

# Emma J. Curran

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**AOS:** Normative Ethics, Practical Ethics, Metaphysics

**AOC:** Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Economics

## Positions

- 2024 – **Departmental Lecturer in Ethics**  
Faculty of Philosophy and Hertford College  
University of Oxford
- 2023 – 2024 **Postdoctoral Associate**  
Center for Population-Level Bioethics  
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- 2020 – 2021 **Research Assistant**  
Department of History and Philosophy of Science  
University of Cambridge

## Education

- 2019 – 2023 **PhD Philosophy**  
Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge  
Title: *Doing Less Than Best*  
Supervisors: Arif Ahmed, Stephen John  
Examiners: Theron Pummer, Richard Holton  
Pass without corrections
- 2018 – 2019 **MPhil Philosophy**  
Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge  
Grade: Pass with Distinction  
Awarded prize for joint best performance (see *Awards*)
- 2015 – 2018 **BSc Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method**  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
Grade: First-Class Honours  
Awarded prize for best performance (see *Awards*)

## Articles

- 2023 **Impairing the Impairment Argument**, with Kyle van Oosterum  
*Journal of Medical Ethics*
- 2022 **Must We Vaccinate the Most Vulnerable? Efficiency, priority, and equality in vaccine distribution**, with Stephen John  
*Journal of Applied Philosophy*
- 2021 **Costa, cancer and coronavirus: contractualism as a guide to the ethics of lockdown**, with Stephen John  
*Journal of Medical Ethics*

## Chapters

Forthcoming **Longtermism and the Complaints of Future People**  
Jacob Barrett, Hilary Greaves, and David Thorstad (eds.), *Essays on Longtermism*, Oxford University Press

## Reports

2024 **A Simple Tool for Disincentivising the Worst Pandemic Bioweapons**,  
with Nir Eyal  
Nathan A. Paxton and Jaime M. Yassif (eds.), *Disincentivising Bioweapons: Theory and Policy Approaches*, Nuclear Threat Initiative

## Public work

2024 **Should ‘last hope’ drugs get priority approval?**  
*CPLB Dilemmas*

2022 **Why should we protect the vulnerable?**  
*Justice Everywhere*

2021 **Coffee or COVID?**  
*JME Blog*

## Awards

2020 **Early Career Conference Programme**  
Selected by the Global Priorities Institute

2020 – 2022 **Global Priorities Fellowship**  
Elected by the Forethought Foundation and granted £10,000

2019 **Bateman Scholarship**  
Elected by Trinity Hall for distinction in MPhil results

2019 **Matthew Buncombe Prize**  
Awarded for the joint best performance in the MPhil Philosophy at the University of Cambridge

2018 **John Worrall Prize**  
Awarded for the best performance in the BSc Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method at the LSE

## Studentships

2019 – 2022 **Open-Oxford-Cambridge AHRC DTP – Trinity Hall Studentship**  
Full fees and living expenses for the PhD

2019 – 2022 **London AHRC DTP Studentship** (*declined*)  
Full fees and living expenses for the PhD

2018 – 2019 **Cambridge AHRC DTP Studentship**  
Full fees and living expenses for the MPhil

2018 – 2019 **Trinity Hall – Newton Trust Masters Award** (*declined*)  
Award of £12,000 towards the MPhil

