

# Andrew Woodhall

Diamond Cottage, Kincardine O'Neil,  
Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 4JA  
07592 165 110  
(Email – a.c.woodhall@gmail.com)

## Education

2012 – 2017

PhD in Philosophy –

PhD

(Viva passed  
Dec., 2016)

Thesis Title: Addressing Anthropocentrism in  
Nonhuman Ethics: Evolution, Morality, and  
Nonhuman Moral Beings

Thesis Outline: In my thesis I put forward a new definition of anthropocentrism based on a thorough overview of use in the literature and via analogy with other centrisms, such as androcentrism. I argue that thus clarified anthropocentrism is unjustified and results in problems for nonhuman animals that any nonhuman ethic should wish to avoid. I then demonstrate how important nonhuman ethics theories are anthropocentric on this definition, and do not address anthropocentrism, in a way that results in these problems for nonhumans. I thus propose a nonhuman ethic that aims to be less anthropocentric. I do this by first considering morality in light of evolution and second by looking at nonhuman moral codes. I draw upon both of these to set out a less anthropocentric nonhuman ethic and show why this account is at least as viable as, and less problematic than, the current theories as well as outlining its beneficial implications for nonhuman animals and the field. I conclude that anthropocentrism and approaching nonhuman ethics in the manner I have is therefore important for considering nonhuman issues, and that the theory I have put forward is advantageous.

Supervisors: Prof. Lisa Bortolotti  
Prof. Heather Widdows

External Examiner: Prof. Robert Garner

Internal Examiner: Dr. Jussi Suikkanen

2010 – 2011

MLitt in Philosophy (*with Distinction*) –

MLitt

Dissertation Title: Moral-Autonomism: A New  
Theory on the Relationship of Ethics to Aesthetics

Dissertation Outline: In my dissertation I considered the major theories for ethics' relation to aesthetics, and found each problematic. I then examined the different accounts for the origins of aesthetic value. From this I argued that a 'middle ground' theory

could be proposed that fits the best explanation of the origin of aesthetic value while also providing the seemingly competing intuitions of both theories for whether ethics relates to aesthetics. This new theory I termed, ‘Moral-Autonomism’.

Supervisor: Prof. Catherine Wilson

Research Project Title: In Defence of Oedipus (and) Rex

Project Outline: In this project I examined the most used objections to incest and bestiality. I argued that none of these show that all instances of incest and bestiality are morally wrong and that most of the objections have been rejected in contemporary sexual ethics by considering homosexuality (which is morally acceptable). I concluded that incest and bestiality should be ruled only by our normal moral rules for sex (e.g consent – which I show is not a problem in all cases) and that therefore many instances of incest, and some instances of bestiality, are morally permissible and neither should be used as a Reductio (as they often are) for positions in sexual ethics.

Supervisor: Prof. Catherine Wilson

Courses Undertaken: *Conference Skills, Philosophy Proseminar, Work in Progress, Advanced Topics in Practical Philosophy, Recent Topics in Metaethics, Recent Topics in Metaphysics & Epistemology, Independent Research Project (on Incest & Bestiality), Dissertation (on the Relationship of Ethics to Aesthetics)*

**2006 – 2010**

**MA (Hons) Mental Philosophy (First Class) –**

**MA (Honours)**

Dissertation Title: Is it Ever Morally Justifiable to Kill and Eat Animals?

Dissertation Outline: In my dissertation I argued that arguments in the ‘ethics of killing’ and ‘common moral conceptions’ show that killing is acceptable (on these accounts) only ‘when necessary’ and at no other time. I then outlined what I termed ‘The Necessity Argument’, which shows that only ‘when necessary’ is it morally justifiable to kill and eat nonhuman animals, and that in modern society the ‘necessity principle’ is not fulfilled.

Supervisor: Prof. Catherine Wilson

Courses Undertaken: *Formal Logic, Knowledge and Mind, Moral Philosophy, Philosophy of Language,*

*Metaphysics, History of Philosophy (Ancient & Modern), Berkeley, Ethics & Personal Relationships, Exploring the Emotions, Truth, Environmental Ethics, Free Will, Paradoxes, Philosophy of Humour, Death, Wittgenstein & Philosophy of Religion, Scepticism, Feminist Philosophy, Independent Study (on Hume & Causation), Dissertation (on the Morality of Killing/Eating Animals)*

