

Gary O'Brien

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Research Interests

AOS: Applied Ethics, Animal Ethics, Normative Ethics

AOC: Environmental Ethics, Ethics of New Technology, Political Philosophy

Employment

Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University

Research Assistant Professor, 2023

Hong Kong Catastrophic Risk Centre

Research Fellow, 2023

Education

DPHIL IN PHILOSOPHY | 2023 | OXFORD UNIVERSITY

DPhil in Philosophy at the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics at Oxford. My supervisors were Professor Guy Kahane and Professor Jeff McMahan. My thesis was entitled 'Wild Animal Suffering and Human Responsibility: Essays on the Ethics of Beneficent Intervention in Nature'.

BPHIL IN PHILOSOPHY | 2017 | OXFORD UNIVERSITY

The BPhil is an intensive two-year graduate program in philosophy. I wrote papers on a wide range of topics in theoretical and practical philosophy, as well as in the history of philosophy, with a focus on ethics and political philosophy. I worked with Jeff McMahan, Guy Kahane, and Daniel Butt.

MASTER OF ARTS | OCTOBER 2014 | UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

MA in Philosophy, focusing on ethical, political, and analytic philosophy. I finished first in my class, graduating with a first-class honours (GPA 4.07/4.2) and was awarded the Professor Magennis Memorial Prize 2014.

BACHELOR OF ARTS | OCTOBER 2013 | UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

I finished first in my class, graduating with a first class honours (GPA 3.98/4.2). I was awarded both the Bachelor of Arts Graduate Scholarship 2013-2014 and the Pierce Malone Scholarship in Philosophy 2013.

Publications

'Totalism, Animals, and the Repugnant Conclusion' (Forthcoming in *Utilitas*)

'The Case for Animal-Inclusive Longtermism' (Forthcoming in the *Journal of Moral Philosophy*).

Available at: <https://brill.com/view/journals/jmp/aop/article-10.1163-17455243->

[20234296/article-10.1163-17455243-20234296.xml?Tab%20Menu=article-metadata&ebody=full%20html-copy1](https://doi.org/10.1163-17455243-20234296.xml?Tab%20Menu=article-metadata&ebody=full%20html-copy1)

'Directed Panspermia, Wild Animal Suffering, and the Ethics of World-Creation', *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 39(1), 87-102, February 2022. Available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/japp.12538>

'Beneficence, Non-Identity, and Responsibility: How Identity-Affecting Interventions in Nature can Generate Secondary Moral Duties', *Philosophia*, 50, 887-898. Available at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11406-021-00419-2>

'The Definition of Consequentialism: A Survey' Co-authored with Oscar Horta and Dayrón Terán (I am the second author), *Utilitas*, 34(4), 368-385, December 2022. Available at: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/utilitas/article/definition-of-consequentialism-a-survey/86E2149C3171DF43F6608D222D3B41AB>

'On Our Moral Entanglements with Wild Animals', *Food Ethics*, June 2023. Available at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41055-023-00125-7>

Introduction to Wild Animal Suffering: A Guide to the Issues, Oakland: Animal Ethics (2020), Co-authored with other researchers at Animal Ethics. Available at: [https://www.animal-ethics.org/wp-content/uploads/Introduction to Wild Animal Suffering.pdf](https://www.animal-ethics.org/wp-content/uploads/Introduction%20to%20Wild%20Animal%20Suffering.pdf)

Works in Progress

'All Play and No Work? AI and Existential Unemployment' (Under review)

'How to Live a Virtually Good Life in the Experience Machine' (In preparation with Rhys Borchert)

'Bully For You? Breed Specific Legislation and Dangerous Dog Breeds' (In preparation)

Invited and Peer Reviewed Presentations

'Suffering Risks Through the Creation of New Biospheres' presented at the Sheffield-Santiago De Compostela Wild Animal Ethics Workshop, February 2024.

'Totalism, Animals, and the Repugnant Conclusion' presented at the HKCRC workshop on the ethics of nonhuman subjects, December 2023.

'Artificial Intelligence and Existential Unemployment' presented at the 2nd International Conference on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, University of Porto, November 2023.

