

ADAM ETINSON

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 D.O.B: 23 March 1982, Montréal, Canada

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Lecturer in Philosophy	2016 —>
School of Philosophical, Anthropological and Film Studies, 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
<i>Thesis Title:</i> “Human Rights and the Problem of Ethnocentrism”	
<i>Supervisors:</i> Jeremy Waldron, Roger Crisp, John Tasioulas	
<i>Examiners:</i> Henry Shue, Jonathan Wolff	
University of Oxford , BPhil in Philosophy	2006-2008
McGill University , BA Honours Philosophy (<i>First Class Honours</i>)	2001-2005

RESEARCH

AOS: Social Philosophy; Political Philosophy; Ethics

AOC: Social Epistemology; History of Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS (* Indicates Peer-reviewed)

- 2018: *Human Rights: Moral or Political?* (Oxford University Press, March 2018), ed. Adam Etinson – 33 authors, with an introduction and commentary by the editor *
- 2017: “Some Myths About Ethnocentrism” in *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (online first view: 22nd of June, 2017) *
- 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*, Vol. 9, No. 3, pp. 327-352 (With S. Matthew Liao) *

- 2010: “Cosmopolitanism: Cultural, Moral, and Political” in *Sovereign Justice: Global Justice in a World of Nations*, G. Angelis & R. Queiroz (de Gruyter: New York), pp. 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 *

Review Articles

- 2017: “Book Review: *Reframing the Intercultural Dialogue on Human Rights: A Philosophical Approach*, by Jeffrey Flynn” in *Political Theory* (Forthcoming)
 2012: “A Rights-Based Utopia?” in, *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 294-299. Also in: *The Utopian* (online), with a response by Samuel Moyn (Columbia University) *
 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. *

Essays & Op-eds

- 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. 17 – Republished in: *The Stone Reader* (Liveright, 2015) & *Modern Ethics: A Stone Reader* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co, Forthcoming)
 2012: “100 Days of Student Protests in Québec: *Printemps Érablé* or Much Ado about Nothing?” in *Dissent* (Co-authored with Carlos Fraenkel).

ADDITIONAL FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Visiting Scholarship (Summer 2014)

PluriCourts, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo, Norway

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 →)

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 (*with Jessica Brown*) *

PY5326 – Twentieth Century Philosophers: David Wiggins (*MLitt Seminar*) *

PY4652 – The Philosophy of Human Rights (*with Elizabeth Ashford*) *

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**

What's So Special About Human Dignity? (DRAFT)

This article argues that human dignity is a normative concept closely tied to concerns about humiliation or degradation. It challenges common understandings of human dignity as (i) a brute indicator of moral status, and (ii) as a vehicle for concerns about autonomy.

On Falling Short (DRAFT)

Many of us should do more – that is, more than we currently do – for others. We know we are morally imperfect. And yet many of us make no effort to change. Is it ever right to accept our own moral badness? Or is that an inherently irrational, even dangerous idea?

When Less is More? Minimalism and Determinacy in Human Rights (DRAFT)

Co-authored with Robert Mark Simpson (Philosophy, Monash University).

This article evaluates whether so-called “minimalist” theories of human rights, which focus only on the most essential human goods (e.g., a minimally decent life) have the virtue of issuing more *determinate* verdicts about the validity of human rights claims.

Human Rights, Human Dignity, and Tuberculosis (DRAFT)

Co-authored with Brian Citro (Law, University of Chicago).

This article explores some of the dignity-related implications of healthcare laws and policies as they apply to victims of Tuberculosis, particularly in the Indian context.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“On Falling Short”

- Invited presentation at *NYU Center for Bioethics*, NYU, Oct 6, 2017-10-20.
- Invited presentation at *Law and Ethics Society*, Columbia University, Oct 11, 2017.
- Invited presentation at the conference, *The Ethics of Giving*, University of St Andrews, St Andrews, UK, May 23-25, 2017.

“When Less is More? Minimalism and Determinacy in Human Rights”

- Invited presentation at *How Demanding Should Human Rights Be? An Interdisciplinary Workshop*, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, Oct 13-14, 2017.

- Invited presentation at the *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*, San Francisco, March 28-April 3rd, 2016.

“What’s So Special About Human Dignity?”

- Invited presentation at *The University of Groningen*, Department of Philosophy, March 6, 2017, Groningen, The Netherlands.
- Refereed presentation at the *Edinburgh Legal Theory Workshop*, held at the University of Edinburgh, October 9th, 2016.
- Refereed presentation at *The Future of Human Dignity*, a conference held at the University of Utrecht, October 12-14, 2016.
- Invited presentation at the *European Consortium for Political Research: Annual Meeting*, University of Montreal, August 26th 2015. (Panel: Human Rights and Dignity)
- Invited presentation at *Human Rights and Human Dignity: A Workshop*, University of Chicago, May 29th 2015.

“On Being Faithful to the ‘Practice’ of Human Rights”

- Invited presentation at a *Workshop on the Philosophy of Human Rights* at the University of St Andrews, in response to James W. Nickel, September 26th, 2016.
- Refereed presentation at the annual meeting of the *American Political Science Association* in Philadelphia, PA, September 2nd, 2016.
- Refereed presentation at *Theory & Practice: The 2015 Annual Weissbourd Conference*, University of Chicago, May 9th 2015.
- Invited presentation at the *Human Rights Workshop*, University of Chicago, Jan 14 2015.
- Invited presentation at *Workshop on Human Rights*, McGill Univ. (Law), Nov 20 2014.

