 · Andrew Light Award for Public Philosophy · Winner · [International Society for Environmental Ethics Notice](#)

2021 · Small Research Grant (Forethought Foundation) · Awarded · £6,500 for an experiment on moral hazard in the context of geoengineering

2020 · IIASA Strategic Initiatives Grant · €400,000 · Work Package Lead · 4 year grant (2020–2024), on climate justice in climate science: [JustTrans4All](#)

2020 · Andrew Light Award for Public Philosophy · Finalist

2019 · Best Applied Ethics Blog Post Award · \$250 Prize · [Peasoup Blog](#)

2017 · APA Graduate Student Award · travel award

2008-2010 · Huygens Scholarship (competitive full scholarship for MSc, including maintenance) · approximately \$45,000 · Faculty of Higher Education, NUFFIC Netherlands

2008 · Student speaker for graduation (nominated by philosophy department head) · University of British Columbia

2008 · James Ruggles Macdonell Memorial Scholarship (most promising student graduating in philosophy) · University of British Columbia

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association, Aristotelian Society, British Society of Aesthetics, Canadian Philosophical Association, International Association for Environmental Philosophy, International Society for Environmental Ethics, Philosophers for Sustainability

REFERENCES

Lukas Meyer

Department of Philosophy
University of Graz
A-8010 Graz, Austria

Peter Singer (Emeritus)

University Center for Human Values
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544

Marc Fleurbaey

48 Bd Jourdan
Paris School of Economics
75014 Paris, France

Stephen Gardiner

390 Savery Hall
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Anna Stilz [Teaching]

Department of Political Science
786 Social Sciences Building
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720

June 2, 2026