ADAM ETINSON

Department of Philosophy, University of St Andrews
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D.O.B: 23 March 1982, Montréal, Canada

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy   2016 ⟶
Department of Philosophy, University of St Andrews

Lecturer in Human Rights   2014-2016
Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, University of Chicago

Mellon Sawyer Postdoctoral Fellow   2012-2014
Center for Global Ethics and Politics, CUNY Graduate Center

GRIPP Postdoctoral Fellow   2011-2012
The Center for Research in Ethics, University of Montreal

EDUCATION

University of Oxford, DPhil in Philosophy (PhD)   2008-2011
  Thesis Title: "Human Rights and the Problem of Ethnocentrism"
  Supervisors: Jeremy Waldron, Roger Crisp, John Tasioulas
  Examiners: Henry Shue, Jonathan Wolff

University of Oxford, BPhil in Philosophy   2006-2008
McGill University, BA Honours Philosophy (First Class Honours)   2001-2005

RESEARCH

AOS: Ethics; Political Philosophy
AOC: Moral Psychology; Social Epistemology; Applied Ethics

PUBLICATIONS (* Indicates Peer-reviewed)

2018: *Human Rights: Moral or Political?* (Oxford University Press, March 2018)
       [Paperback, March 2020], ed. Adam Etinson – 30 authors, with an
       introduction and commentary by the editor *

Articles & Chapters

2020: "What's So Special About Human Dignity?" in *Philosophy & Public Affairs,* Vol. 48, No. 4, pp. 353-81.

2020: "Dignity in 'The Streets': A Comment on Gilabert" in *Journal of Global Ethics.*

2019: "On 'Aristocratic' Dignity" in *European Journal of Political Theory,* Vol. 19, No. 3, pp. 399-407.

2018: "Conversation" in *New Literary History*, Vol. 49, No. 2, pp. 267-273.*

2017: "Some Myths About Ethnocentrism" in *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 96, No. 2, pp. 209-224. *

2014: "On Shareable Reasons: A Comment on Forst" in *The Journal of Social Philosophy*, Vol. 44, No. 4, pp. 76-88 *

2013: "Human Rights, Claimability, and the Uses of Abstraction" in *Utilitas*, Vol. 25, No. 4, pp. 463-486 *

2012: "Political and Naturalistic Conceptions of Human Rights: A False Polemic?" in *The Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 9(3), pp. 327-352 (With S. Matthew Liao) *

2010: "Cosmopolitanism: Cultural, Moral, and Political" in *Sovereign Justice: Global Justice in a World of Nations*, Angelis & Queiroz (de Gruyter: New York), 25-47.

2008: "Aboriginal Oral History Evidence and Canadian Law" in the *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies* (CEJCS), Vol. 6, 2008, pp. 97-105 *

Reviews, Essays, & Public Philosophy

2020: "John Tasioulas" in *Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy* (New York: Springer, 2020), eds. M.N.S. Sellers & Stephan Kirste.

2018: "How High to Dream?" in *The Times Literary Supplement*, July 26ᵗʰ. (Reviewing Samuel Moyn's *Not Enough: Human Rights in an Age of Inequality* [HUP, 2018])

2018: "Book Review: *Reframing the Intercultural Dialogue on Human Rights: A Philosophical Approach*, by Jeffrey Flynn" in *Political Theory*, Vol. 46, No. 2, pp. 312-318. *

2017: "Is a Life Without Struggle Worth Living?" in The Stone, *The New York Times,* October 2ⁿᵈ.

2013: "Of Cannibals, Kings, and Culture: The Problem of Ethnocentricity" in The Stone, *The New York Times,* Feb. 17ᵗʰ – Republished in: *The Stone Reader* (New York: Liveright, 2016), 79-84, & *Modern Ethics: A Stone Reader* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2017), 306-311, eds. Simon Critchley & Peter Catapano.

2012: "100 Days of Student Protests in Québec: Printemps Érable or Much Ado about Nothing?" in *Dissent* (Co-authored with Carlos Fraenkel), May 29ᵗʰ.

2012: "A Rights-Based Utopia?" in, *Human Rights Quarterly,* Vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 294-299. Also in: *The Utopian,* with an attached response by Samuel Moyn. *

2010: "To Be or Not to Be? Charles Beitz on the Philosophy of Human Rights" in *Res Publica,* Vol. 16, No. 2, pp. 235-244. *

