

Theron Pummer

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Career & Education

2018–present	Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, University of St Andrews
2015–present	Director of the Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs, University of St Andrews
2015–18	Lecturer in Philosophy, University of St Andrews
2014–15	Plumer Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy, St Anne’s College, University of Oxford
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

Books

Under contract	<i>Hypersensitive Ethics: Much Ado About Nearly Nothing</i> Oxford: Oxford University Press
Under contract	<i>The Rules of Rescue: Cost, Distance, and Effective Altruism</i> New York: Oxford University Press

Articles

Forthcoming	“Impermissible Yet Praiseworthy” <i>Ethics</i>
Forthcoming	“Sorites on What Matters” <i>Ethics and Existence: The Legacy of Derek Parfit</i> , edited by Jeff McMahan, Tim Campbell, James Goodrich, and Ketan Ramakrishnan, Oxford: Oxford University Press
2020	“Rescue and Personal Involvement: A Response to Woollard” <i>Analysis</i> 80(1): 59–66 (with Roger Crisp)
2020	“Effective Altruism” <i>International Encyclopedia of Ethics</i> , edited by Hugh LaFollette (with William MacAskill)
2020	“Effective Justice” <i>Journal of Moral Philosophy</i> 17(4): 398–415 (with Roger Crisp)
2019	“All or Nothing, but If Not All, Next Best or Nothing” <i>The Journal of Philosophy</i> 116(5): 278–291
2019	“Charity and Partiality” <i>Ethics and the Contemporary World</i> , edited by David Edmonds, Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 121–132

- 2019 “The Worseness of Nonexistence”
Saving People from the Harm of Death, edited by Espen Gamlund and Carl Tollef Solberg, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 215–228
- 2019 “Each-We Dilemmas and Effective Altruism”
Journal of Practical Ethics 7(1): 24–32 (with Matthew Clark)
- 2018 “Spectrum Arguments and Hypersensitivity”
Philosophical Studies 175(7): 1729–1744 (Online First 2017)
- 2017 “Lopsided Lives”
Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics Volume 7, edited by Mark Timmons, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 275–296
- 2016 “Whether and Where to Give”
Philosophy and Public Affairs 44(1): 77–95
 – 2017 PEA Soup Readers’ Choice Paper Prize
 – 2017 discussion on PEA Soup (précis by Johann Frick)
 – Nominated for the APA’s 2018 Article Prize
- 2016 “Risky Giving”
The Philosophers’ Magazine 73(2): 62–70
- 2016 “Adding Happy People”
Philosophers Take on the World, edited by David Edmonds, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 236–239
- 2014 “Does Division Multiply Desert?”
Philosophical Review 123(1): 43–77
- 2013 “Intuitions about Large Number Cases”
Analysis 73(1): 37–46

Edited Volume

- 2019 *Effective Altruism: Philosophical Issues*
 Oxford: Oxford University Press (co-edited with Hilary Greaves)

Reviews

- 2020 *The Precipice: Existential Risk and the Future of Humanity*, by Toby Ord, New York: Hachette, 2020
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews
- 2020 *The Ethics of Giving: Philosophers’ Perspectives on Philanthropy*, edited by Paul Woodruff, New York: Oxford University Press, 2018
Philosophical Quarterly 70(279): 426–429

Awards & Fellowships

- 2020-21 Visiting Fellow, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University (initially for October 2020 and October 2021, postponed)
- 2018-21 Effective Altruism Grant, Centre for Effective Altruism
- 2017 PEA Soup Readers’ Choice Paper Prize for “Whether and Where to Give”
- 2017 Knowledge Exchange and Impact Fund, University of St Andrews

2016	Society for Applied Philosophy Conference Grant
2016	Mind Association Major Conference Grant
2015-16	Scots Philosophical Association Conference Grant
2015	JN Wright Trust Conference Grant
2014-15	Ethics Scholarship, St Anne's College, University of Oxford
2010-11	Humanities Graduate Student Researcher Fellowship, University of California, San Diego

