

Michal Masny

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AREAS OF RESEARCH

AOS Ethics (incl. Normative Ethics, Metaethics, Bioethics, and Ethics of Technology)

AOC Epistemology; Political Philosophy; Schopenhauer

EDUCATION

- Princeton University**, PhD in Philosophy 2018 – 2023*
Advisors: Johann Frick (chair), Tom Kelly, Jake Nebel, Gideon Rosen
Visiting graduate student at UC Berkeley, 2021-2023
- Oxford University**, BPhil in Philosophy 2016 – 2018
Advisors: Jeff McMahan, Tim Williamson, and Anders Sandberg
- Warwick University**, BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics 2013 – 2016

DISSERTATION

Preserving the Valuable

Abstract: Many people believe that we have a distinctive moral reason to preserve certain non-instrumentally valuable things—such as beautiful paintings, important traditions, and loving relationships—even when a superior replacement is available. G. A. Cohen dubbed this view ‘Conservatism about Value’. My dissertation offers a systematic discussion of this position, traversing normative ethics, metaethics, and bioethics. On the theoretical side, I examine what explains the presence of conservative reasons, how strong these reasons are, which things we have reasons to conserve, and who these reasons apply to. On the practical side, I argue that this view illuminates old and new puzzles concerning: the shape of a life, the significance of progress, how one should direct their life at its different stages, end-of-life choices, and the emerging life extension technology.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 **On Parfit’s Wide Dual Person-Affecting Principle**
Philosophical Quarterly, 70 (278): 114-139.
*Winner of the annual essay prize organized by the Philosophical Quarterly
*Selected for the “Best of 2020: Philosophy” list by Oxford University Press
- 2020 **Friedman on Suspended Judgment**
Synthese, 197: 5009-5026.
- 2021 **Schopenhauer on Suicide and Negation of the Will**
British Journal for the History of Philosophy, 29 (3): 494-516.
- 2021 **What Should We Agree on About the Repugnant Conclusion?**
Utilitas, 33: 379-383. With Stephane Zuber and 27 co-authors.

UNDER REVIEW

A paper on the nature of well-being

R&R at *Philosophy & Public Affairs*

A paper on the significance of progress

A paper on preserving loving relationships and important personal projects

A paper on epistemic demandingness

AWARDS

Graduate School Teaching Award	2021
Competitive prize awarded to a handful of graduate students who made “a significant and exceptional contribution to undergraduate teaching”.	
Laurence S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship (declined)	2021-2022
Competitive fellowship awarded annually to 10 graduate students “with distinguished academic records in any discipline whose dissertation research centrally involves the critical study of human values”.	
University Center for Human Values Merit Grant	2018-2019
Fellowship top-up prize awarded to selected incoming graduate students.	
The Philosophical Quarterly Essay Prize	2018
Winner of the annual essay prize. Theme: “The Philosophy of Derek Parfit”.	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ethics of Emerging Technologies	Spring 2021
Co-instructor, alongside Johann Frick, for a newly designed upper-level course.	
Introduction to Moral Philosophy	Fall 2020
Teaching assistant for Johann Frick. Led one weekly discussion session and graded essays and exams. Produced and edited 24 pre-recorded lectures, available here .	
Introduction to Moral Philosophy	Fall 2019
Teaching assistant for Johann Frick. Led three weekly discussions sessions and graded essays and exams.	

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Journal Referee	
Journal of Moral Philosophy (x3); Philosophical Studies (x2); Science & Engineering Ethics (x2); Synthese, Utilitas; Erkenntnis; Inquiry; Journal of Value Inquiry; Acta Analytica.	
Ethics Work-in-Progress Group (organizer)	2020 – now
Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have been convening fortnightly work-in-progress meetings of a group that includes graduate students postdocs, and junior faculty from UC Berkeley, LMU Munich, NYU, Oxford, Princeton, Rutgers, Stanford, UCL, and UNC Chapel Hill.	
Princeton Workshop on Population and Procreation Ethics (co-organizer)	May 2019
Speakers included: Ralf Bader, David Boonin, Johann Frick, Hilary Greaves, Elizabeth Harman, Jeff McMahan, Melinda Roberts, Tina Rulli, Samuel Scheffler, and Larry Temkin.	
Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference (co-organizer)	Nov 2017

REFERENCES

Johann Frick
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