<b>Talks</b>	†: Peer review ‡: Invite
	<b>Leaving the Present Behind</b> (Previously <i>Fairness and the Future</i> )
2023	Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford: 13 <sup>th</sup> Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research ‡
2023	St Andrews University: Energy Ethics Conference ‡
	<b>Individuals and the Chances We Give Them</b>
2022	Institute of Biomedical Ethics: 16 <sup>th</sup> World Congress on Bioethics, ‘The Value and Fairness of Chances in Public Health’ Panel Debate †
	<b>Catastrophic Risk and the Complaints of Future People</b>
2022	Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford: Workshop on Longtermism and Non-Consequentialist Moral Philosophy ‡
2022	University of Cambridge: Moral Sciences Club ‡
2022	PPE Society Annual Meeting: ‘Population Health and the Future: ethics, prioritization, and practice’ Panel †
2021	Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford: ECCP Conference †
	<b>Vaccine Distribution: Save the Great Number or the Most Vulnerable?</b> with Stephen John
2021	Rutgers Center for Population-Level Bioethics: Work-in-Progress Seminar ‡
	<b>Longtermism, Aggregation, and Catastrophic Risk</b>
2021	University of Sheffield: Understanding Value X †
2021	University of Minho: Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy †
2021	University of Cambridge: Philosophy Graduate Seminar
2021	Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge: The McMenemy Seminar ‡
2021	Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford: 6 <sup>th</sup> Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research ‡
	<b>Doing Less Than Best</b>
2021	Siena Heights University: Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, ‘Ethics in Action’ Session †
2021	Forethought Foundation: Global Priorities Seminar
2020	University of Cambridge: Philosophy Graduate Seminar
2020	University of Cambridge: Political Philosophy Workshop ‡
	<b>Animals and Their Corpses</b>
2019	University of Cambridge: Philosophy Graduate Seminar
	<b>Killing, Self-Defence, and Nonresponsible Threats</b>
2019	Nuffield College, University of Oxford: Oxford Graduate Conference in Political Theory †
2019	Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge: The Cambridge Legal Theory Discussion Group ‡
<b>Teaching Graduate</b>	
2024 -	<b>University of Oxford</b> <i>BPhil Seminar Convener</i> Risky Ethics

*BPhil Thesis Supervisor*  
For normative and practical ethics

## **Undergrad**

2024 –

### **University of Oxford**

*Lecturer*

Practical Ethics (Finals)

*Tutor*

Moral Philosophy (Prelim)

Practical Ethics (Finals)

Ethics (Finals)

2019 – 2023

### **University of Cambridge**

*Lecturer*

Ethics (second-year, lectures on ‘Normative Powers’)

*Supervisor*

Metaphysics (first year)

Ethics & Political Philosophy (first year)

Ethics (second year)

Political Philosophy (second year)

History and Philosophy of Economics (second year)

Ethics (third year)

Philosophy of Science (third year)

*Class Teacher*

Formal Methods (first-year, formerly ‘Logic’)

*Seminar Leader*

Metaphysics (first year)

Ethics & Political Philosophy (first year)

Ethics (second year)

*Supervised Undergraduate Dissertations and Extended Essays on:*

Supererogation; democracy and minority protection; autonomy and belief formation; promissory obligations; distributive ethics and healthcare; existential risk and ‘global attention deterioration’; AI catastrophic risk; partial-aggregation.

## **Services**

### **Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford**

2024 -

BPhil Essay Marker

2024 -

Assessor for Finals Examinations

### **Hertford College, University of Oxford**

2024 -

Admissions Interviewer for Philosophy

### **Center for Population-Level Bioethics, Rutgers University**

2024

Member of Postdoctoral Associate Hiring Committee

### **Event Organisation**

2021 Co-organiser of ‘*Rethinking the Ethics of Vaccination*’ workshop series

### **Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge**

2022 Lecturer for HE+ Somerset Residential  
2020 – 2021 Academic Officer of the Middle Combination Room  
2020 Convenor of the Humanities Discussion Group  
2019 – 2020 Vice-President of the Middle Combination Room  
2019 – 2020 Co-coordinator of the McMenemy Seminar

### **Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge**

2022 – 2023 Co-convenor of the Philosophy of Bodies Group  
2020 – 2021 Co-convenor of Let’s Get Practical: Practical Ethics Group  
2020 – 2021 Co-convenor of the Serious Decision Sciences Group  
2020 – 2021 Secretary of the Moral Sciences Club  
2020 – 2022 Interviewer for Undergraduate Admissions  
*Jesus, Sidney Sussex*  
2019 – 2020 Chair of the Graduate Seminar

### **Journal Refereeing**

Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Ethics (x2), Journal of Philosophy, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies (x4), Utilitas, Erkenntnis, Philosophy Compass (x2), Journal of Medical Ethics (x2), Ethical Theory and Moral Practice (x2), Theoria, Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal (x3), and Medicine, Healthcare and Philosophy, American Philosophical Quarterly.

**References** upon request