Presentations

March 2021	“The Rules of Rescue: Cost, Distance, and Effective Altruism” Book Workshop, Online
Sept 2020	“Conditional Obligations and Supererogation” All or Nothing Workshop Miniseries, Online
Oct 2019	“More on Rescue, Cost, and Numbers” Princeton Workshop in Normative Philosophy, Princeton University
Oct 2019	“Rescue, Cost, and Numbers” Ira W. DeCamp Seminar, Princeton University
Oct 2019	“Rescue, Cost, and Numbers” Value Theory Reading Group, Rutgers University
Oct 2019	“Rescue, Cost, and Numbers” Moral Philosophy Working Group, Yale University
Sept 2019	“Comments on Julia Driver’s “Ethical” Hunting” Oxford Workshop on Animal Ethics, University of Oxford
April 2019	“All or Nothing, but If Not All, Next Best or Nothing” Stockholm University (commentator: Krister Bykvist)
April 2019	“Sorites on What Matters” Institute for Futures Studies, Stockholm
March 2019	“Rescue and Charity” University of Edinburgh
March 2019	“All or Nothing, but If Not All, Next Best or Nothing” Political Theory Research Group, University of Edinburgh
March 2019	“Suboptimal Charity” Choice Group, London School of Economics
March 2019	“Suboptimal Charity” School of Government, University of Oxford
Feb 2019	“Comments on Jessica Fischer’s ‘On Doing Less Good’” 2 nd Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs Graduate Conference
Feb 2019	“All or Nothing, but If Not All, Next Best or Nothing” University of York
Oct 2018	“Suboptimal Charity” and “All or Nothing, but If Not All, Next Best or Nothing” Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs, University of Warwick
Oct 2018	“Sorites on What Matters” Metaphysics Reading Group, University of St Andrews
Oct 2018	“Suboptimal Charity”

- St Andrews Philosophy Society, University of St Andrews
- June 2018 “All or Nothing, but If Not All, Next Best or Nothing”
Summer Reflectorium, University of St Andrews
- May 2018 “Sorites on What Matters”
Conference in Memory of Derek Parfit, University of Oxford
- May 2018 “Whether and Where to Give”
University of Edinburgh
- April 2018 “Optimizing outside Options”
University of Cambridge
- April 2018 “Optimizing outside Options”
Moral Philosophy Seminar, University of Oxford
- Feb 2018 “Comments on Korbinian Rüger’s ‘Aggregation with Constraints’”
Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs Graduate Conference
- Oct 2017 “Avoid Gratuitous Nonbeneficence”
Effective Altruism Workshop, Trinity College Dublin
- Sept 2017 “Avoid Gratuitous Nonbeneficence”
St Andrews Philosophy Society, University of St Andrews
- Jan 2017 “Spectrum Arguments and Hypersensitivity”
University of Southern California
- Nov 2016 “Effective Justice” (with Roger Crisp)
Oxford Workshop on Effective Altruism, University of Oxford
- Nov 2016 “Comments on Jeff McMahan’s ‘Doing Good and Doing the Best’”
St Andrews Philosophy Society, University of St Andrews
- Sept 2016 “Effective Justice”
St Andrews Philosophy Society, University of St Andrews
- June 2016 “Unbounded Lives”
White Rose Early Career Ethics Researchers Conference, University of
York (commentator: Christopher Jay)
- Jan 2016 “Lopsided Lives”
Seventh Annual Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics, University of
Arizona
- Dec 2015 “The Worseness of Nonexistence”
Winter Reflectorium, University of St Andrews
- Nov 2015 “The Worseness of Nonexistence”
Theoretical Population Ethics Conference, University of Oxford
- Oct 2015 “Whether and Where to Give”
St Andrews Philosophy Society, University of St Andrews
- June 2015 “The Worseness of Nonexistence”
Saving Lives from the Badness of Death Conference, University of Oslo
- May 2015 “The Worseness of Nonexistence”
Life and Death: Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives, Henry Janssen
Memorial Conference in Philosophy, San Diego State University
- May 2015 “The Worseness of Nonexistence”
Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar, University of Oxford
- April 2015 “Spectrum Paradoxes and their Solutions”

- Australian National University
- March 2015 “Whether and Where to Give”
Charles Sturt University
- March 2015 “Whether and Where to Give”
University of Melbourne
- March 2015 “Whether and Where to Give”
Moral and Political Philosophy Work-In-Progress Group, University of Oxford
- Feb 2015 “The Priority Monster”
University of St Andrews
- Feb 2015 “The Priority Monster”
University of Leeds
- Feb 2015 “The Priority Monster”
University of Oxford
- Jan 2015 “Whether and Where to Give”
Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar,
University of Oxford
- Jan 2015 “Can Distributive Ethics Survive Fission and Fusion?”
Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar, University of Oxford
- Nov 2014 “Whether and Where to Give”
Applied Ethics Discussion Group, University of Oxford
- Nov 2014 “What’s Wrong with Cycling?”
Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar, University of Oxford
- Oct 2014 “The Priority Monster”
Population Ethics Work-In-Progress Seminar, University of Oxford
- July 2014 “What’s Wrong with Cycling?”
British Society for Ethical Theory Annual Conference, University of
Cambridge (unable to attend)
- Feb 2014 “Can Distributive Ethics Survive Fission and Fusion?”
Western Washington University
- Jan 2014 “Spectrum Arguments and Distributive Justice”
University of Utah
- Oct 2013 “Intuitions about General Principles”
Southern California Philosophy Conference, San Diego State University
- May 2013 “Reasons for Transitivity”
Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, UC San Diego
- April 2013 “The Problem of Joyless Life”
Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference, Princeton University
and Rutgers University (commentator: Tim Campbell)
- April 2013 “The Problem of Joyless Life”
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Philosophy Conference, UC Berkeley
(commentator: Kirsten Pickering)
- Feb 2013 “The Priority Monster”
University of Edinburgh
- Sept 2012 “Intuitions about Large Number Cases”

