

# Petra Kosonen

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## AREAS OF INTEREST

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**AOS:** Normative and Applied Ethics, Decision Theory

**AOC:** Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Metaethics

## EMPLOYMENT

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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

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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

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1. Probability Discounting and Money Pumps. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 109(2): 593–611, 2024.
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? *Erkenntnis* 89(5): 1921–1926, 2024. Equal co-authorship with Johan E. Gustafsson.

## AWARDS

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

## PRESENTATIONS

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November 2024	<b>PPE Society's Eighth Annual Meeting</b> • Title: The Optimistic Meta-Induction	NEW ORLEANS, USA
July 2024	<b>Consultation to the Lancet Commission on 21<sup>st</sup> Century threats to global health</b> • Title: Tiny Probabilities and the Value of the Far Future	SEATTLE, USA
July 2024	<b>Formal Epistemology Workshop</b> • Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto	CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA
June 2024	<b>International Society for Utilitarian Studies</b> • Title: Prudential Longtermism	LONDON, UK
May 2024	<b>The First Paris Conference: Frontiers of Economics and Philosophy</b> • Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto	PARIS, FRANCE
December 2023	<b>Social Contract Theory and Dynamic Choice</b> • Title: Probability Discounting and Money Pumps	STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
December 2023	<b>13th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research</b> • Title: The Optimistic Meta-Induction	OXFORD, UK
September 2023	<b>Axiology Workshop 2023</b> • Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto	MONTREAL, CANADA
July 2023	<b>17th CLMPST</b> • Title: The Optimistic Meta-Induction	BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
July 2023	<b>International Society for Utilitarian Studies</b> • Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto	ROME, ITALY
March 2023	<b>Australian National University Philosophy Departmental Seminar</b> • Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto	CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA
November 2022	<b>Unbounded Utility in Ethics and Decision Theory</b> • Title: Bounded Utilities and Ex Ante Pareto	AUSTIN, TEXAS
December 2021	<b>8th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research</b> • Title: Tiny Probabilities and the Value of the Far Future	OXFORD (ONLINE)

December 2020	<b>5th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title: Prudential Longtermism</li> <li>With Johan E. Gustafsson</li> </ul>	OXFORD (ONLINE)
November 2020	<b>Global Priorities Institute Seminar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title: How to Discount Small Probabilities</li> </ul>	OXFORD (ONLINE)
March 2020	<b>Slippery Slope Normativity Summit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title: A Lexical Solution to the Intrapersonal Addition Paradox</li> </ul>	LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY

## GRANTS

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2021-2022	<b>Open Philanthropy Project Scholarship Program</b> £15,800 This scholarship was for the final year of my doctoral studies.	PALO ALTO, CA, USA
2019 and 2020	<b>The Forethought Foundation</b> £5000 and £5000 This grant was part of a fellowship to support research in global priorities during my doctoral studies.	OXFORD, UK
2017, 2019 & 2020	<b>The Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation</b> €24000, €26000 and €26000 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.	HELSINKI, FINLAND

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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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	<b>Ethics</b> , St Catherine's College, University of Oxford I taught one-on-three tutorials on ethics.
2021	<b>Practical Ethics</b> , St Catherine's College, University of Oxford I taught practical ethics tutorials for one student.
2021	<b>Theory of Politics</b> , University College, University of Oxford I taught one-on-one and one-on-two tutorials on political philosophy for three students.
2021	<b>Philosophy of Science</b> , University of Oxford I taught one-on-three tutorials on philosophy of science.
2021	<b>Ethics</b> , University of Oxford I marked and gave feedback for four students on their ethics mock exams.
2021	<b>Philosophy of Science</b> , University of Oxford I marked and gave feedback for one student on a philosophy of science mock exam.
2020	<b>Introduction to Philosophy</b> , Sarah Lawrence Programme, University of Oxford I taught tutorials on Mill's utilitarianism, free will and ancient philosophy for one student.

## OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

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March-June 2024	<b>AI Safety Fundamentals with BlueDot Impact</b> The course consisted of 12 weekly meetings with readings related to how artificial intelligence can be aligned with human values.	BLUEDOT IMPACT
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Sep–Dec 2023	<i>AI Safety Fundamentals with AI Safety Sweden</i>	AI SAFETY SWEDEN
	The course consisted of 12 weekly meetings.	
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.	
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.	

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## SERVICE

### *Refereeing*

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

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## LANGUAGES

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

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## 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