“Some Myths About Ethnocentrism”

- Invited presentation at the *Philosophy Club*, organized by undergraduates at the University of St Andrews, on November 10th, 2016.
- Invited presentation at *Social Theory Workshop*, University of Chicago, Oct 15 2015.
- Invited presentation at *Practical Philosophy Workshop*, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago, March 20th 2015.
- Invited presentation at *New Research in Practical Philosophy*, Queen’s College, CUNY, April 19th 2013.

“Truth or Reasonableness”

- Refereed presentation at *Free Speech, Public Deliberation, and Global Affairs*, University of Tromso, Tromso, Norway, 17-19 June 2014.
- Invited presentation at the *GRIPP (Groupe de Recherche Interuniversitaire en Philosophie Politique) Conference*, McGill University, January 27th 2012.

Invited Commentaries

- 2017: Commentary 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, Chicago, IL, Oct 13-14.
- 2016: Commentary on Luke Ulas and Pietro Maffettone’s paper on legitimacy at *Contemporary Political Thought*, a conference at Durham University, December 7th.
- 2016: Commentary 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 19-20, University of Chicago.

- 2014: Commentary on Gopal Sreenivasan's "Still no Human Right to Health(Care)" at *Is Health Care a Human Right*, a symposium at the University of Chicago, October 10th.
- 2013: Comment 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: Comment on Rainer Forst's "Toleration and Democracy" in *Democratic Citizenship and the Recognition of Cultural Differences*, CUNY Graduate Center, November 8th.

Invited Lectures

- 2015: "The Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights" in LAWS 96205: *International Human Rights Law and Advocacy*, Co-taught by Brian Citro and Claudia Flores, UChicago Law.
- 2014: "Feasibility and Claimability in Human Rights Theory" in Summer Course: *Human Rights, International Law, and Cosmopolitanism*, University of Oslo, June 20th

EDITORIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

Assistant Director

- *Center for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs (CEPPA)*, Department of Philosophy, University of St Andrews. Director: Theron Pummer (St Andrews)

Editor

- [Volume Editor] *Human Rights: Moral or Political?* (Oxford University Press)
- [Special Issue Editor] *Journal of Social Philosophy*, "Democratic Citizenship and the Recognition of Cultural Differences" (with Carol Gould & Joshua Keton)

Peer-Reviewer

- 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*.

Thesis Supervision

- 2017 -> 2020: Jakob Hinze, PhD Supervisee, working on epistemic arguments for democracy.
- 2017: Rufaida Al-Hashimi, "Human Dignity in Human Rights" (Undergraduate, St Andrews)
- 2017: Jakob Hinze, "Epistemic Implications of Democratic Decisions" (MLitt, St Andrews)
- 2017: Jonathan Fogarty, "Can Human Dignity Ground Human Rights" (MLitt, St Andrews)
- 2016: Timothy Hoff, "The Claimability of Human Rights: How Far Can We Go? A Critique of Kantian Claimability" (MAPH thesis, University of Chicago)

Departmental Duties

- Visiting Day Coordinator & Outreach Officer, *Department of Philosophy, University of St Andrews* (2016-Present)
- Curriculum Designer, *University of Chicago*. Collaboratively designed an interdisciplinary core undergraduate curriculum in human rights at the University of Chicago (Spring 2015)

Conference, Society, Event, and Workshop Organizer

Northern Political Philosophy Group. Co-organized with Ben Sachs (Philosophy, University of St Andrews) – 4-6 meetings a year, where we hold workshops on works-in-progress by political philosophers at universities across Scotland and northern England.

Strangers Drowning: An Evening with Larissa MacFarquhar. In cooperation with the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights and the Seminar Coop Bookstore, at the University of Chicago, I moderated a public discussion with Larissa MacFarquhar, author of *Strangers Drowning* (Penguin, 2015), a book about extreme altruism. May 10th, 2016.

Society for the Philosophy of Human Rights. Co-organized with Pablo Gilabert (Concordia University) and Robert Simpson (Monash University) – Annual meetings at the APA. 2016 Pacific Division meeting included Matthew Liao, James Nickel, Elizabeth Ashford, Leif Wenar, Christian Barry, R.J. Leland, and Japa Pallikkathayil.

Human Rights and Human Dignity: A Workshop, University of Chicago. Co-organized with Pablo Gilabert and with support from the PFCHR – May 29th 2015.

Mellon Sawyer Seminar Series, CUNY Graduate Center, “Democracy and the Recognition of Cultural Differences,” Postdoctoral Assistant to Carol C. Gould (2012-2013).

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
○ jeremy.waldron@nyu.edu

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

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

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

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

Mark Philip Bradley, Professor of
International History, University of Chicago
○ mbradley@uchicago.edu

Carol C. Gould, Distinguished Professor
of Philosophy, The Graduate Center, CUNY
○ carolcgoald@gmail.com

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

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

Samuel Moyn, Professor of Law, Yale
University
○ smoy@law.harvard.edu

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