

Emma J. Curran

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AOS: Normative Ethics, Practical Ethics, Metaphysics

AOC: Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Medicine, Philosophy of Economics

Positions

- 2024 – **Departmental Lecturer in Ethics**
Faculty of Philosophy, Hertford College,
and the Institute for Ethics in AI
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
- 2015 – 2018 **BSc Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method**
London School of Economics and Political Science
Grade: First-Class Honours
Awarded prize for best performance

Articles

- 2025 **Longtermism and Aggregation**
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research
- 2024 **Impairing the Impairment Argument**, with Kyle van Oosterum
Journal of Medical Ethics
- 2022 **Must We Vaccinate the Most Vulnerable? Efficiency, Priority, and Equality in the Distribution of Vaccines**, 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

In Preparation **Conservatism, Partiality and Extending Lives**
In preparation for Carl Tollef Solberg, Borgar Jølstad, and Peder Skjelbred (eds.), *Between Life and Death: Essays on the Badness of Death and Population Ethics*, Oxford University Press

2025 **Longtermism and the Complaints of Future People**
Jacob Barrett, Hilary Greaves, and David Thorstad (eds.), *Essays on Longtermism: Present Action for the Distant Future*, Oxford University Press

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

Manuscripts

Leaving the Present Behind

In Preparation

Dooming and Certain Death

In Preparation

Supererogation and Conditional Obligations

In Preparation

Demystifying Deepfakes

In Preparation, co-authored with Kyle van Oosterum

Deadly Stairs: A Puzzle for Ex-Ante Contractualism

In Preparation

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

Selected Talks †: Peer review ‡: Invite

- Demystifying Deepfakes**
2026 University of Liverpool: AI Workshop ‘Measuring the World’ ‡
- A Puzzle about Dooming**
2026 PPE Society Annual Meeting: ‘Deontology under Risk’ Panel †
2026 University of Leeds: Workshop Risk and Uncertainty in Ethics †
- Leaving the Present Behind** (Formerly *Fairness and the Future*)
2026 British Society for Ethical Theory Annual Conference †
2026 University of Oxford: Moral Philosophy Seminar ‡
2025 The Institute for Ethics in Technology, Hamburg University of Technology: Workshop on Climate and Responsibility ‡
2023 Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford: 13th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research ‡
2023 St Andrews University: Energy Ethics Conference ‡
- Future Generations and the Law: Do the Unborn Have Rights?**
2025 Keble College, University of Oxford ‡
- Individuals and the Chances We Give Them**
2022 Institute of Biomedical Ethics: 16th World Congress on Bioethics, ‘The Value and Fairness of Chances in Public Health’ Panel Debate †
- Longtermism, Aggregation, and Catastrophic Risk**
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 †
2021 University of Sheffield: Understanding Value X †
2021 University of Minho: Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy †
2021 Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge: The McMenemy Seminar ‡
2021 Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford: 6th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research ‡

	Vaccine Distribution: Save the Great Number or the Most Vulnerable? with Stephen John
2021	Rutgers Center for Population-Level Bioethics: Work-in-Progress Seminar ‡
	Doing Less Than Best
2021	Siena Heights University: Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, ‘Ethics in Action’ Session †
2020	University of Cambridge: Political Philosophy Workshop ‡
	Killing, Self-Defence, and Nonresponsible Threats
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 ‡
Teaching Graduate	
2024 -	University of Oxford <i>BPhil Seminar Convener</i> Risky Ethics Pro-Seminar (Political Philosophy) <i>BPhil Thesis Supervisor</i> Lukas Joosten (Social Media and Right to Attention) Yuxin Tang (Self-Deception)
Undergrad	
2024 -	University of Oxford <i>Lecturer</i> Practical Ethics (Finals) Ethics (Finals) Ethics of AI and Digital Technology (Finals) <i>Tutor</i> Moral Philosophy (Prelim) Practical Ethics (Finals) Ethics (Finals) Ethics of AI and Digital Technology (Finals) <i>Supervisor</i> Undergraduate Theses
2019 – 2023	University of Cambridge <i>Lecturer</i> Ethics (second-year, lectures on ‘Normative Powers’) <i>Supervisor</i> 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)
Dissertations and Extended Essays

Class Teacher

Formal Methods (first year, formerly 'Logic')

Seminar Leader

Metaphysics (first year)

Ethics & Political Philosophy (first year)

Ethics (second year).

Services

Event Organisation

- 2026 Co-organiser of the 'Deontology under Risk' panel at the UK PPE Society Annual Meeting
- 2023 Co-organiser of the 'Longtermism I & II' panels at the PPE Society Annual Meeting
- 2022 Co-organiser of the 'Longtermism' panel at the PPE Society Annual Meeting
- 2021 Co-organiser of 'Rethinking the Ethics of Vaccination' workshop series:
Solidarity, Responsibility, and Obligations (Mar.)
Uncertainty, Decision, and Policy (Apr.)
Vaccine Hesitancy (Apr.)
The Population and the Individual (May.)
What Counts? Who Counts? (Jun.)

Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford

- 2025 – Graduate Admissions Assessment
- 2024 – Assessor for BPhil Essays and Theses
- 2024 – Examiner and Assessor for Finals Examinations
- 2024 – Assessor for Undergraduate Extended Essays and Dissertations

Hertford College, University of Oxford

- 2025 – 26 Lead Admissions Tutor for PPE
- 2024 – Admissions Interviewer for Philosophy

Center for Population-Level Bioethics, Rutgers University

- 2024 Hiring Committee for Postdoctoral Associate

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

Journal Refereeing

Philosophical Studies (x4); *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (x4); *Ethics* (x3); *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* (x3); *Mind* (x2); *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (x2); *Philosophical Quarterly* (x2); *Philosophy Compass* (x2); *Journal of Medical Ethics* (x2); *Noûs*; *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*; *Journal of Philosophy*; *Utilitas*; *Erkenntnis*; *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*; *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*; *American Philosophical Quarterly*; *Journal Theoria*; *Medicine, Health and Philosophy*; *Journal of Value Inquiry*.

References Professor Theron Pummer

Department of Philosophy
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Professor Stephen John

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University of Cambridge
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Professor Peter Millican

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University of Oxford
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