ADDITIONAL FELLOWSHIPS, POSITIONS, & AWARDS

Mind Association, Scots Philosophical Association, JN Wright Trust (Summer 2021)
    Conference funding for "Epistemic Breakthroughs" - co-organized w J Snedegar.
Visiting Scholar (Autumn 2019)
    Center for Bioethics, New York University, New York, USA
Erasmus Teaching Fellow (March 2018)
    UFR de Philosophie, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, France
Arts and Humanities Research Council Fellow – (March 2018)
    Institute for Government, London, UK (Engaging with Government Course)
Visiting Scholar (Summer 2014)
    PluriCourts, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
Visiting Scholar (2013-2014)
    Department of Philosophy, New York University, New York, USA
Commonwealth Scholarship (2009-2011)
    The British Council, London, UK – for doctoral studies at Oxford University
Doctoral Research Grant (2008-2011)
    Le Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture, Québec, Canada
Overseas Research Student Award (2007-2010)
    Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (* Indicates self-designed syllabus)

The University of St Andrews (2016 →)
PY4660 – First Contact *
PY5319 – The Ethics of Conversation (*Grad Seminar with Justin Snedegar*) *
PY5319 – Subjectivity in Value, Normativity, and Morality (*with Justin Snedegar*) *
PY4659 – Timely Topics in Political Philosophy *
PY4658 – Why Does the World Exist? (*with Alex Douglas*) *
PY4652 – Toleration in the Early Modern Period (*with Alex Douglas*) *
PY3200 – Reading Philosophy 2: Texts in Ethics, Aesthetics, and Political Philosophy
PY5403 – Intuitions and Philosophical Methodology (*Grad Seminar w/ Jessica Brown*) *
PY5326 – Twentieth Century Philosophers: David Wiggins (*Graduate Seminar*) *
PY4652 – The Philosophy of Human Rights (*with Elizabeth Ashford*) *
PY1011 – Moral & Political Controversies

The University of Chicago (2014 – 2016)
HMRT 39003 – Moral Sainthood *
HMRT 30600 – Foundations of Human Rights (*Graduate Seminar*) *
HMRT 26151 – Human Rights and Human Diversity *
HMRT 26150 – Human Dignity *

Hunter College, City University of New York (2013 – 2014)
PHILO 246 – Introduction to Political Philosophy *
HR 200 – Introduction to Human Rights *

The Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York (2013–2014)
PHIL 431 – Ethics *

McGill University (2009, 2011 – 2012)
PHIL 481 – Toleration (Co-taught with Carlos Fraenkel) *
PHIL 481 – Freedom, Diversity, Culture (Co-taught with Carlos Fraenkel) *
PHIL 240 – Introduction to Political Philosophy (76 registered students) *

Oxford University (Hilary Term, 2010)
General Philosophy (Teaching Assistant for Dr. Ralph Walker)

WORK IN PROGRESS

On Falling Short (DRAFT)
   Many of us make easy peace with moral imperfection. In what sense do we
   "accept" our own moral shortcomings, though? And is it ever right to do so?

The Lure of Minimalism (DRAFT)
   Philosophers often claim that human rights are "minimalistic," or concerned only
   with the gravest harms. This claim fits poorly with the ambitiousness of human
   rights law, however. How to explain this divergence? And can it be justified?

Visions of Human Rights (DRAFT)
   This book chapter provides an overview of the history of philosophical reflection
   about human rights through the 20th Century, with a focus on the Anglo-
   American philosophical tradition. Special attention is paid to how theorists have
   envisaged their role vis-à-vis the emergent practice of human rights.

Inducing Wonder (New Project)
   We typically experience wonder at new, extraordinary sights. But we can also be
   made to feel wonder at quite ordinary things: chairs, toes, a blue sky, local
   customs, everyday assumptions, etc. This paper examines the nature, causes, and
   subversive power of such alienated experiences of the everyday.

Anger and Remorse (New Project)
   We know that remorse, on the part of offenders, has a powerful capacity to abate
   anger, on the part of victims. This suggests that anger is a desire for recognition,
   not revenge. It also suggests that anger seeks the satisfaction of remorse itself.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (* Indicates refereed presentation)

"Anger and Remorse"
- *The Ethics of Punishment Online Workshop,* Leiden University, Nov 12th, 2020
- *Seminar in Practical Philosophy,* University of Bergen, October 9th, 2020
- *The Philosophy Society,* University of St Andrews, Jan 27th, 2020.
- *APA Eastern Division Meeting,* Philadelphia, Jan 8th, 2020.

"Visions of Human Rights"
- *MANCEPT Workshop on Human Rights,* September 8th, 2020

"On Disrupting (Ethnocentric) Bias"
- *Social Anthropology Seminar,* University of St Andrews, April 11th, 2019
- *The Department of Politics,* University of Sheffield, Feb 28th, 2018.

"On Falling Short"
- *NoSoPhi Seminar:* Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, March 22nd, 2018.
- *Political Theory Reading Group,* University of Edinburgh, Jan 17th, 2018.
- *Northern Political Philosophy Group,* University of Edinburgh, December 7th, 2017.
- *Departmental Colloquium:* NYU Center for Bioethics, October 6th, 2017.
- *Law and Ethics Society,* Columbia University, October 11th, 2017.
- *Conference: The Ethics of Giving,* University of St Andrews, May 23-25th, 2017.

