

Petra Kosonen

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AREAS OF INTEREST

AOS: Normative and Applied Ethics, Decision Theory

AOC: Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Metaethics

EMPLOYMENT

2022 – present

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Texas at Austin

AUSTIN, TX, USA

- I'm a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Population Wellbeing Initiative at the University of Texas at Austin

EDUCATION

2017 – 2022

DPhil in Philosophy, University of Oxford

OXFORD, UK

- Thesis title: Tiny Probabilities of Vast Value
- Supervisors: Andreas Mogensen and Teruji Thomas

2016 – 2017

MSc in Philosophy, University of Edinburgh

EDINBURGH, UK

- Dissertation grade: 88
- Received a prize for the best master's dissertation in the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

2011 – 2016

MA in Philosophy, University of Glasgow

GLASGOW, UK

- Graduated with a First Class Honours degree
- Received James Thomson Bursary in General Philosophy and Frances Melville Medal and Prize

PUBLICATIONS

1. Probability Discounting and Money Pumps. Forthcoming in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.
2. Discounting Small Probabilities Solves the Intrapersonal Addition Paradox. *Ethics* 132(1): 204–217, 2021.
3. Prudential Longtermism. Equal co-authorship with Johan E. Gustafsson. Forthcoming in *Essays on Longtermism*, Oxford University Press.
4. Do Lefty and Righty Matter More than Lefty Alone? Equal co-authorship with Johan E. Gustafsson. *Erkenntnis* (2022).

AWARDS

2017	School Dissertation Prize	UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
	Awarded to the student who received the highest master's dissertation result in the school of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences.	
2017	Highly Commended Dissertation Prize	UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
	Awarded to any student who received a master's dissertation result of 80 or above.	
2015	Frances Melville Medal and Prize	UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
	Granted for 'the most distinguished candidate in the honours group of mental philosophy.'	
2013 and 2014	James Thomson Bursary in General Philosophy	UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
	Granted for 'distinction in the ordinary classes of general and moral philosophy.'	

PRESENTATIONS

December 2023	Social Contract Theory and Dynamic Choice	STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
	• Title: Probability Discounting and Money Pumps	
December 2023	13th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research	OXFORD, UK
	• Title: The Optimistic Meta-Induction	
September 2023	Axiology Workshop 2023	MONTREAL, CANADA
	• Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto	
July 2023	17th CLMPST	BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
	• Title: The Optimistic Meta-Induction	
July 2023	International Society for Utilitarian Studies	ROME, ITALY
	• Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto	
March 2023	Australian National University Philosophy Departmental Seminar	CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA
	• Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto	
November 2022	Unbounded Utility in Ethics and Decision Theory	AUSTIN, TEXAS
	• Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto	
December 2021	8th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research	OXFORD (ONLINE)
	• Title: Tiny Probabilities and the Value of the Far Future	
December 2020	5th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research	OXFORD (ONLINE)
	• Title: Prudential Longtermism	
	• With Johan E. Gustafsson	
November 2020	Global Priorities Institute Seminar	OXFORD (ONLINE)
	• Title: How to Discount Small Probabilities	
March 2020	Slippery Slope Normativity Summit	LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY
	• Title: A Lexical Solution to the Intrapersonal Addition Paradox	

GRANTS

2021–2022	Open Philanthropy Project Scholarship Program £15,800	PALO ALTO, CA, USA
	The purpose of this scholarship program is to support individuals who are pursuing study or research in a focus area that is important to Open Philanthropy's mission. This scholarship was for the final year of my doctoral studies.	

2019 and 2020	<i>The Forethought Foundation for Global Priorities Research</i> £5000 and £5000	OXFORD, UK
	The Forethought Foundation promotes academic work that addresses the question of how to use our scarce resources to improve the world by as much as possible. This grant was part of a fellowship to support research in global priorities during my doctoral studies.	
2017, 2019 & 2020	<i>The Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation</i> €24000, €26000 and €26000	HELSINKI, FINLAND
	The Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation is a non-profit cultural foundation that supports science, art, and other societal activity. They supported my doctoral studies.	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

For the following courses, I chose the topics covered in tutorials, assigned the readings for them from a faculty reading list, and decided the weekly essay questions.

2021	<i>Ethics</i>	ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD
	I taught one-on-three tutorials on ethics.	
2021	<i>Practical Ethics</i>	ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD
	I taught practical ethics tutorials for one student.	
2021	<i>Theory of Politics</i>	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, OXFORD
	I taught one-on-one and one-on-two tutorials on political philosophy for three students.	
2021	<i>Philosophy of Science</i>	UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
	I taught one-on-three tutorials on philosophy of science.	
2021	<i>Ethics</i>	UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
	I marked and gave feedback for four students on their ethics mock exams.	
2021	<i>Philosophy of Science</i>	UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
	I marked and gave feedback for one student on a philosophy of science mock exam.	
2020	<i>Introduction to Philosophy</i>	SARAH LAWRENCE PROGRAMME, OXFORD
	I taught tutorials on Mill's utilitarianism, free will and ancient philosophy for one student.	

OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Sep–Dec 2023	<i>AI Safety Fundamentals</i>	AI SAFETY NORTH
	I did an AI Safety Fundamentals course with AI Safety North. The course consisted of 12 weekly meetings with readings related to how artificial intelligence can be aligned with human values.	
March 2023	<i>Early Career Women in Philosophy Visiting Program</i>	AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
	I spent three weeks visiting the philosophy department of the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia.	
Summer 2021	<i>Early Career Conference Programme</i>	GLOBAL PRIORITIES INSTITUTE, OXFORD
	The Early Career Conference Programme is a summer research programme in economics and philosophy in which participants develop and present fundamental research on how to do the most good.	
Summer 2019	<i>Bayes by the Sea Summer School</i>	MARCHE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, ITALY
	A summer school on formal epistemology, statistics and game theory.	
Summer 2015	<i>Erasmus Work Placement at the Department of Psychology</i>	UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA, ITALY
	I was part of a research project on the neural correlates of decision-making under the supervision of Professor Giuseppe di Pellegrino, who was part of the team that discovered mirror neurons.	

SERVICE

Spring 2020

Global Priorities Reading Group

OXFORD

Organizer of a Global Priorities reading group for Effective Altruism Oxford.

Refereeing

Analysis, Economics and Philosophy, Ergo, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Philosophia, Philosophical Studies, Utilitas

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. Tiny Probabilities and the Value of the Far Future
2. Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto
3. How to Discount Small Probabilities
4. Pascal's Hell
5. Expected Utility Theory and Possible States of Zero Probability
6. The Optimistic Meta-Induction
7. A Money Pump Against Knowledge-Based Decision Theories