

Todd Karhu

CONTACT INFORMATION King's College London
Somerset House East Wing, Room 1.06
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+44 (0)7934 580835

SPECIALIZATIONS Ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of law

COMPETENCES Metaethics, ethics of technology, private law theory, bioethics

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT **King's College London, 2022–Present**

Senior Lecturer (2025–Present)
Lecturer (2022–2025)
Yeoh Tiong Lay Centre for Politics, Philosophy & Law
The Dickson Poon School of Law

Stanford University, 2019–2022

Postdoctoral Fellow
McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society

EDUCATION **London School of Economics, 2015–2019**

Ph.D., Philosophy
Thesis: “Matters of Life and Death”

University of Oxford, 2013–2015

M.Phil., Political Theory (with Distinction)

- *Thesis awarded the highest mark ever given for the degree*

University College Maastricht, 2010–2013

B.A., Liberal Arts & Sciences (*Summa cum laude*)

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES “Fixing the Fixable”. Forthcoming in *Law, Ethics & Philosophy*.

“Getting Machines to Do Your Dirty Work” (with Tomi Francis).
Philosophical Studies 182(1) (2025), pp. 121–135.

“What Justifies Our Bias Toward the Future?” *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
101(4) (2023), pp. 876–889.

“Proportionality in the Liability to Compensate.” *Law and Philosophy* 41(5) (2022),
pp. 583–600.

“Non-Compensable Harms.” *Analysis* 79(2) (2019), pp. 222–230.

“Not All Killings Are Equally Wrong.” *Utilitas* 31(4) (2019), pp. 378–394.

SELECTED TALKS (* = INVITED)	<p>“Temporal Partiality and the Veil of Ignorance”* The Practical, the Political, and the Ethical (PPE) Series Institute of Philosophy</p> <p>“Compensatory Liability and the Pre-Emption Problem”* LSE Choice Group Seminar London School of Economics</p> <p>“Compensatory Liability and the Pre-Emption Problem” Philadelphia Normative Philosophy Workshop University of Pennsylvania</p> <p>“Postwar Reparations”* Workshop on the Ethics of War and Conflict Centre for Philosophy in Africa, Nelson Mandela University</p> <p>“Some Worries About the Responsiveness Thesis”* Symposium on Adam Slavny’s <i>Wrongs, Harms, and Compensation</i> Worcester College, University of Oxford</p> <p>“The Preferences and Projects of the Dead”* Symposium on Zofia Stemplowska’s <i>Attentive Justice for the Dead</i> Nuffield College, University of Oxford</p> <p>“Strict Moral Liability”* LSE Choice Group Seminar London School of Economics</p> <p>“Strict Moral Liability”* USC-KCL-Rutgers Legal Philosophy Workshop University of Southern California</p> <p>“Why Active Euthanasia Should Be Legal, Even If It’s Immoral” Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference University of Antwerp</p> <p>“Risk and Reciprocity Revisited”* Private Law Forum King’s College London</p> <p>“Getting Machines to Do Your Dirty Work”* Institute for Ethics in AI Research Seminar University of Oxford</p> <p>“Was I Born Too Late?”* NYU Center for Bioethics New York University</p> <p>“Acting, Programming, and Programming to Act”* Institute for Human-Centered AI Research Seminar Stanford University</p> <p>“Partial Aggregation and Deontic Cyclicity”* Stanford Political Theory Workshop Stanford University</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2023</p> <p>2023</p> <p>2023</p> <p>2022</p> <p>2022</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2020</p>
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	“A Fate Worse than Death” International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying Conference Uppsala University	2018
	“What’s Wrong with Killing?” REAPP conference University of Reading	2018
	Comments on Kaplan’s “How to Make a Rule” 15th Annual London/Berkeley Philosophy Conference UC Berkeley	2017
	“Moral Luck and Authorship” Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy IX University of Minho	2017
	“Are All Killings Equally Wrong?”* LSE Choice Group Seminar London School of Economics	2017
	“Why Luck Egalitarians Should Support Equality of Outcome in Practice”* Workshop on Risk and Responsibility London School of Economics	2016
	“Responsibility for the Right Reasons”* Oxford Political Theory Workshop University of Oxford	2016
FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS	Collaborative Engagement Fund (£11,500) <i>King’s College London</i>	2023–2025
	Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy	2024
	Nomination for King’s Education Award (×2) <i>King’s College London</i>	2023, 2024
	LSE PhD Studentship (£18,000 p.a. for four years) <i>London School of Economics</i>	2015–19
	Students Union Teaching Prize (£500) <i>London School of Economics</i>	2019
	John Watkins Memorial Prize (£500) <i>London School of Economics</i> - Awarded every two years for best piece of work by a PhD student in philosophy	2017
	Award for Excellence in Class Teaching (£150) (×2) <i>London School of Economics</i>	2016, 2017
	Principal’s Prize for Results on Written Examinations (£250) <i>St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford</i>	2015

