

Matthew Wray Perry

Political and Moral Philosopher

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow
Department of Politics,
University of Sheffield,
Sheffield, UK
[PhilPeople](#)
[Personal Website](#)
m.w.perry@sheffield.ac.uk

AOS: animal ethics, animal politics, rights theory, deontological ethics, theories of justice.
AOC: ethics of killing, consequentialism, children's rights, feminism, liberalism, republicanism, democratic theory, economic theory, environmental ethics, anarchism, political legitimacy, nationalism.

Academic Employment

<i>Present</i>	Leverhulme Early Career Fellow , Politics, University of Sheffield.
<i>2024-2025</i>	Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Ethics and Political & Social Philosophy , University of British Columbia. Affiliated with Prof. Kimberley Brownlee.
<i>2023</i>	Senior Postgraduate Teaching Assistant , Politics, University College London.
<i>2020–2023</i>	Teaching Assistant , Politics, University of Manchester.
<i>2021–2023</i>	Conference Organiser , MANCEPT Workshops, University of Manchester (one of the largest conferences in Political and Moral Philosophy worldwide).
<i>2020–2022</i>	Widening Participation Fellow , University of Manchester. Work increasing access to Higher Education for students from under-represented backgrounds.

Education

<i>2023</i>	PhD in Political Theory , Manchester Centre for Political Theory, University of Manchester (ESRC funded). Passed without corrections. Examiners: Prof. Alasdair Cochrane (external) and Dr Christian Schemmel (internal). Supervisors: Dr Liam Shields and Dr Richard Child. Visiting PhD Student, Philosophy Department and W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics, University of British Columbia, Autumn 2022.
<i>2019</i>	MA in Political Theory , University of Manchester. Passed with Distinction (and a commendation for the highest grade in my cohort). ESRC Funded.
<i>2018</i>	BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) , University of Manchester First Class Honours (with three awards for achievement).
<i>2017</i>	Erasmus Exchange Student , Paris Institute of Political Studies (Science Po). GPA of 16.5/20 (First Class UK equivalent).

Academic Publications

- Forthcoming* “The Impossibility of Childhood Independence” (co-author Kimberley Brownlee) *Law, Ethics and Philosophy*.
- Forthcoming* “From Concept to Conception: Dignity and the Basic Needs Approach”, in Pribytkova, E. (ed), *In Search for a Social Minimum: Human Dignity, Poverty and Human Rights*, Springer: London.
- 2025 “Sentient Dignity and the Plausible Inclusion of Animals”, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics*. (Online first) <https://doi.org/10.1177/1470594X251314191>
- 2024 “Why Sentience should be the Only Basis of Moral Status”, *The Journal of Ethics*. 28(4), 719–741 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10892-024-09487-4>
- 2023 “The Dignitarian Return”, *European Journal of Political Theory*. (Online First) <https://doi.org/10.1177/14748851231216878>
- 2023 ““Human” Dignity Beyond the Human”, *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*. (Online First) <https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2023.2232221>

Book Reviews

- Forthcoming* “Raffael Fasel, *More Equal Than Others*”, Book Review, *Philosophical Quarterly*.
- 2023 “Jeff Sebo, *Saving Animals, Saving Ourselves*” Book Review, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 20(3-4): 350-353. <https://doi.org/10.1163/17455243-20030005>

Works in Progress

- i. Paper on equal moral rights (under review).
- ii. Paper on pet-keeping regulation (co-author Davide Pala) (under review).
- iii. Paper on the claimability of rights (under review).
- iv. Paper surveying literature on animals and human rights (under review) (co-author Valérie G. Topf).
- v. Paper on anthropomorphism and ethics (under review)
- vi. “The Desubjectification of Animals” (draft available).
- vii. “The Socially Fragile Power of Hope” (draft available) (second author Kimberley Brownlee). Published in the LSE Law Working Paper series.
- viii. “A Social Ontology of Speciesism and Animal Oppression” (in progress).
- ix. “Dignifying Our Social World for Animals” (in progress).
- x. “The Intrinsic Value of Sentience” (in progress).