"The Lure of Minimalism"
- *Center for Global Ethics and Politics,* CUNY Graduate Center, September 17th, 2019
- *APA Eastern Division Meeting,* Jan 8th, 2019, New York.
- *How Demanding Should Human Rights Be?* Northwestern University, Oct 13th 2017.
- *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association,* San Francisco, March 30th, 2016. (with Robert Mark Simpson)

"What's So Special About Human Dignity?"
- *NYU Bioethics Lunchtime Lecture,* New York University, October 10th, 2019.
- *The University of Groningen,* Department of Philosophy, March 6th, 2017.
- *Edinburgh Legal Theory Workshop,* University of Edinburgh, October 9th, 2016.
- *The Future of Human Dignity,* University of Utrecht, October 13th, 2016. *
- *ECPR: Annual Meeting,* University of Montreal, August 26th, 2015.
- *Human Rights and Human Dignity: A Workshop,* Univ. of Chicago, May 29th, 2015.

"On Being Faithful to the 'Practice' of Human Rights"
- *Workshop on the Philosophy of Human Rights,* Univ. of St Andrews, Sept 26th, 2016.
- *American Political Science Association* in Philadelphia, September 2nd, 2016. *
- *Theory & Practice: The 2015 Annual Weissbourd Conference,* UChicago, May 9 2015. *

- *Human Rights Workshop,* University of Chicago, Jan 14th, 2015.
- *Workshop on Human Rights,* McGill University, Faculty of Law, Nov 20th, 2014.

"Some Myths About Ethnocentrism"
- *The Philosophy Society,* University of St Andrews, November 10th, 2016.
- *Social Theory Workshop,* University of Chicago, Oct 15th, 2015.
- *Practical Philosophy Workshop,* University of Chicago, March 20th, 2015.
- *New Research in Practical Philosophy,* Queen's College, CUNY, April 19th 2013.

Invited Commentaries

2019: On Pablo Gilabert's *Human Rights and Human Dignity* (OUP, 2018), at the *Pacific Division Meeting of the APA,* April 17-20, 2019.

2017: On George Letsas's paper, "Minimalism and Maximalism in Human Rights: A False Dillema?" at *How Demanding Should Human Rights Be? An Interdisciplinary Workshop,* Northwestern University, IL, Oct 13-14.

2016: On Luke Ulas and Pietro Maffettone's paper on legitimacy at *Contemporary Political Thought,* a conference at Durham University, Dec 7th.

2016: On Ryan Beaton's paper, "The Recent Focus of Settler-State Courts on the Procedural Legitimation of State Sovereignty over Indigenous Lands" at *Human Rights and Empire Graduate Student Conference,* May 19, Univ. of Chicago.

2014: On Gopal Sreenivasan's "Still no Human Right to Health(Care)" at *Is Health Care a Human Right,* University of Chicago, October 10th.

2013: On John Tasioulas', "Towards a Philosophy of Human Rights" at *Theorizing Human Rights: A Conference in Honor of James Nickel,* Duke University, March 22.

2012: On Rainer Forst's "Toleration and Democracy" in *Democratic Citizenship and the Recognition of Cultural Differences,* CUNY Graduate Center, November 8th.

Invited Lectures

2018: "Feasibility and Claimability in Human Rights Theory" – Two lectures in Emmanuel Picavet's Master's Seminar, *Philosophie et Société,* Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, March 2018 [Also delivered in *Human Rights, International Law, & Cosmopolitanism,* Summer Class: Univ. of Oslo, June 2014]

2015: "The Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights" in *International Human Rights Law and Advocacy,* Co-taught by B Citro & C Flores, UChicago Law.

EDITORIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

Administrative Work & Service

- *Examinations Officer,* Department of Philosophy, St Andrews [Fall 2020 ->]

- *Co-Lead,* St Andrews/Stirling Chapter of the Scottish Graduate School for the Arts & Humanities (with Sonia Roca Royes) [Spring 2020]
- *Assistant Director,* Center for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs (CEPPA), University of St Andrews. (Director: Theron Pummer) [2016 ->]
- *Co-Director,* Society for the Philosophy of Human Rights, which holds annual events at meetings of the APA. (Co-Director: Jesse Tomalty) [2015 ->]
- *Co-Organizer, Northern Political Philosophy Group,* holding 4-6 workshops a year on works-in-progress by Scottish political philosophers (with Ben Sachs) [2016 ->]
- *Library Officer,* University of St Andrews, Philosophy [2019 ->]
- *Undergraduate Reading Party Co-ordinator,* St Andrews, Philosophy [2020 ->]
- *Visiting Day Coordinator & Outreach Officer,* St Andrews, Philosophy [2016-2019]
- *Curriculum Designer,* University of Chicago, Human Rights Center [Spring 2015]

