

Theron Pummer

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Department of Philosophy
University of St Andrews

CAREER & EDUCATION

- Autumn 2015-present: Lecturer in Philosophy (equivalent to US tenured Assistant Professor) and Director of the Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs, University of St Andrews
- Autumn 2014-Spring 2015: Plumer Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy, St Anne's College, University of Oxford
- Autumn 2014-Spring 2015: Research Associate for the Oxford Faculty of Philosophy (Population Ethics Project) and the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics
- Spring 2014: Lecturer in Philosophy, University of California, San Diego
- 2013: Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of California, San Diego
- 2010: M.A. in Philosophy, University of California, San Diego
- 2006: B.S. in Philosophy and Cognitive Neuroscience, George Washington University

PUBLICATIONS

- (2017a) "Spectrum Arguments and Hypersensitivity" forthcoming in *Philosophical Studies*
- (2017b) "Lopsided Lives" forthcoming in Mark Timmons, ed., *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics*, Oxford University Press, Volume 7
- (2017c) "The Worseness of Nonexistence" in Espen Gamlund & Carl Tollef Solberg, eds., *Saving Lives from the Badness of Death* (Chapter 14). New York: Oxford University Press
- (2016a) "Whether and Where to Give" *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 44(1): 77-95
- This article is the focus of an April 2017 discussion on the philosophy blog PEA Soup, with a critical précis by Johann Frick ([link](#))
- (2016b) "Risky Giving" *The Philosophers' Magazine* 73(2): 62-70
- (2016c) "Adding Happy People" in David Edmonds, ed., *Philosophers Take on the World* (Chapter 61). Oxford: Oxford University Press
- (2014) "Does Division Multiply Desert?" *Philosophical Review* 123(1): 43-77
- (2013) "Intuitions about Large Number Cases" *Analysis* 73(1): 37-46

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

- *Much Ado about Nearly Nothing* (book project)
- *Effective Altruism: Philosophical Issues* (volume co-edited with Hilary Greaves)
- "Effective Justice" (co-authored with Roger Crisp)
- "Gratuitous Nonbeneficence and the Separateness of Persons"
- "Unbounded Lives"
- "Not All Spectrum Arguments Are Created Equal"
- "The Fusion Problem"

PRESENTATIONS

- TBD, *Moral Philosophy Seminar*, University of Oxford, April 23, 2018
- TBD, Conference on Derek Parfit's Life and Work, University of Oxford, 2018

- “Gratuitous Nonbeneficence and the Separateness of Persons” invited talk at Trinity College Dublin, October 2, 2017
- “The Philosophy and History of Effective Altruism” invited talk for the St Andrews Branch of the Association of University Administrators, April 25, 2017 (with Rufaida Al Hashmi)
- “On Failing to Put My Money Where My Mouth Is”
 - a. Invited talk for the St Andrews Chapter of Giving What We Can, March 7, 2017
 - b. *Philosophers and the Philosophical Life*, University of St Andrews, February 10, 2017
- “Spectrum Arguments and Hypersensitivity” invited talk at the University of Southern California, January 11, 2017
- “Effective Justice”
 - a. *Oxford Workshop on Effective Altruism*, University of Oxford, November 10-11, 2016 (with Roger Crisp)
 - b. *St Andrews Philosophy Society*, University of St Andrews, September 19, 2016
 - c. Invited talk, Giving What We Can: Glasgow, University of Glasgow, September 16, 2016
- “Comments on Jeff McMahan’s ‘Doing Good and Doing the Best’” commentator at the *St Andrews Philosophy Society*, University of St Andrews, November 3, 2016
- “Effective Altruism” Research Impact Brokerage Event, University of St Andrews, September 27, 2016
- “Unbounded Lives” *White Rose Early Career Ethics Researchers Conference*, University of York, June 3-4, 2016, commentator: Christopher Jay, University of York
- “The Ethics of Giving” Research Impact Brokerage Event, University of St Andrews, April 27, 2016
- “Lopsided Lives”
 - a. *Seventh Annual Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics*, University of Arizona, January 14-16, 2016
 - b. “The Problem of Joyless Life” (previous title) *Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference*, Princeton University and Rutgers University, April 20-21, 2013, commentator: Tim Campbell, Rutgers University
 - c. *Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Philosophy Conference*, UC Berkeley, April 6, 2013, commentator: Kirsten Pickering, UC Berkeley
- “The Worseness of Nonexistence”
 - a. *Winter Reflectorium*, University of St Andrews, December 1, 2015
 - b. *Theoretical Population Ethics Conference*, University of Oxford, November 21-22, 2015
 - c. *Saving Lives from the Badness of Death* conference, University of Oslo, June 21-22, 2015
 - d. *Life and Death: Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives*, Henry Janssen Memorial Conference in Philosophy, San Diego State University, May 23-24, 2015
 - e. *Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar*, University of Oxford, May 7, 2015
- “Whether and Where to Give”
 - a. *St Andrews Philosophy Society*, University of St Andrews, October 26, 2015
 - b. Invited talk, Charles Sturt University, March 30, 2015
 - c. Invited talk, University of Melbourne, March 27, 2015