- British Postgraduate Philosophy Association Annual Conference,
University of Edinburgh (unable to attend)
- Aug 2012 “Would Division Multiply Desert?”
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress 2012, University of Colorado at Boulder
(commentator: Jeff McMahan)
- May 2012 “Intuitions about Large Number Cases”
Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, UC San Diego
- April 2012 “Would Division Multiply Desert?”
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Philosophy Conference, Stanford
University (commentator: R. J. Leland)
- July 2011 “The Priority Monster”
Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference 2011, University of
Manchester (commentator: Arne Norderhaug)
- June 2011 “The Priority Monster”
International Society for Utilitarian Studies XI Conference, Lucca, Italy
- April 2011 “The Priority Monster”
Stephen L. Weber Graduate Conference in Ethics, San Diego State
University (commentator: Kelly Vincent)
- April 2011 “Comments on Kelly Vincent’s ‘Consequentialism and Commitments’”
Stephen L. Weber Graduate Conference in Ethics, San Diego State
University
- March 2011 “The Priority Monster”
Valuing Lives: A Conference on Ethics in Health & the Environment,
New York University (commentator: Greg Bognar)
- May 2009 “The Preferences of Mill’s Competent Judges: Evidential or Criterial?”
Graduate Philosophy Colloquium, UC San Diego

Public Philosophy

- 2020 “CEPPA Chats”
Series of short video interviews with moral and political philosophers,
produced in collaboration with Corporate Communications, University of
St Andrews (interviewees include Helen Frowe, Hilary Greaves, Roger
Crisp, Jeff McMahan, Susan Wolf, John Haldane, Julia Nefsky, Thomas
Schmidt, and Cécile Fabre)
- 2019 “The Moral Mathematics of Letting People Die”
OUPblog
- 2019 “Effective Altruism, Incommensurability, and Intransitivity”
Effective Altruism Sweden
- 2017 “What’s bad about being good?”
Interview and long-form article on my research by the University of St
Andrews, advertised through the University’s homepage and social media
- 2017 “Effective giving: how the world’s wealthy could help millions more people for
free”

- The Conversation*, republished in *EconoTimes* and *Alliance*, and translated into Portuguese in *Altruismo Eficaz*
- 2017 “The Philosophy and History of Effective Altruism”
St Andrews Branch of the Association of University Administrators (with Rufaida Al Hashmi)
- 2017 “On Failing to Put My Money Where My Mouth Is”
Philosophers and the Philosophical Life Conference, University of St Andrews
- 2016 “Effective Altruism”
Research Impact Brokerage Event, University of St Andrews
- 2016 “Effective Justice”
Giving What We Can: Glasgow, University of Glasgow
- 2016 “The Ethics of Giving”
Research Impact Brokerage Event, University of St Andrews
- 2015 “Giving What We Can: St Andrews Lecturer changes the way we think about charity”
The Saint, by Oscar Westerblad (on “Whether and Where to Give”)
- 2015 “The Ethics of Giving: Why, Where, and How Much?”
Australian National University
- 2015 “Distributive Ethics, Health Care Allocation, and Personalised Medicine”
Personalised Medicine and Resource Allocation Conference, University of Oxford (with Roger Crisp)
- 2014 “The Practical Importance of Theoretical Population Ethics”
Workshop in Population Ethics, University of Oxford
- 2014-15 *Practical Ethics* Blog (11 Posts)
Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford
- 2014 “Effective Giving and Drowning Child Analogies”
UC San Diego
- 2013 “Effective Giving and Drowning Child Analogies”
San Diego State University
- 2013 “Making the Greatest Difference with Your Career”
Go Make a Difference Conference, UC San Diego

PhD Supervision

- 2020-present Luca Stroppa: “Welfare Hypersensitivity and Decision Theory”
- 2020-present Joel Joseph: “The Ethics of Assisting Wild Animals”
- 2020 Charlotte Unruh: “Doing and Allowing Harm to Future Generations”
(Visiting PhD Student from the University of Southampton)
- 2019-present Philipp Schönegger: “Normative Uncertainty and Charitable Giving”
- 2019-present Travis Manuel: “Supersubstantial Composition as Identity”
- 2018 Ricardo Miguel: “The Moral Status of Animals and the Problem of Substitutability” (Visiting PhD Student from the University of Lisbon)
- 2017-present Matthew Clark: “The Weak Superiority View”