Editorial Work

- Member of the Editorial Board of *The Philosophical Quarterly.*
- Edited Volume: *Human Rights: Moral or Political?* (OUP), 30 authors.
- Special Issue Editor: [1] *Journal of Global Ethics,* Symposium on Pablo Gilbert's *Human Dignity & Human Rights* (OUP, 2018); [2] *Journal of Social Philosophy,* Special Issue on "Democratic Citizenship and the Recognition of Cultural Differences" (with Carol C. Gould & Joshua Keton)

Peer-Reviewer & Evaluator

- Journals: (1) *Constellations*; (2) *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*; (3) *Human Rights Review*; (4) *Journal of Moral Philosophy*; (5) *Journal of Global Ethics*; (6) *Philosophical Quarterly*; (7) *Philosophical Studies* (8) *Res Publica*; (9) *Law & Philosophy*; (10) *Journal of the American Philosophical Association.*
- Reviewer for *Canada Research Chair* program, Government of Canada [Fall 2020].

PhD Students

2018 -› Rasa Daviducierte, Co-Supervised with Rowan Cruft.
2017 - 2020 Jakob Hinze, Primary Supervisee.
2018 - 2020 Deryn Thomas, Primary Supervisee.
2018 - 2020 Colin McLean, Secondary PhD Supervisee.

Thesis Supervision & Examination

2020: Mallika Balakrishnan, "Rightless Abandon? On Human Rights, Imperialism, and Reshaping the Practice" (Master's)
2018: Andreas-J Sorger, "Truth Commissions Beyond Transitional Justice" (Master)

2018: J. Rumbelow, "The Will of the People: An Essay in Political Epistemology"

2018: Zhengyue Huang, "Why There Could Be a Human Right to 'Free' Internet Access" (Examined Thesis - MPhil, 2018)

2017: Rufaida Al-Hashimi, "Human Dignity in Human Rights" (Honours Thesis)

2017: Jakob Hinze, "Epistemic Implications of Democratic Decisions" (Master's)

2017: Jonathan Fogarty, "Can Human Dignity Ground Human Rights" (Master's)

2016: Timothy Hoff, "The Claimability of Human Rights: How Far Can We Go? A Critique of Kantian Claimability" (MAPH thesis, University of Chicago)

Special Events Organized

Epistemic Breakthroughs. A workshop with 16 participants, with funding from the *Mind Association, Scots Philosophical Association,* & *JN Wright Trust.* June 15-16, 2020.

Edwin Curley on "Spinoza, Enlightenment, and Religious Liberty". Public Lecture by Edwin Curley (Michigan) – *Toleration: Past & Present,* Conway Hall, London, Apr 29 2019.

Strangers Drowning: An Evening with Larissa MacFarquhar. A public interview with Larissa MacFarquhar, staff writer at *The New Yorker,* May 10, 2016.

Human Rights and Human Dignity: A Workshop, University of Chicago. Co-organizer, Pablo Gilabert. Supported by Pozen Center for Human Rights – May 29, 2015.

Philosophy Workshop in Akwesasne, Akwesasne Native American Reservation, Ontario. Co-organized with Carlos Fraenkel – Fall & Winter 2011.

13th Annual Graduate Oxford Philosophy Conference, University of Oxford – Fall 2009.

LANGUAGES

English (Mother tongue); French (Fluent); Spanish (Fluent); Hebrew (Basics).

REFEREES

Jeremy Waldron, University Professor, School of Law, New York University
o jeremy.waldron@nyu.edu

Roger Crisp, Professor of Moral Philosophy, University of Oxford
o roger.crisp@philosophy.ox.ac.uk

Carol C. Gould, Distinguished Professor, The Graduate Center, CUNY
o carolcgould@gmail.com

S. Matthew Liao, Arthur Zitrin Chair in Bioethics, NYU
o matthew.liao@nyu.edu

James W. Nickel, Professor of Philosophy and Law, U of Miami
o nickel@law.miami.edu

John Tasioulas, Chair of Politics, Philosophy, and Law, KCL
o john.tasioulas@kcl.ac.uk

Samuel Moyn, Professor of Law, Yale University
o smoyn@law.harvard.edu

Daniel Weinstock, Full Professor, Faculty of Law, McGill University
o daniel.weinstock2@mcgill.ca

Jonathan Wolff, Blavatnik Professor of Public Philosophy, U of Oxford
o j.wolff@ucl.ac.uk

Carlos Fraenkel (Teaching Referee) Associate Professor, McGill University
o carlos.fraenkel@mcgill.ca