Grants and Awards

2026	Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship (36 month job funding and annual research budget).
2025	Mind Association Conference Grant (£1000).
2025	Postdoctoral Fellow Travel Award (\$1000 CAD).
2025	Dean of Arts Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award (\$1950 CAD).
2023	Excellence in Student Feedback Award, University College London.
2020	Nominee for the Student Union's Excellent Academic Advising Award.
2019	Letter of Commendation for attaining the highest grade in my cohort (MA).
2018	UKRI Economic and Social Research Council 1+3 Doctoral Scholarship (48 month stipend and £2000 annual research budget).
2018	Norman Geras Prize for best Political Theory thesis grade (BA).
2018	Deans Award for Achievement (BA).
2018	PPE Final Year Award for highest grade in my cohort (BA).
2017	Le Certificat en Sciences Sociales et Humanités, Sciences Po (Paris) for recognition of academic attainment.

Teaching Experience

Teaching qualification: Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, granted after assessment of teaching, 2022.

2025	PHIL 102-003: Introduction to Philosophy (for PPE) (in person), University of British Columbia – Introductory survey course for students in the Politics, Philosophy and Economics Coordinated Arts Program.
2025	PHIL 585: MA-level Directed Reading in Animal Ethics (in person), University of British Columbia – Graduate-level supervision of student project on the similarity of our practical duties to children and companion animals.
2023	POLS0063: Ethics & Public Policy (in person), University College London – Intermediate course focusing on normative issues in policy analysis and development, including economic and political challenges to ethics & public policy.

- 2023 **SOCS10121: Issues in PPE** (in Person), University of Manchester – Introductory course for BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics students. Led seminars and formally supervised students group presentation projects. Focus on interdisciplinary approach to PPE.
- 2023 & 2020 **POLI10702: Introduction to Political Theory** (Taught twice – once in-person and once online, over BB Collaborate), University of Manchester – introductory course with three blocks 1) legitimacy, 2) governance and 3) justice.
- 2023 & 2022 **POLI20961: Injustice and Resistance (formerly Challenges for Democratic Politics)** (Taught twice - dual delivery), University of Manchester – intermediate level course on applied political philosophy and ethics.
- 2021 **POLI20881: Ideals of Social Justice** (Online, over Zoom), University of Manchester – intermediate level course on contemporary theories of justice.

Conference and Workshop Organisation

- 2026 **Social Ties in Animal Politics: Mutuality Beyond Humanity**, University of Sheffield, Sept 2026. Keynotes: Frauke Albersmeier and Eva Meijer. Co-organised through the Animal Politics Research Group (with Alasdair Cochrane, Steve Cooke, Sara van Goozen, Josh Milburn, and Angie Pepper).
- 2025 **Forgotten Animals**, Leicester University, Sept 17th and 18th. Keynotes: Chris Armstrong and Saskia Stucki. Co-organised through the Animal Politics Research Group (with Alasdair Cochrane, Steve Cooke, Sara van Goozen, Josh Milburn, and Angie Pepper).
- 2025 **The Philosophy of Interspecies Sociality Workshop**, UBC, Vancouver (Hybrid), May 8th & 9th. Confirmed speakers included: Will Kymlicka, Sue Donaldson, Kristin Voigt, Cheryl Abbate, Josh Milburn, and Brian Burkhart. The workshop will result in a special issue (currently under review at Journal of Applied Philosophy).
- 2024 **Animals, Equality and Democracy: Themes in Memory of Siobhan O’Sullivan Panel**, MANCEPT Workshops, University of Manchester, Manchester (in-person), Sept 4th to 6th. Selected list of speakers: Robert Garner, Peter Niesen, Alasdair Cochrane, Josh Milburn & Angie Pepper.
- 2023 & 2022 **MANCEPT Workshops**, University of Manchester, Manchester (Hybrid), early September. Paid organiser (the second time as lead), facilitating over 20 different panels on a range of themes in Political and Moral Philosophy.
- 2022 **Recasting Human Rights Without a Shadow Panel**, MANCEPT Workshops, University of Manchester, Manchester (Hybrid), Sept 7th to 9th. Speakers: Joseph Bowen, Raffael Fasel, Suzy Killmister, Jesse Tomalty & Kerri Woods.

- 2022 **Brave New World Postgraduate Conference**, University of Manchester, Manchester (in-person), July 6th to 7th. Keynotes: Jules Holroyd & Dorothea Gädeke.
- 2022 **Moral Equality at the Margins Workshop**, University of Manchester, Manchester (Online), Jan 28th to 29th. Selected list of speakers: Anca Gheaus, Pablo Gilabert, Suzy Killmister, Katie McShane, Jeff Sebo & Ariel Zylberman.
- 2021 **Brave New World Postgraduate Conference**, University of Manchester, Manchester (Online), July 7th to 8th. Keynotes: Jesse Tomalty & Ben Saunders.