- d. *Moral and Political Philosophy Work-In-Progress Group*, University of Oxford, March 6, 2015
- e. *Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar*, University of Oxford, January 21, 2015
- f. *Applied Ethics Discussion Group*, University of Oxford, November 19, 2014
- “Spectrum Paradoxes and their Solutions” invited talk at the Australian National University, April 2, 2015
- “The Ethics of Giving: Why, Where, and How Much?” public lecture at the Australian National University, April 1, 2015
- “Distributive Ethics, Health Care Allocation, and Personalised Medicine” *Personalised Medicine and Resource Allocation Conference*, University of Oxford, March 2, 2015 (with Roger Crisp)
- “The Priority Monster”
 - a. Invited talk, University of St Andrews, February 19, 2015
 - b. Invited talk, University of Leeds, February 11, 2015
 - c. Invited talk, University of Oxford, February 4, 2015
 - d. *Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar*, University of Oxford, October 23, 2014
 - e. Invited talk, University of Edinburgh, February 12, 2013
 - f. *Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference 2011*, University of Manchester, July 1-3, 2011, commentator: Arne Norderhaug
 - g. *International Society for Utilitarian Studies XI Conference*, Lucca, Italy, June 23-25, 2011
 - h. *Stephen L. Weber Graduate Conference in Ethics*, San Diego State University, April 22-24, 2011, commentator: Kelly Vincent, University of Colorado at Boulder
 - i. *Valuing Lives: A Conference on Ethics in Health & the Environment*, New York University, March 5, 2011, commentator: Greg Bognar, New York University
- “Can Distributive Ethics Survive Fission and Fusion?”
 - a. *Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar*, University of Oxford, January 22, 2015
 - b. Invited talk, Western Washington University, February 15, 2014
- “The Practical Importance of Theoretical Population Ethics” *Workshop in Population Ethics*, University of Oxford, November 29-30, 2014
- “What’s Wrong with Cycling?”
 - a. *Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar*, University of Oxford, November 20, 2014
 - b. *British Society for Ethical Theory 2014 Annual Conference*, University of Cambridge, July 14-16, 2014 (unable to attend)
- “Spectrum Arguments and Distributive Justice” invited talk, University of Utah, January 17, 2014
- “Intuitions about General Principles” *SoCal Philosophy Conference*, San Diego State University, October 18-20, 2013

- “Effective Giving and Drowning Child Analogies” invited discussion leader, San Diego State University, March 26, 2013 and September 26, 2013, and at UC San Diego, April 11, 2014
- “Making the Most Difference with Your Career” *Go Make A Difference Conference*, UC San Diego, April 13, 2013
- “Reasons for Transitivity” *2013 Graduate Philosophy Conference at UC San Diego*, UC San Diego, May 25, 2013
- “Intuitions about Large Number Cases”
 - a. *2012 British Postgraduate Philosophy Association Annual Conference*, University of Edinburgh, September 3-6, 2012 (unable to attend)
 - b. *2012 Graduate Philosophy Conference at UC San Diego*, UC San Diego, May 26, 2012
- “Would Division Multiply Desert?”
 - a. *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress 2012*, University of Colorado at Boulder, August 9-12, 2012, commentator: Jeff McMahan, Rutgers University
 - b. *Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Philosophy Conference*, Stanford University, April 14, 2012, commentator: R. J. Leland, Stanford University
- “Consequentialism and Commitments: A Reply to Vincent” *Stephen L. Weber Graduate Conference in Ethics*, San Diego State University, April 22-24, 2011
- “The Preferences of Mill’s Competent Judges: Evidential or Criterial?” *Graduate Philosophy Colloquium*, UC San Diego, May 11, 2009