- 2016-2020 Anh-Quân Nguyen: “No Tears for Spilled Milk: Temporal Neutrality and the Rationality of Future-Bias”
- 2016-2020 Joseph Bowen: “Why More Than What Happens Matters: Robust Rights and Harmless Wronging” (Postdoctoral Researcher at the Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace, 2020-)

Teaching

- 2015-present Lecturer, University of St Andrews
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)
- 2018-present Director of Teaching and Lecturer, Summer Academic Experience Course, University of St Andrews (for high school students)
Moral Philosophy in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (initially for 2020, postponed) and *Introduction to Moral Philosophy* (2018 and 2019)
- 2017-present Director of Teaching and Lecturer, Summer Short Programme, University of St Andrews (for high school students)
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- 2015 Lecturer, St Anne’s College, Oxford Summer School, Garden International School, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (for high school students)
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- 2014-15 Tutor, St Anne’s College, Queen’s College, and University College, University of Oxford
Ethics (Michaelmas 2014, Hilary 2015) and *Moral Philosophy* (Trinity 2015)
- 2014-15 Graduate Seminar Convener, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford
Population Ethics (Trinity 2015) and *Practical Ethics* (Michaelmas 2014, week 8)
- 2014 Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, UC San Diego
Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2014) and *Ethics and Society II* (Winter 2014)
- 2011-13 Instructor, Department of Philosophy, UC San Diego
Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics (Winter 2013) and *Contemporary Moral Issues* (Summer 2011, 2012, and 2013)
- 2006-12 Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, UC San Diego
Ethics and Society, Philosophy of Religion, Mill’s Moral and Political Philosophy, Biomedical Ethics, Ethics and Society, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Neuroscience, Introduction to Philosophy, Contemporary Legal Issues, Logic and Decision-Making, and Epistemology

Administrative Roles

2015-present	Director of the Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs, University of St Andrews https://ceppa.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/
2010-11	Graduate Student Representative, University of California, San Diego

Professional Service

Nominating Editor: *Philosopher's Annual*

Area Editor: *Ergo*

Editorial Board: *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Utilitas*

Executive Committee Member: Society for Applied Philosophy

Press Referee: Oxford University Press (x2), Routledge

Journal Referee: *Ethics* (x3), *Noûs* (x5), *Analysis* (x5), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Studies* (x3), *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (x3), *Journal of Political Philosophy* (x2), *Journal of Moral Philosophy* (x5), *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (x2), *Philosophy Compass*, *Utilitas* (x11), *Philosophical Quarterly* (x4), *Ergo* (x3), *American Philosophical Quarterly* (x2), *Economics and Philosophy* (x4), *Synthese*, *Thought* (x2), *Law and Philosophy* (x2), *Journal of Applied Philosophy* (x3), *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *Philosophical Psychology* (x3), *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* (x3), *Politics, Philosophy and Economics* (x3), *Philosophia* (x3), *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of Ethics*, *Journal of Practical Ethics*, *Journal of Controversial Ideas*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Bioethics*, *Journal of Value Inquiry*, *American Political Science Review*

Conference Referee: Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics, British Society for Ethical Theory (x3), American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (x2), Effective Altruism Global

Funding Referee: Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (x2), LMU Research Fellowships

Organizer: Workshop on Blame and Responsibility (2021, online, co-hosted with UT Austin), Winter Ethics Workshop Miniseries (2020-21, online), Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs Talks series (St Andrews, 2016-present), Knox Lecture series (St Andrews, 2016-present), The Ethics of Giving Conference (St Andrews, 2017), Workshop on the Philosophical Foundations of Effective Altruism (Oxford, 2016), The Philosophical Foundations of Effective Altruism Conference (St Andrews, 2016), Workshop on Personal Identity and Ethics (Oxford, 2015), Population Ethics Reading Group (Oxford, 2014-15), Workshop on Population Ethics (Oxford, 2014), Giving What We Can events (UC San Diego, 2011-14 and St Andrews, 2015-present), Ethics in the Public Sphere Symposium (UC San Diego, 2012), Graduate Philosophy Conference (UC San Diego, 2012)

Internal Examiner: Patrik Hummel (PhD, University of St Andrews, 2017), Joe Slater (PhD, University of St Andrews, 2018), Jiwon Kim (MPhil, University of St Andrews, 2019)

External Examiner: Bastian Stern (DPhil, University of Oxford, 2016), Cai Qianyu (MPhil, University of Hong Kong, 2019), Michael Plant (DPhil, University of Oxford, 2019), Firat Akova (PhD, University of Warwick, 2020)

References

Available upon request.