

# William MacAskill

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## Areas

- AOS Ethics
- AOC Political Philosophy, Decision Theory, Philosophy and Economics

## Employment

- Aug 2015–present **Associate Professor & Tutorial Fellow**, *Lincoln College, University of Oxford*.  
Permanent position.
- Sep 2014–Jul 2015 **Research Fellow**, *Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge*.  
Three-year research position.

## Education

- 2010–April 2014 **D.Phil.**, *University of Oxford*.  
Title: Normative Uncertainty  
Supervisors: John Broome, Krister Bykvist
- 2012–2013 **Visiting Student Research Collaborator**, *Princeton University*.
- Spring 2012 **Visiting Scholar**, *New York University*.
- 2008–2010 **B.Phil.**, *University of Oxford*, Distinction.  
Ranked 2nd out of a class of 27.
- 2005–2008 **B.A.(Hons.)**, *University of Cambridge*, First Class.  
Ranked 2nd out of a class of 60.

## Articles

- forthcoming **Smokers, Psychos, and Decision-Theoretic Uncertainty**, *Journal of Philosophy*.
- forthcoming **Normative Uncertainty as a Voting Problem**, *Mind*.
- 2013 **The Infectiousness of Nihilism**, *Ethics*.
- 2013 **Replaceability, Career Choice, and Making a Difference**, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*.

## Books

- Under Contract 2014 **Moral Uncertainty**, *Oxford University Press*.  
First author; co-authored with Toby Ord and Krister Bykvist. Expected publication: Feb 2017.
- 2014 **Doing Good Better**, *Penguin Random House (USA); Guardian Faber (UK)*.

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## Work in Progress

**Why We Should Normalize Moral Theories at their Variance**, *Under review*.  
Equal co-authorship with Owen Cotton-Barratt and Toby Ord.

**How to Make Intertheoretic Value Comparisons**, *Under review*.

**What's the Value of Moral Philosophy?**

**Human Extinction, Asymmetry, and Option Value.**

**Moral Caution and Moral Compromise.**

**Effective Altruism.**

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## Honors and Awards

2013–2014 **Society for Applied Philosophy Doctoral Scholarship**, *Oxford*.  
Maintenance award.

2012–2013 **Fulbright Postgraduate Award**, *Princeton*.  
Full scholarship for overseas study and research.

2012–2013 **St Andrew's Scholarship**, *Princeton*.  
For overseas study and research.

2012 **AHRC Research Training Support Grant**, *NYU*.  
Full scholarship for overseas study and research.

2010–2014 **AHRC Doctoral Award**, *Oxford*.  
Full Scholarship.

2010–2012 **Ethics Scholarship**, *St Anne's College, Oxford*.  
Honorary award for most promising ethicist in the year.

2012 **College Prize**, *St Edmund Hall, Oxford*.  
For outstanding BPhil results.

2008–2010 **Pirie-Reid University Scholarship**, *Oxford*.  
Fees award.

2008–2010 **William R. Miller Award**, *St Edmund Hall, Oxford*.  
Maintenance award.

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## Invited or Peer-Reviewed Presentations

July 2014 **Effective Altruism**.  
*Good Done Right Conference*, Oxford.

Apr 2014 **Effective Altruism**.  
*Effective Altruism Conference*, University of Virginia.

Oct 2013 **Moral Caution and Moral Compromise**.  
*DeCamp Bioethics Seminar*, Princeton.

Jun 2013 **Meta Decision Theory and Newcomb's Problem**.  
*CRNAP Workshop*, Oxford.

Mar 2013 **What's the Value of Moral Philosophy?**  
*Moral Epistemology Workshop*, Princeton.

- Nov 2012 **Can There be Amplified Theories?**  
*Economics and Philosophy Workshop*, Princeton.
- Jul 2012 **Against the Common-Sense View of Ethical Careers.**  
*Society for Applied Philosophy Conference*, Oxford.
- Apr 2012 **Motivating People to Give What They Can.**  
*Moral Psychology and Poverty Alleviation Conference*, Yale.
- Aug 2011 **How to Act Appropriately in the Face of Moral Uncertainty.**  
*Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, Boulder, Colorado.
- Jun 2011 **The Ethics of Career Choice.**  
*The International Society of Utilitarian Studies Conference XI*, Lucca, Italy.
- Jun 2011 **Suing for Damage Caused: The Tort of Wrongful Life.**  
*Moral Values and Private Law*, King's College, London.
- Apr 2011 **Decision-making under Moral Uncertainty: What sort of ought?.**  
*Stockholm Centre for Healthcare Ethics*.

