

# THERON PUMMER

[tg4@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:tg4@st-andrews.ac.uk)  
[theronpummer.com](http://theronpummer.com)

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

## BOOKS

- *Much Ado about Nearly Nothing*. Oxford University Press (monograph under contract)
- *Effective Altruism: the Philosophy behind the Movement*. Oxford University Press (monograph under contract)
- *Effective Altruism: Philosophical Issues*. Oxford University Press (edited volume under contract, co-edited with Hilary Greaves)

## ARTICLES

- (2019) "Obligations to Help" forthcoming in David Edmonds, ed., *Ethics and the Contemporary World*. Routledge
- (2018) "The Worseness of Nonexistence" forthcoming in Espen Gamlund and Carl Tollef Solberg, eds., *Saving Lives from the Badness of Death*. New York: Oxford University Press
- (2017a) "[Spectrum Arguments and Hypersensitivity](#)" *Philosophical Studies*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-017-0932-3>
- (2017b) "Lopsided Lives" in Mark Timmons, ed., *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics*, Volume 7 (Chapter 13). Oxford: Oxford University Press
- (2016a) "[Whether and Where to Give](#)" *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 44(1): 77-95
  - Winner of the 2017 PEA Soup Readers' Choice Paper Prize
  - Focus of a 2017 [discussion on PEA Soup](#) (with a critical précis by Johann Frick)
- (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

## PRESENTATIONS

- [Title TBD] Conference on Derek Parfit's Work, University of Oxford, [date TBD]

- [Title TBD] School of Government Seminar, University of Oxford, [date TBD]
- [Title TBD] Invited talk at the Institute for Futures Studies, Stockholm, [date TBD]
- [Title TBD] Summer Reflectorium, University of St Andrews, June 2018
- [Title TBD] Moral Philosophy Seminar, University of Oxford, April 23, 2018
- “Avoid Gratuitous Nonbeneficence”
  - Invited talk at Trinity College Dublin, October 2, 2017
  - St Andrews Philosophy Society, University of St Andrews, September 25, 2017
- “Spectrum Arguments and Hypersensitivity” invited talk at the University of Southern California, January 11, 2017
- “Effective Justice”
  - Oxford Workshop on Effective Altruism, University of Oxford, November 10-11, 2016 (with Roger Crisp)
  - St Andrews Philosophy Society, University of St Andrews, September 19, 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
- “Unbounded Lives” White Rose Early Career Ethics Researchers Conference, University of York, June 3-4, 2016, commentator: Christopher Jay, University of York
- “Lopsided Lives” (previously titled “The Problem of Joyless Life”)
  - Seventh Annual Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics, University of Arizona, January 14-16, 2016
  - Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference, Princeton University and Rutgers University, April 20-21, 2013, commentator: Tim Campbell, Rutgers University
  - Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Philosophy Conference, UC Berkeley, April 6, 2013, commentator: Kirsten Pickering, UC Berkeley
- “The Worseness of Nonexistence”
  - Winter Reflectorium, University of St Andrews, December 1, 2015
  - Theoretical Population Ethics Conference, University of Oxford, November 21-22, 2015
  - Saving Lives from the Badness of Death Conference, University of Oslo, June 21-22, 2015
  - Life and Death: Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives, Henry Janssen Memorial Conference in Philosophy, San Diego State University, May 23-24, 2015
  - Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar, University of Oxford, May 7, 2015
- “Whether and Where to Give”
  - St Andrews Philosophy Society, University of St Andrews, October 26, 2015
  - Invited talk, Charles Sturt University, March 30, 2015
  - Invited talk, University of Melbourne, March 27, 2015
  - Moral and Political Philosophy Work-In-Progress Group, University of Oxford, March 6, 2015
  - Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar, University of Oxford, January 21, 2015
  - 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 Priority Monster”
  - Invited talk, University of St Andrews, February 19, 2015
  - Invited talk, University of Leeds, February 11, 2015
  - Invited talk, University of Oxford, February 4, 2015
  - Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar, University of Oxford, October 23, 2014
  - Invited talk, University of Edinburgh, February 12, 2013
  - Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference 2011, University of Manchester, July 1-3, 2011, commentator: Arne Norderhaug
  - International Society for Utilitarian Studies XI Conference, Lucca, Italy, June 23-25, 2011
  - Stephen L. Weber Graduate Conference in Ethics, San Diego State University, April 22-24, 2011, commentator: Kelly Vincent, University of Colorado at Boulder
  - 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?”
  - Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar, University of Oxford, January 22, 2015
  - Invited talk, Western Washington University, February 15, 2014
- “What’s Wrong with Cycling?”
  - Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar, University of Oxford, November 20, 2014
  - 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
- “Reasons for Transitivity” 2013 Graduate Philosophy Conference at UC San Diego, UC San Diego, May 25, 2013
- “Intuitions about Large Number Cases”
  - 2012 British Postgraduate Philosophy Association Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh, September 3-6, 2012 (unable to attend)
  - 2012 Graduate Philosophy Conference at UC San Diego, UC San Diego, May 26, 2012
- “Would Division Multiply Desert?”
  - Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress 2012, University of Colorado at Boulder, August 9-12, 2012, commentator: Jeff McMahan, Rutgers University
  - 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

