

Matthew Wray Perry

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow
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AOS: political theory, animal rights, human rights, environmental ethics, theories of justice, applied ethics, legal philosophy.
AOC: democratic theory, feminism, economic theory, public policy, meta-ethics, value theory, history of political thought.

Academic Employment

<i>Present</i>	Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow , Politics, University of Sheffield. Mentored by Prof Alasdair Cochrane.
<i>2024-2025</i>	Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Ethics and Political & Social Philosophy , Department of 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. ESRC 1+3 Funded. Examiners: Prof. Alasdair Cochrane (external) and Dr Christian Schemmel (internal). Supervisors: Dr Liam Shields and Dr Richard Child. Title: “Dignity Beyond the Human: A Deontic Account of the Moral Status of Animals”: https://research.manchester.ac.uk/files/280560539/FULL_TEXT.PDF
<i>2022</i>	Visiting PhD Student , Department of Philosophy, W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics, University of British Columbia.
<i>2019</i>	MA in Political Theory , University of Manchester. Passed with Distinction (and a commendation for the highest grade in my cohort). ESRC 1+3 Funded.
<i>2018</i>	BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) , University of Manchester First Class Honours (with three awards). Erasmus Exchange Student, Paris Institute of Political Studies (Science Po). GPA of 16.5/20 (i.e. First Class).

Journal Articles

- Forthcoming The Impossibility of Childhood Independence (with Kimberley Brownlee), *Law, Ethics and Philosophy*.
- 2026 Animals and Human Rights (with V. G. Topf), *Philosophy Compass*. [doi:10.1111/phc3.70115](https://doi.org/10.1111/phc3.70115).
- 2026 Licensing Pet-keeping (with Davide Pala), *Ethics, Policy & Environment*. [doi:10.1080/21550085.2026.2682996](https://doi.org/10.1080/21550085.2026.2682996).
- 2025 Sentient Dignity and the Plausible Inclusion of Animals, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics*, 25(1), 55-83. [doi:10.1177/1470594X251314191](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 [doi:10.1007/s10892-024-09487-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10892-024-09487-4).
- 2023 The Dignitarian Return, *European Journal of Political Theory*. 24(2), 299-309. [doi:10.1177/14748851231216878](https://doi.org/10.1177/14748851231216878).
- 2023 “Human” Dignity Beyond the Human, *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* 29(2): 165-187. [doi:10.1080/13698230.2023.2232221](https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2023.2232221).

Book Chapters & Published Working Papers

- Forthcoming From Concept to Conception: Dignity and the Basic Needs Approach (single authored), in Pribytkova, E. (ed), *In Search for a Social Minimum: Human Dignity, Poverty and Human Rights*, Springer: London. Written 2018.
- 2025 The Socially Fragile Power of Hope (second author Kimberley Brownlee), *LSE Law Working Papers* 40/2025. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5893263
- 2025 Hope and Rights, and Hope as a Right: A Conversation (co-authors CA Gearty, S Trotter, M Vannier), *LSE Law Working Papers* 40/2025. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5893322

Book Reviews

- 2026 Raffael Fasel, *More Equal Than Others*, Book Review, *Philosophical Quarterly*. 76(1): 448-450. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pq/pqaf014>
- 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 Under Review (titles redacted)

- i. Paper responding to the claimability objection to human rights defending a right to attention.
- ii. Paper defending a specificationist theory of equal moral rights.
- iii. Paper on the ethical use of anthropomorphism in relationships with animals.
- iv. Paper defending a new account of dehumanisation that avoids problems with reliance on humanity.

Works in Progress

- i. Animals and Republicanism (with Davide Pala).
- ii. The Intrinsic Value of Sentience.
- iii. Functionalist Rights of Nature.
- iv. Book Project: *Sentient Dignity: Justice without Species Boundaries*. The book will be comprised of seven chapters.