BLOGGING

- *PEA Soup*, featured discussion of “Whether and Where to Give” with a Critical Précis by Johann Frick (2017)
<http://peasoup.us/2017/04/philosophy-public-affairs-discussion-pea-soup-theron-pummers-whether-give-critical-precis-johann-frick/>
- *Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs* blog, University of St Andrews (2016-)
<http://ceppa.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/>
- *Practical Ethics* blog, University of Oxford (2014-15)
<http://blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/author/theron-pummer/>

MEDIA

- “Giving What We Can: St Andrews Lecturer changes the way we think about charity” by Oscar Westerblad (2015): <http://www.thesaint-online.com/2015/11/giving-what-we-can-st-andrews-lecturer-changes-the-way-we-think-about-charity/>

AWARDS

- Mind Association Major Conference Grant, 2016
- Society for Applied Philosophy Conference Grant, 2016
- Impact Fund, University of St Andrews, 2016
- Scots Philosophical Association Conference Funding, 2015 and 2016
- JN Wright Trust, University of St Andrews, 2015
- Ethics Scholarship, St Anne’s College, University of Oxford, 2014-15

- Society for Applied Philosophy Postgraduate Travel Funding, 2011
- Humanities Graduate Student Researcher Fellowship, UC San Diego, 2010-11

TEACHING

- Lecturer for University of St Andrews, 2015-
Effective Altruism (Autumn 2016), *Life and Death* (Spring 2017), *Reading Philosophy* (Spring 2017), *Moral and Political Controversies* (Autumn 2015 and 2016), *Topics in Recent Moral Theory* (Autumn 2015 and 2016), *Value and Normativity* (Spring 2016), and *Contemporary Moral Theory* (Autumn 2015)
- *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics* Lecturer (for Australian high school students) at the University of St Andrews (26-30 June 2017)
- *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics* Lecturer for the St Anne's College, Oxford Summer School, Garden International School, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (18-26 July 2015)
- Tutor for University of Oxford, St Anne's College, 2014-15
Ethics (Michaelmas 2014, Hilary 2015) and *Moral Philosophy* (Trinity 2015)
- Graduate Seminar Convener for University of Oxford, Faculty of Philosophy, 2014-15
Population Ethics (Trinity 2015) and *Practical Ethics* (Michaelmas 2014, week 8)
- Revisions Classes Teacher for University of Oxford, St Anne's College, 2015
Moral Philosophy and *Ethics* (Trinity 2015)
- Tutor for University of Oxford, The Queen's College, 2015
Ethics (Hilary 2015, covering for Ada Bronowski)
- Tutor for University of Oxford, University College, 2014
Ethics (Michaelmas 2014, weeks 6-8, covering for Frank Arntzenius)
- Lecturer for UC San Diego, Department of Philosophy, 2014
Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2014) and *Ethics and Society II* (Winter 2014)
- Instructor for UC San Diego, Department of Philosophy, 2011-13
Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics (Winter 2013) and *Contemporary Moral Issues* (Summer 2011, 2012, and 2013)
- Guest Lecturer at UC San Diego, Department of Philosophy, 2007-14
Guest lectured for: Dick Arneson, Saba Bazargan, David Brink, and Dana Nelkin
- Instructor for UC San Diego, Muir College Writing Program, 2008-10
Critical Writing, Animals and Ethics, and *World Poverty and the Ethics of Assistance*
- Teaching Assistant for UC San Diego, Department of Philosophy, 2006-12
Ethics and Society, Samuel Rickless; *Philosophy of Religion*, Dana Nelkin; *Mill's Moral and Political Philosophy*, David Brink; *Biomedical Ethics*, Gerald Doppelt; *Ethics and Society*, Gerald Doppelt; *Philosophy of Mind*, Paul Churchland; *Philosophy of Neuroscience*, Patricia Churchland; *Introduction to Philosophy*, Paul Churchland; *Contemporary Legal Issues*, Gerald Doppelt; *Logic and Decision-Making*, John Jacobson; *Epistemology*, Paul Churchland

SERVICE

- Referee

Philosophical Quarterly Prize Essay (2017), *Analysis* (2017), *Utilitas* (2017 x 2, 2016 x 3, and 2015 x 2), *Ergo* (2017 and 2016), *Philosophical Psychology* (2017 and 2013), *Philosophical Studies* (2016), *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2016), *Philosophical Quarterly* (2016 and 2015), *Law and Philosophy* (2016), *British Society for Ethical Theory* (2016), *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (2016), *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* (2016), *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* (2016 x 4), *Politics, Philosophy and Economics* (2015 x 2), *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (2015), *Economics and Philosophy* (2015 and 2014), *Philosophia* (2015 x 2 and 2014), *Journal of Practical Ethics* (2014), *American Political Science Review* (2014), and *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Philosophy Subcommittee* (2014 and 2013)