## **PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY**

- “How Much Good Could \$1billion Do?” [in progress]
- “Incorporating Cost-Effectiveness Clauses into High Net Worth Giving Pledges” [co-authored with Peter Singer, in progress]
- “What’s bad about being good?” [interview and long-form article](#) on my research by the University of St Andrews (2017)
- “Effective giving: how the world’s wealthy could help millions more people for free” [The Conversation](#) (2017), republished in [EconoTimes](#) (2017) and [Alliance](#) (2017), and translated into Portuguese in [Altruismo Eficaz](#) (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” invited talk for the St Andrews Chapter of Giving What We Can, March 7, 2017, and for the Philosophers and the Philosophical Life Conference, University of St Andrews, February 10, 2017
- “Effective Altruism” Research Impact Brokerage Event, University of St Andrews, September 27, 2016
- “Effective Justice” Invited talk, Giving What We Can: Glasgow, University of Glasgow, September 16, 2016
- “The Ethics of Giving” Research Impact Brokerage Event, University of St Andrews, April 27, 2016
- [Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs blog](#), University of St Andrews (2016- )
- “Giving What We Can: St Andrews Lecturer changes the way we think about charity” [The Saint](#), by Oscar Westerblad (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 Practical Importance of Theoretical Population Ethics” Workshop in Population Ethics, University of Oxford, November 29-30, 2014
- [Practical Ethics blog](#), University of Oxford (2014-15)
- “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 Greatest Difference with Your Career” Go Make A Difference Conference, UC San Diego, April 13, 2013

## AWARDS

- Effective Altruism Grant, Centre for Effective Altruism, 2018-19
- PEA Soup Readers’ Choice Paper Prize, 2017 (for “Whether and Where to Give”)
- Knowledge Exchange and Impact Fund, University of St Andrews, 2017
- Elected Honorary Member of the St Andrews Philosophy Society, 2016-
- Mind Association Major Conference Grant, 2016
- Society for Applied Philosophy Conference Grant, 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
- 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, 2016, and 2017), *Graduate Seminar: Topics in Recent Moral Theory* (Autumn 2015, 2016, and 2017), *Value and Normativity* (Spring 2016), *Moral and Aesthetic Value* (Spring 2018), and *Contemporary Moral Theory* (Autumn 2015 and 2017)
- *Moral Philosophy* Lecturer (for American high school students) at the University of St Andrews (late June to mid July 2018)
- *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics* Teaching Coordinator (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
 

*Oxford University Press* (2017), *Ethics* (2017), *Philosophical Quarterly Essay Prize* (2017), *Philosophical Studies* (2017 and 2016), *Analysis* (2017 x 2), *Routledge* (2017), *Workshop in Normative Ethics* (2017), *Utilitas* (2017 x 3, 2016 x 3, and 2015 x 2), *Ergo* (2017 and 2016), *Philosophical Psychology* (2017 x 2 and 2013), *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  
2017-18 CEPPA Talks (Victor Tadros, Carlos Fraenkel, Elinor Mason, Fiona Woollard, Tom Simpson, Larry Temkin, Daniel Hausman, Alexander Prescott-Couch, Teresa Bejan, Helen Frowe, and Dhananjay Jagannathan), University of St Andrews  
The Ethics of Giving Conference at University of St Andrews, 2017  
2017 Knox Lecture (Peter Singer), University of St Andrews  
2016-17 CEPPA Talks (Geoff Sayre-McCord, Jeff McMahan, Caspar Hare, Paulina Sliwa, and David Brink), 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, 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

Roger Crisp, St Anne’s College, University of Oxford  
 +44 01865 274 819, [roger.crisp@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto:jeff.mcmahan@philosophy.ox.ac.uk)  
 David Brink, Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego  
 +01 858 534 4881, [dbrink@ucsd.edu](mailto:dbrink@ucsd.edu)  
 Richard Arneson, Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego  
 +01 858 534 6810, [rarneson@ucsd.edu](mailto:rarneson@ucsd.edu)  
 Tim Mulgan, Department of Philosophy, University of St Andrews  
 +44 01334 462407, [tpm6@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:tpm6@st-andrews.ac.uk)  
 Dana Nelkin, Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego  
 +01 858 822 0472, [dnelkin@ucsd.edu](mailto:dnelkin@ucsd.edu)

Peter Singer, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University  
+01 609 258 2202, [psinger@princeton.edu](mailto:psinger@princeton.edu)  
Larry Temkin, Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University  
+01 732 932 9861, [ltemkin@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:ltemkin@rci.rutgers.edu)