<b>2003 – 2004</b>	<b>Acting &amp; Performance Level 2 –</b>	<b>Highers/AS Levels</b>
	<i>Courses Undertaken: Voice, Voice Skills, Creative Writing 2, Preparation For Audition, Acting Text Based Production, Acting Skills, Movement For Theatre Performers, Perspectives Of Theatre History, Movement &amp; Dance, Play &amp; Theatre Appreciation, Working With Others.</i>	
<b>2001 – 2002</b>	<b>Information Technology Level 2</b>	<b>SVQ Level 2</b>
<b>1998 – 2000</b>	<b>History, Media Studies, Theatre Studies</b>	<b>A-Levels</b>
<b>1993 – 1998</b>	<b>Science (Double Award), History, English (Literature), English (Language), Graphic Design, Mathematics, French, German</b>	<b>GCSE's</b>

### **Prizes**

6/2010	John Laird Memorial Prize in Moral Philosophy <i>(Awarded to the best graduate in moral philosophy)</i>
6/2010	Bain Medal in Mental Philosophy <i>(Awarded to the best graduate in philosophy)</i>
6/2009	Wernham Prize for Moral Philosophy <i>(Awarded to the best student of the year in philosophy)</i>
5/2008	Wernham Prize for Moral Philosophy <i>(Awarded to the best student of the year in philosophy)</i>
5/2007	Wernham Prize for Moral Philosophy <i>(Awarded to the best student of the year in philosophy)</i>

### **Awards/Funding**

- 2014: Awarded funding to organize the 'Ethics and/or Politics' conference by the *Society For Applied Philosophy* (£2000), the *Aristotelian Society* (£387), the *Mind Association* (£1000), the *University of Birmingham* (£2200), and the *SavingNonhumans Initiative* (£1400).
- 2012: Awarded AHRC funding for PhD study  
(This funding is highly competitive – with often only one grant per department or school – and is awarded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council to cover all fees and living expenses for three years.)
- 2010: Awarded fee bursary for MLitt study

### **Articles**

- *The Moral Permissibility of Incest*, [currently under review by journal]

### **Edited Books**

- *Ethical and Political Approaches to Nonhuman Animal Issues: Towards an Undivided Future*, Co-editor with Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade, (Palgrave MacMillan: New York, 2017)
- *Intervention or Protest: Acting for Nonhuman Animals*, Co-editor with Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade, (Vernon Press: Wilmington, Oct. 2016)

### **Book Chapters**

- ‘Saving Nonhumans: Drawing the Threads of a Movement Together’, co-authored with Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade, in *Intervention or Protest: Acting for Nonhuman Animals*, edited by Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade and Andrew Woodhall, (Wilmington: Vernon Press, Oct. 2016)
- ‘Anthropocentrism and the Issues Facing Nonhuman Animals’, in *Animals in Human Society: Amazing Creatures who Share Our Planet*, edited by Daniel Moorehead. (Lanham: University Press of America, 2016)

### **Book Reviews**

- Anna L. Peterson: *Being Animal: Beasts & Boundaries in Nature Ethics* (Columbia University Press, 2013, 222p, € 23,27), *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Vol. 18, Issue 4, (August. 2015), pp. 877-879

### **Conferences Organized**

- Co-Convener (with Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade), 1-3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2015, ‘*Intervention or Protest: Saving Nonhumans*’, MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK.
- Co-Organizer (with Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade), 9-10<sup>th</sup> April 2015, ‘*Ethics and/or Politics: Approaching the Issues Concerning Nonhuman Animals*’, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK.

### **Papers Given**

- ‘*Saving Nonhumans: Drawing the Threads of a Movement Together*’, (Co-Authored with Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade), *Intervention or Protest: Saving Nonhumans* (MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory), University of Manchester, September 2015.
- ‘*Taking Nonhuman Perspectives Seriously: The Importance of Non-Anthropocentrism for Nonhuman Animals*’, Minding Animals Conference 3, JNU, New Delhi, January 2015.
- ‘*From Their Perspective: Approaching Nonhuman Issues Without Anthropocentrism*’, *Animals and Political Theory* (MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory), University of Manchester, September 2014.
- ‘*Just Another Animal: The Problematic Limitations with Nonhuman Citizenship and the Need for a More Ecocentric Political Animal Ethic*’, *The Political Turn in Animal Liberation* (MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory), University of Manchester, September 2013.