- Editorial Board
 - Philosophical Quarterly*, 2015-
 - Utilitas*, 2015-
- Editor
 - PhilPapers* categories: Egalitarianism and Priority and Prioritarianism, 2014-
- Examiner for the DPhil (with John Broome), Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, 2016
- Assessor for the BPhil, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, 2014-15
- Assessor for Collections Exams in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, St Anne's College and Queen's College, Oxford University, 2015
- Interviewer for undergraduate admissions (with Ian Phillips), Philosophy, Politics and Economics, St Anne's College, Oxford University, 2014
- Session Chair
 - Author Meets Critics Session for Larry Temkin's *Rethinking the Good*, Society for Applied Philosophy, Pacific APA, 2014
 - Session on Environmental Decision-Making, Pacific APA, 2014
- Organizer
 - 2018 Knox Lecture (Melissa Lane), University of St Andrews
 - The Ethics of Giving Conference at University of St Andrews, 2017
 - 2017 Knox Lecture (Peter Singer), University of St Andrews
 - April 2017 CEPPA Talk (David Brink), University of Andrews
 - March 2017 CEPPA Talk (Paulina Sliwa), University of St Andrews
 - January 2017 CEPPA Talk (Caspar Hare), University of St Andrews
 - November 2016 CEPPA Talk (Jeff McMahan), University of St Andrews
 - October 2016 CEPPA Talk (Geoff Sayre-McCord), University of St Andrews
 - 2016 Knox Lecture (Rae Langton), University of St Andrews
 - Workshop on the Philosophical Foundations of Effective Altruism at University of Oxford, 2016
 - The Philosophical Foundations of Effective Altruism Conference at University of St Andrews, 2016
 - Oxford Workshop on Personal Identity and Ethics, University of Oxford, 2015
 - Population Ethics Reading Group, University of Oxford, 2014-15
 - Oxford Workshop on Population Ethics, University of Oxford, 2014
 - Giving What We Can event at UC San Diego on High-Net-Worth Individuals and

- Effective Giving (featuring Jim Greenbaum), 2014
- Giving What We Can event at UC San Diego on Poverty and Photography (featuring Michael Middleton), 2014
- Philosophy Department Sponsored Giving What We Can event at UC San Diego on Effective Altruism (featuring Peter Singer), 2014
- Ethics in the Public Sphere Symposium at UC San Diego on Duties to Distant Needy Persons (guest speakers included Douglas Portmore and Aaron James), 2012
- Graduate Philosophy Conference at UC San Diego (faculty speaker: Michael Huemer), 2012
- Co-organizer
 - Giving What We Can event at St Andrews University on Poverty and Photography (featuring Michael Middleton), 2016
 - Debate: ‘Charity Starts at Home’, St Andrews Union Debating Society, 2016
 - Graduate Philosophy Conference at UC San Diego (faculty speaker: Ruth Chang), 2013
 - Graduate Workshop on Global Justice at San Diego State University (faculty speaker: Thomas Pogge), 2012
 - Giving What We Can talk (by Andrew Schroeder) at UC San Diego, 2011
 - Faculty Advisor and Co-founder of the St Andrews Chapter of Giving What We Can, 2015-present
 - President and Co-founder of the UC San Diego Chapter of Giving What We Can, 2011-14
 - Graduate Student Representative, Department of Philosophy, UC San Diego, 2009-10

REFERENCES

- Richard Arneson, Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego
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- David Brink, Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego
+01 858 534 4881, dbrink@ucsd.edu
- Dana Nelkin, Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego
+01 858 822 0472, dnelkin@ucsd.edu
- Roger Crisp, St Anne’s College, University of Oxford
+44 01865 274 819, roger.crisp@st-annes.ox.ac.uk
- Jeff McMahan, Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford
+44 01865 276 731, jeff.mcmahan@philosophy.ox.ac.uk
- Peter Singer, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University
+01 609 258 2202, psinger@princeton.edu
- Larry Temkin, Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University
+01 732 932 9861, ltemkin@rci.rutgers.edu
- Samuel Rickless (teaching reference), Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego
+01 858 822 4910, srickless@ucsd.edu