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

At King's College London

- Ethics** 2023–present
MA-level module in moral philosophy, covering such topics as animal rights, just war theory, immigration, and affirmative action.
- Jurisprudence and Legal Theory** 2022–present
UG-level module in legal and political philosophy, covering topics like legal positivism, natural law theory, political obligation, and democracy.
- Making Amends: The Ethics, Law, and Politics of Compensation and Reparation** 2022–present
UG-level module covering such topics as the metaphysics of harm, tort law theory, apologies, reparations for slavery, and climate reparations.

At Stanford University

- Contemporary Moral Problems** 2021–22
UG and MA-level course in moral and political philosophy, covering topics such as egalitarianism, libertarianism, animal rights, immigration, affirmative action, and charitable giving.
Average student evaluation score: 4.81/5
- *Highest-rated Philosophy course at Stanford in 2021–22*
- Contemporary Moral Problems (Online)** 2020–21
UG and MA-level course.
Average student evaluation score: 4.85/5
- *Highest-rated Philosophy course at Stanford in 2020–21*
- Contemporary Moral Problems** 2019–20
UG and MA-level course.
Average student evaluation score: 4.86/5

At the London School of Economics

- Philosophy, Morals, and Politics** 2018–19
Yearlong UG course in contemporary moral and political philosophy.
Average student evaluation score: 4.94/5
- Morality and Values** 2016–17
Yearlong UG course in metaethics, normative ethics, and political philosophy.
Average student evaluation score: 4.90/5
- Reason, Knowledge, and Values** 2015–16
Yearlong UG course covering topics in metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of language, and philosophy of mind.
Average student evaluation score: 4.74/5

ADMINISTRATION
AND SERVICE

Programme Director, LLB in Politics, Philosophy & Law (2023–present)
Co-Director, King’s Legal and Political Philosophy Series (KJURIS) (2023–present)
Primary PhD supervision (2025–present)
Secondary PhD supervision (2023–present)
MA Dissertation supervision (2023–present)
Deputy Director, Yeoh Tiong Lay Centre for Politics, Philosophy and Law (2023–present)
Undergraduate Appeals Board, responsible for reviewing and deciding on all UG Law academic appeals (2023–present)
Undergraduate Board of Examiners (2023–present)
Undergraduate Programmes Committee (2023–present)
Faculty Assessment Board (2023–present)
MA/MSc Assessment Board (2023–present)
LLM Assessment Board (2023–present)
School International and External Relations Committee (2023–present)
Hiring panel for Permanent Lectureship in legal/political philosophy (2023)
Hiring panel for Early Career Fellowships (2024, 2025)
Personal tutor, responsible for the welfare and academic support of 30 UG and PG students annually (2022–present)

REFERENCES

Michael Otsuka michael.otsuka@rutgers.edu
Professor of Philosophy
Rutgers University

Jeff McMahan jeff.mcmahan@philosophy.ox.ac.uk
White’s Professor of Moral Philosophy
University of Oxford

Leif Wenar lwenar@stanford.edu
Olive H. Palmer Professor in Humanities
Stanford University

Brad Hooker b.w.hooker@reading.ac.uk
Emeritus Professor of Philosophy
University of Reading

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