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## Teaching Experience

- Nov 2014 **Lecturer**, *Well-being*, Cambridge.  
Four lectures for Part II Tripos.
- Oct 2014 **Lecturer**, *Helping and Harming*, Cambridge.  
Four lectures for Part IB Tripos.
- Apr–Jun 2012 **Tutor**, *Ethics*, Oxford.  
Took one-on-two tutorials with final-year students.
- Apr–Jun 2012 **Tutor**, *Mill's Utilitarianism*, Oxford.  
Took one-on-two tutorials with first-year students.
- Oct–Dec 2011 **Convener**, *Positive Ethics Seminar Series*, Oxford.  
Organized a funded ethics research seminar series. Presented twice.
- Apr–Jun 2011 **Assistant Convener**, *Normative Uncertainty Research Seminar Series*, Oxford.  
Graduate-level seminar. Helped to organize course content, reading lists, and led the seminar twice.
- Oct–Dec 2010 **Teaching Assistant**, *Elements of Deductive Logic*, Oxford.  
Ran classes of 13 first-year students.
- Oct–Dec 2010 **Tutor**, *Ethics*, Oxford.  
Took one-on-one and one-on-two tutorials with final-year students.
- Oct–Dec 2010 **Tutor**, *Mill's Utilitarianism*, Oxford.  
Took one-on-one tutorials with first-year students.

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## Guest Lectures

- Oct 2013 **Practical Ethics**, *Princeton*.  
Course Instructor: Peter Singer. Topic: Career choice.
- Oct 2013 **Ethics in Financial Markets**, *Princeton*.  
Course Instructor: Jean-Christophe de Swaan. Topic: Career choice.

- Oct 2013 **Topics in Ethics and Political Philosophy: Equality, NYU.**  
Course Instructor: Barry Maguire. Topic: Inequality.
- Jan 2013 **Philanthropy: Ethics and Practice, Middlebury College.**  
Course Instructor: Steven Viner. Topic: Global poverty.
- Dec 2012 **Ethics in Financial Markets, Princeton.**  
Course Instructor: Jean-Christophe de Swaan. Topic: Career choice.
- Dec 2011 **Practical Ethics, Princeton.**  
Course Instructor: Peter Singer. Topic: Career choice.
- Dec 2011 **Professional Responsibility and Leadership, NYU.**  
Course Instructor: Rex Mixon. Topic: Global poverty.

## Academic Service

- 2013 **Co-author, Population Ethics, The Leverhulme Trust.**  
Helped to organize, plan and write a successful £300,000 three-year grant at Oxford for two postdocs, Toby Ord and John Cusbert, with PI buyout for Hilary Greaves and Nick Bostrom.
- Dec 2010 **Assistant Interviewer, Jesus College, Oxford.**  
Active assistant interviewer for 19 undergraduate applicants. Lead interviewer for 2 undergraduate applicants.
- Dec 2010 **Examination Marker, Jesus College, Oxford.**  
Marked written tests for 49 undergraduate applicants.

## Public Service

### Social Entrepreneurship

- 2012–Present **Founder & Trustee, Centre for Effective Altruism.**  
A university-affiliated institute designed to mediate between academic research and public impact. Personally raised over \$500 000 for the Centre's five projects: Giving What We Can, 80,000 Hours, Global Priorities Project, Effective Animal Activism, and The Life You Can Save. This has enabled them to take 8 paid staff.
- 2011–Present **Founder & President, 80,000 Hours.**  
Based on my research on ethical career choice, this non-profit provides evidence-based advice on careers that make a difference.
- 2009–Present **Cofounder & Vice-President, Giving What We Can.**  
Also served as Head of Research. Helped to raise over \$3 million in realized donations and \$450 million in pledged donations to the most cost-effective development charities. Featured in every major UK newspaper and most major US newspapers.

### Lectures

- 2011–Present **What's the most ethical career?.**  
Given over 20 times in various forms, including at Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard College, Harvard Business School, Brown, Rutgers and Princeton.
- 2011–Present **Taking Giving Seriously.**  
Given over 10 times in various forms, including at Oxford, Cambridge, and Warwick.

## Consulting

Sep **Prime Minister's Office, UK Government.**  
2013-Present Regular policy advisor at Number 10 Downing Street. Co-author of policy brief *Unprecedented Technological Risks* (2014).