

Petra Kosonen

Department of Philosophy,
University of Stockholm,
Stockholm 114 19, Sweden

✉ kosonenpetra@gmail.com 🏠 petrakosonen.com 🏠 ORCID

AREAS OF INTEREST

AOS: Normative and Applied Ethics, Decision Theory

AOC: Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Metaethics

EMPLOYMENT

2025 – present **Postdoc**, Department of Philosophy, University of Stockholm, Sweden

2022 – 2025 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Population Wellbeing Initiative, University of Texas at Austin, USA

EDUCATION

2017 – 2022 **DPhil** in Philosophy, University of Oxford, UK

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

2016 – 2017 **MSc** in Philosophy, University of 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, UK

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

PUBLICATIONS

1. Kosonen, P. (2024). Probability Discounting and Money Pumps. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 109(2), 593–611.
2. Kosonen, P. (2021). Discounting Small Probabilities Solves the Intrapersonal Addition Paradox. *Ethics*, 132(1), 204–217.
3. Gustafsson, J. E. & Kosonen, P. (2025). Prudential Longtermism. In H. Greaves, J. Barrett, & D. Thorstad (Eds.), *Essays on Longtermism: Present Action for the Distant Future*. Oxford University Press. (Equal co-authorship)
4. Gustafsson, J. E. & Kosonen, P. (2024). Do Lefty and Righty Matter More than Lefty Alone? *Erkenntnis*, 89(5), 1921–1926. (Equal co-authorship)
5. How to Discount Small Probabilities. I recently got an R&R for this paper from *Philosophical Studies*.

AWARDS

- 2017 **School Dissertation Prize**, University of Edinburgh, UK
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, UK
Awarded to any student who received a master's dissertation result of 80 or above.
- 2015 **Frances Melville Medal and Prize**, University of Glasgow, UK
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, UK
Granted for 'distinction in the ordinary classes of general and moral philosophy.'

PRESENTATIONS

- July 2025 **The PPE Society London's First Annual Meeting** LONDON, UK
 - Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto
- May and June 2025 **The International Workshop of Normative Economics and Philosophy** TOKYO, JAPAN
 - Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto
- April 2025 **APA 2025 Pacific Division Meeting** SAN FRANCISCO, USA
 - Title: Tiny Probabilities and the Value of the Far Future
 - I also gave comments on "Duty and Risk" (Mitchell Barrington).
- January 2025 **Workshop on the Ethics and Philosophy of Brain Emulation** MIMIR CENTER, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
 - Title: Prudential Longtermism
- December 2024 **15th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research** OXFORD, UK
 - I gave comments on "A simple argument for the badness of human extinction" (Matthew Rendall).
- November 2024 **PPE Society's Eighth Annual Meeting** NEW ORLEANS, USA
 - Title: The Optimistic Meta-Induction
- July 2024 **Consultation to the Lancet Commission on 21st Century threats to global health** SEATTLE, USA
 - Title: Tiny Probabilities and the Value of the Far Future
- July 2024 **Formal Epistemology Workshop** CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA
 - Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto
- June 2024 **International Society for Utilitarian Studies** LONDON, UK
 - Title: Prudential Longtermism
- May 2024 **The First Paris Conference: Frontiers of Economics and Philosophy** PARIS, FRANCE
 - Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto
- 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
	This scholarship was for the final year of my doctoral studies.	
2019 and 2020	The Forethought Foundation £5000 and £5000	OXFORD, UK
	This grant was part of a fellowship to support research in global priorities during my doctoral studies.	
2017, 2019 & 2020	The Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation €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	Ethics , St Catherine's College, University of Oxford
	I taught one-on-three tutorials on ethics.
2021	Practical Ethics , St Catherine's College, University of Oxford
	I taught practical ethics tutorials for one student.
2021	Theory of Politics , University College, University of Oxford
	I taught one-on-one and one-on-two tutorials on political philosophy for three students.
2021	Philosophy of Science , University of Oxford
	I taught one-on-three tutorials on philosophy of science.

- 2021 *Ethics*, University of Oxford
I marked and gave feedback for four students on their ethics mock exams.
- 2021 *Philosophy of Science*, University of Oxford
I marked and gave feedback for one student on a philosophy of science mock exam.
- 2020 *Introduction to Philosophy*, Sarah Lawrence Programme, University of Oxford
I taught tutorials on Mill's utilitarianism, free will and ancient philosophy for one student.

RESEARCH VISITS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

- Spring 2023 *Early Career Women in Philosophy Visiting Program*, Australian National University AUSTRALIA
- Summer 2021 *Early Career Conference Programme*, Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford UK
The Early Career Conference Programme is a summer research programme in economics and philosophy.
- Summer 2019 *Bayes by the Sea Summer School*, Marche Polytechnic University ITALY
A summer school on formal epistemology, statistics and game theory.
- Summer 2015 *Erasmus Work Placement*, Department of Psychology, 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.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Spring 2024 *AI Safety Fundamentals with BlueDot Impact*
The course consisted of 12 weekly meetings with readings related to how artificial intelligence can be aligned with human values.
- Autumn 2023 *AI Safety Fundamentals with AI Safety Sweden*
Similar to BlueDot Impact's AI Safety Fundamentals course.

SERVICE

Refereeing

Analysis; Australasian Journal of Philosophy; Economics and Philosophy; Ergo; Erkenntnis, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy; Philosophers' Imprint; Philosophia; Philosophical Quarterly; Philosophical Studies; Politics, Philosophy and Economics; Synthese; Utilitas

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- 2025 *'Expected Value Fanaticism'*
A guest essay on Expected Value Fanaticism at Utilitarianism.net.
<https://utilitarianism.net/guest-essays/expected-value-fanaticism/>

LANGUAGES

Languages Finnish (Native speaker); English (Fluent); Spanish (Fluent); Swedish (Basic)

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**