Presentations

- 2025 **Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals**, Talk Series (Online), October 2nd. Title: The Desubjectification of Animals (invited).
- 2025 **Forgotten Animals** (in person), The University of Leicester, September 17th and 18th. Title: The Desubjectification of Animals (event co-organiser).
- 2025 **Talking Animals, Law & Philosophy** (online), Cambridge Centre for Animal Law, June 12th. Title: Sentient Dignity: The Foundation for Multi-species Justice? (invited).
- 2025 **The Philosophy of Interspecies Sociality** (in person), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, May 8th and 9th. Title: How (not) to Anthropomorphise Other Animals (event co-organiser).
- 2025 **Centre de Recherche en Ethique** (online), Workshop on Animal Ethics, April 28th and 29th: Licencing Pet-Keeping (invited).
- 2025 **APA Pacific, Society for Human Rights Group Session** (in person), San Francisco Apr 16th to 20th. Title: Are Animal Rights Claimable? (event co-organiser).
- 2025 **Basic Equality and AI** (online), April 4th (organisers Giacomo Floris and Dick Timmer): The Symmetry of Deontic Status (invited)
- 2025 **Rights and Reasons Workshop** (in person), Bielefeld, Jan 17th and 18th. Title: On the Bright Side of Rights (abstract accepted).
- 2024 **MANCEPT Workshops** (in person), University of Manchester, Sept 4th to 6th. Panel – *The New Dignity*. Title: Dignifying our Social World for Animals (abstract accepted).
Panel – *Animals, Equality and Democracy*. Title: The Domestic Domination of Animals: Licencing Animal Guardians (panel co-organiser).
- 2023 **Human Dignity: Theory and Practice** (in person), McGill, Montreal, Apr 28th to 29th. Title: Sentient Dignity without Hierarchy (abstract accepted).

- 2022 **W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics** (hybrid), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Nov 17th: The Bright Side of “Human” Rights (invited).
- 2022 **Human Rights and Human Exceptionalism Workshop** (in person), University of Bergen, Bergen, Apr 21st to 22nd. Title: Sentient Dignity without Hierarchy (abstract accepted).
- 2022 **Moral Equality at the Margins Conference** (online), Jan 28th to 29th: Title: Sentient Dignity without Hierarchy (event co-organiser).
- 2021 **Human Dignity and Human Rights: Rethinking the Connection Workshop** (Online), organised by Dr Suzy Killmister (Monash), July 5th to 9th: Title: Human Dignity Beyond the Human (abstract accepted).
- 2021 **Value X Conference** (online), University of Sheffield, Sheffield, July 14th to 16th. Title: A Reductive Account of Moral Status (abstract accepted).
- 2021 **MANCEPT Seminar Series** (online), University of Manchester, Manchester, March 24th. Title: A Reductive Account of Moral Status (invited).
- 2020 **MANCEPT Workshops** (online), University of Manchester, Manchester, Sept 9th to 11th, Panel – *Human Rights*. Title: Human Dignity Beyond the Human (abstract accepted).
- 2019 **IVR World Congress** (in person), Lucerne, July 7th to 13th. Title: Dignity: the Grounds of "Human" rights as Human Needs (abstract accepted).
- 2018 **MANCEPT Away Day** (in person), University of Manchester, Manchester, June 16th to 17th. Title: What is the Point of Dignity? (invited).

Academic Service

- Present* **Contributor for *Justice Everywhere***, a public philosophy blog (writing twice annually). Website: <https://justice-everywhere.org/>
- Present* **Referee for *Environmental Values, Philosophy & Social Criticism, Philosophical Quarterly, Journal of Philosophy, Philosophy & Phenomenological Research, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, European Journal of Social Theory, Journal of Applied Philosophy, Journal of Social Philosophy, Philosophia*, and *Philosophy*.**
- 2021–2022 **Course Planning Assistant**, University of Manchester
Produced a new list of course reading recommendations considering decolonial and diverse perspectives.

- 2020–2022 **Co-editor of Political Perspectives**, Graduate Politics Journal at University of Manchester. Website: <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/political-perspectives/>
- 2017–2018 **Co-lead editor of Juncture**, Undergraduate Politics Journal at University of Manchester. Co-founded the journal, which is still running. Website: <https://www.junctureuom.co.uk/>

Further Information

- Languages** English (native), French (B2 level).
- References** Prof. Kimberley Brownlee, Dr. Richard Child, Prof. Alasdair Cochrane, Dr. Suzy Killmister, Prof. Miriam Ronzoni, Dr. Liam Shields.