## **Works in Progress**

- A paper on the political (and moral) implications of addressing anthropocentrism for nonhuman animals; namely by considering other disadvantaged groups' responses to centric prejudices and the question of whether positive discrimination – rather than just moral consideration – ought to be employed for nonhuman animals due to how anthropocentrism disadvantages nonhumans. This paper will also include an argument for how, while sexism/racism as concepts have evolved 'speciesism' has not – made qua my findings on anthropocentrism and analogy.
- A paper on a new approach to resolving the 'lifeboat' cases on the basis of anti-anthropocentric and anti-centric insights. This paper briefly outlines anthropocentrism and lifeboat cases as Regan explains them and argues for a reversal in how they are usually resolved due to a focus on rejecting anthropocentrism and centric thinking in interspecies ethics. I draw on current works in empathy, nonhuman animal morality, sentimentalist moral philosophy, and current moral and political practice to show why this reasoning is acceptable. I conclude with the implications of this new resolution.
- A paper on nonhuman animals and current interspecies ethics' approaches, critiquing such approaches from a post-colonial feminist and anti-colonial position based on the rejection of anthropocentrism. From these I offer not only a critical analysis of what is currently problematic with ethical and political approaches, as well as in the wider movement, but attempt to show how this can be improved and why this is important and must be undertaken from this post/anti-colonial feminist position.

## **Works Planned**

- A wider project on interspecies ethics and politics that argues from the rejection of anthropocentrism. In this project I intend to critique current political approaches to nonhuman animals and their inclusion politically as anthropocentric. From this I will look at nonhuman animal socio-political behaviour and alternative human practices, such as anarchism, Darwinian insights into animal socio-political behaviour, and ancient sceptic conceptions of practical living. On this basis I will argue for an alternative political approach to nonhuman animals based not only on human socio-political behaviour but nonhuman; an approach that ultimately requires major changes but can be attained step-by-step. I will consider the advantages of such a position.
- Book Review of Tony Milligan's 'Animal Ethics: The Basics'
- A proposed edited volume on nonhuman animals and video games
- A proposed edited volume on sexual taboos
- A paper on anthropocentrism as problematic for the current 'political turn' in nonhuman studies, and how the political approach must be altered in order to avoid causing more problems for nonhuman animals.
- A paper based on the philosophy of sex given insights from an evolutionary perspective (notably Darwinian and Darwin's thoughts on sex), and drawing upon a rejection of anthropocentrism. (This may be included in the abovementioned edited volume on sexual taboos).
- A paper on Moral-Autonomism for the *British Journal of Aesthetics* based on my Masters dissertation.

## Teaching

- **Sept. 2013 – June 2014**     **Tutor**     **University of Birmingham**
  - ❖ Propositional and Predicate Logic (First year undergraduate course)
- **June 2013 – Aug. 2013**     **Part-Time Teaching Fellow**     **University of Aberdeen**
  - ❖ Course Coordinator/Lecturer for the Philosophy Module of the Summer School for Access (Epistemology/Philosophy of Mind/Ethics)
- **Sept. 2010 – Jan. 2012**     **Tutor/Lecturer**     **University of Aberdeen**
  - ❖ Philosophy Module for the Access course (Ethics/Epistemology/History of Philosophy)
- **Sept. 2010 – Jan. 2011**     **Tutor**     **University of Aberdeen**
  - ❖ Deductive and Inductive Logic (First year undergraduate course)

## Employment History

**2021-Present**     **Freelance Author**     **N/A**

- I am currently self-employed as a freelance author.

**2017-2023**     **Carer**     **Home**

- I worked as a carer for my mother and father until my father's recent passing in 2023.

**2012-2016**     **PhD Student**     **University of Birmingham**

- I completed my PhD in September 2016 (Viva, Dec 2016 – Minor Corrections).

**Tutor**     **University of Birmingham**

- (2013-2014) Tutored first year undergraduates in Propositional and Predicate Logic (over two terms).

**Part-Time Teaching Fellow**     **University of Aberdeen**

- (Summer 2013) Course Coordinator and Lecturer for the philosophy module on the Summer School for Access programme at the University of Aberdeen; involving epistemology, philosophy of mind, and ethics.

**2011-2012**     **Tutor**     **University of Aberdeen**

- Lectured the Philosophical Studies course on the Access Course; involving history of philosophy, epistemology and ethics.

**2010-2011**     **Student**     **University of Aberdeen**

- Studied and attained my degree of Master of Letters in Philosophy, achieving a Distinction

**Tutor**     **University of Aberdeen**

- Tutored first year undergraduates in the course 'Reason & Argument'; involving basic deductive and inductive logic, and probability.



rwg2@leicester.ac.uk

gsteiner@bucknell.edu

Dr. Tony Milligan  
Room 3.42  
Virginia Woolf Building  
22 Kingsway  
King's College London  
London  
WC2B 6LE

anthony.milligan@kcl.ac.uk