

THERON PUMMER

tgp4@st-andrews.ac.uk
theronpummer.com

Department of Philosophy
University of St Andrews

CAREER & EDUCATION

- 2015-present: Lecturer in Philosophy (equivalent to US tenured Assistant Professor), University of St Andrews
- 2015-present: Director of the Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs, University of St Andrews (Co-Director in Autumn 2015)
- 2014-15: Plumer Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy, St Anne's College, University of Oxford, Research Associate for the Oxford Faculty of Philosophy (Population Ethics Project), and Research Associate for the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics
- 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

- *Hypersensitive Ethics: 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

- TBD
 - Institute for Futures Studies, Stockholm, date TBD in 2018-19

- Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs, University of Warwick, date TBD in 2018-19
- School of Government, University of Oxford, March 5, 2019
- Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Annual Conference, Baltimore, date TBD in February 2019
- Choice Group, London School of Economics, January 16, 2019
- Political Philosophy Seminar, University of Stirling, September 26, 2018
- “Sorites on What Matters”
 - Summer Reflectorium, University of St Andrews, June 7, 2018
 - Conference in Memory of Derek Parfit, University of Oxford, date TBD in May 2018
 - University of Cambridge, April 25, 2018
 - Moral Philosophy Seminar, University of Oxford, April 23, 2018
- “Avoid Gratuitous Nonbeneficence”
 - University of Edinburgh, May 4, 2018
 - Effective Altruism Workshop, Trinity College Dublin, October 2, 2017
 - St Andrews Philosophy Society, University of St Andrews, September 25, 2017
- “Comments on Korbinian Rürger’s ‘Aggregation with Constraints’” Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs Graduate Conference, February 17, 2018
- “Spectrum Arguments and Hypersensitivity” 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’” 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
 - Charles Sturt University, March 30, 2015
 - 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” Australian National University, April 2, 2015
- “The Priority Monster”
 - University of St Andrews, February 19, 2015
 - University of Leeds, February 11, 2015
 - University of Oxford, February 4, 2015
 - Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar, University of Oxford, October 23, 2014
 - 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
 - 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” University of Utah, January 17, 2014
- “Intuitions about General Principles” Southern California 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

- “What’s bad about being good?” interview and long-form article on my research by the University of St Andrews, featured on University’s homepage and social media (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” 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” 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” 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” 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

PHD SUPERVISION

- Matthew Clark (2017 to present, primary supervisor)
- Anh Quan Nguyen (2016 to present, primary supervisor)
- Joseph Bowen (2016 to present, secondary supervisor)

TEACHING

- Lecturer for University of St Andrews, 2015-
Moral and Aesthetic Value (Spring 2018), *Moral and Political Controversies* (Autumn 2015, 2016, and 2017), *Graduate Seminar: Topics in Recent Moral Theory* (Autumn 2015, 2016, and 2017), *Contemporary Moral Theory* (Autumn 2015 and 2017), *Life and Death* (Spring 2017), *Reading Philosophy* (Spring 2017), *Effective Altruism* (Autumn 2016), *Value and Normativity* (Spring 2016)
- *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 and 25-29 June 2018)
- *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 Essay Prize (2018 and 2017), Economics and Philosophy (2018, 2015, and 2014), Journal of Moral Philosophy (2018), Ethics (2017), Oxford University Press (2017 x 2), Philosophical Studies (2017 and 2016), Analysis (2017 x 2), Australasian Journal of Philosophy (2017 and 2016), 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), 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), 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

- 2019 Knox Lecture (Susan Wolf), University of St Andrews
 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, Sophie-Grace Chappell, Jonathan Coffey, Samuel Rickless, 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

- Jeff McMahan, Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford
- Hilary Greaves, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford
- Peter Singer, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University
- Larry Temkin, Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University
- David Brink, Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego
- Richard Arneson, Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego
- Tim Mulgan, Department of Philosophy, University of St Andrews