'How Many Animals Should There Be?' presented at the University of Sheffield, April 2023.

'Longtermism and Animals' presented at The Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals (SSEA), December 2022.

'On Our Moral Entanglements with Wild Animals' presented at the [book launch](#) for Josh Milburn's *Just Fodder: The Ethics of Feeding Animals*, University of Sheffield, July 2022.

'Identity Affecting Interventions in Nature' presented at the [Wild Animal Ethics conference](#) at the University of St Andrew's, September 2021.

'Beneficence, Non-Identity, and Responsibility: How Identity-Affecting Interventions in Nature can Generate Secondary Moral Duties' presented at the [symposium](#) for Kyle Johannsen's *Wild Animal Ethics*, organized by APPLE (Animals in Philosophy, Politics, Law, and Ethics) at Queen's University, Ontario, April 2021.

Academic Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

Center on Long-Term Risk Fund grant to support wild animal suffering research 2022 (£8,000)

Animal Ethics grant to support research on Longtermism and animals 2021 (€2,500)

Royal Institute of Philosophy Bursary 2021 (£3,000)

Professor Magennis Memorial Prize 2014. This prize is awarded to the candidate who gets first place in the MA in Philosophy in UCD, provided they obtain a first-class honours.

Bachelor of Arts Graduate Scholarship, 2013-2014. (€2,540)

Pierce Malone Scholarship in Philosophy 2013. (€2,000)

Teaching Experience

LECTURER | LINGNAN UNIVERSITY | SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2023

Critical Thinking. A series of 26 lectures aiming to teach first year students the fundamental skills of critical thinking. This includes basic logic and argument forms, natural deduction, fallacies and cognitive biases, and an introduction to ethical reasoning.

LECTURER | UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD | OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2022

Animal Ethics. I gave a series of lectures aimed at undergraduate students on key topics in animal ethics, including, speciesism, personhood and moral status, the ethics of eating animals, an introduction to wild animal ethics, and the problem of wild animal suffering.

TUTOR | VARIOUS OXFORD COLLEGES | 2019 – 2023

I was teaching assistant to Professor Mark Wrathall at Corpus Christi College during Michaelmas 2019 and Hilary 2020 teaching Intro to Moral Philosophy. In Trinity 2020 I was teaching assistant for Ethics to Professor Guy Kahane at Pembroke college. In Michaelmas 2021 I was teaching

assistant for Logic to Dr Natalia Waights Hickman at Worcester college. In Trinity 2022 and Michaelmas 2023 I delivered a tutorial course in Animal Ethics to visiting students.

TUTOR | UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN | SEPTEMBER 2014 – JANUARY 2015

I was responsible for running undergraduate tutorials for two philosophy classes, 'Philosophical Revolutions' and 'The Philosophies of Wittgenstein'. I also tutored for the 'Introduction to the Arts' module, a mandatory course for all first-year arts students in UCD. It is designed to help students make the leap from secondary to third level.

Service

Referee for *Journal of Value Inquiry, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Utilitas, Journal of Moral Philosophy*, and *Futures*.

Mentor in the Philosophy Mentoring Scheme in Oxford organised by Philiminality and PWIP (people for women in philosophy) 2021-2022.

Interviewed candidates for the PPE course at Oxford for Oriel college in November 2021. Interviewed candidates for the Master of Arts in Artificial Intelligence and the Future and the Master of Arts in Creative and Media Industries courses at Lingnan University, 2024.

Reviewer of submitted papers for the Oxford Philosophy Graduate Conference in 2016, 2019, 2021, and 2022 and session chair in the 2016 conference.

Co-organiser of the successful [Oxford Animal Ethics Reading Group](#) 2016-2017.

Public Engagement

[Bitesize Ethics Summer Program](#), Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics: The Ethics of Creating People, August 2024; [The Case for Animal-Inclusive Longtermism](#), August 2023; [Wild Animal Ethics](#), July 2022.

Directed [Panspermia with Gary O'Brien](#) *Knowing Animals* episode 173, August 2021