Editorial Work

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| Expected 2028 | “Oxford Handbook of Animal Politics”. Under Contract. Lead co-editor with Sara Van Goozen (University of York). Four section editors: Alasdair Cochrane (University of Sheffield), Steve Cooke (University of Leicester), Josh Milburn (Loughborough University) and Angie Pepper (Roehampton University). |
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Grants and Awards

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| 2026 | Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship (36-month salary and £6000 GBP annual research budget). |
| 2025 | Mind Association Conference Grant (£1000 GBP). |
| 2025 | Postdoctoral Fellow Travel Award (\$1000 CAD). |
| 2025 | Dean of Arts Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award (\$1950 CAD). |
| 2022 | Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (Fellow Level). |
| 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 the 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	Dean's Award for Achievement (BA).
2018	PPE Final Year Award for highest grade in the cohort (BA).
2017	Le Certificat en Sciences Sociales et Humanités, Sciences Po (Paris) for recognition of academic attainment.

Teaching Experience

Awarded a Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (Fellow Level) in 2022.

2025	PHIL 102-003: Introduction to Philosophy (for PPE students) (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.

Selected Conference and Workshop Organisation

- 2026 **Social Ties in Animal Politics: Mutuality Beyond Humanity**, University of Sheffield, Sept 8th and 9th. Keynotes: Frauke Albersmeier and Eva Meijer. Co-organised with Animal Politics Research Group (with Alasdair Cochrane, Steve Cooke, Sara van Goozen, Josh Milburn, and Angie Pepper). Funded through the Mind Association and the Wellcome Trust ‘Multispecies Mutualisms’ Grant.
- 2025 **Forgotten Animals**, Leicester University, Sept 17th and 18th. Keynotes: Chris Armstrong and Saskia Stucki. Co-organised with Animal Politics Research Group (with Alasdair Cochrane, Steve Cooke, Sara van Goozen, Josh Milburn, and Angie Pepper). Funding won through the Society for Applied Philosophy.
- 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.
- 2024 **Animals, Equality and Democracy: Themes in Memory of Siobhan O’Sullivan Panel**, MANCEPT Workshops, University of 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 (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 (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 (in-person), July 6th to 7th. Keynotes: Jules Holroyd & Dorothea Gädeke.
- 2022 **Moral Equality at the Margins Workshop**, University of 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 (Online), July 7th to 8th. Keynotes: Jesse Tomalty & Ben Saunders.

Selected 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 : Licensing 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 (accepted).
- 2024 **MANCEPT Workshops** (in person), University of Manchester, Sept 4th to 6th: Panel – *New Dignity*. Title: Dignifying our Social World for Animals (accepted). Panel – *Animals, Equality and Democracy*. Title: The Domestic Domination of Animals: Licensing Animal Guardians (panel co-organiser).
- 2023 **Human Dignity: Theory and Practice** (in person), McGill, Montreal, Apr 28th to 29th. Title: Sentient Dignity without Hierarchy (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 (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 (accepted).
- 2021 **Value X Conference** (online), University of Sheffield, July 14th to 16th. Title: A Reductive Account of Moral Status (accepted).
- 2021 **MANCEPT Seminar Series** (online), University of Manchester, March 24th. Title: A Reductive Account of Moral Status (invited).

2020	MANCEPT Workshops (online), University of Manchester, Sept 9 th to 11 th , Panel – <i>Human Rights</i> . Title: Human Dignity Beyond the Human (accepted).
2019	IVR World Congress (in person), Lucerne, July 7 th to 13 th . Title: Dignity: the Grounds of "Human" rights as Human Needs (accepted).
2018	MANCEPT Away Day (in person), University of Manchester, Manchester, June 16 th to 17 th . Title: What is the Point of Dignity? (invited).

Academic Service

<i>Present</i>	Contributor for <i>Justice Everywhere</i> , a public philosophy blog (writing twice annually). Website: https://justice-everywhere.org/
<i>Present</i>	Referee for <i>Res Publica</i> , <i>Environmental Values</i> , <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i> , <i>Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Philosophy & Social Criticism</i> , <i>Philosophy & Phenomenological Research</i> , <i>Ethical Theory and Moral Practice</i> , <i>European Journal of Social Theory</i> , <i>Journal of Applied Philosophy</i> , <i>Journal of Social Philosophy</i> , <i>Philosophia</i> , and <i>Philosophy</i> .
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 (advanced; B2 in ECF).
References	Prof. Kimberley Brownlee, Prof. Alasdair Cochrane, Dr. Liam Shields, Dr. Suzy Killmister, Prof. Miriam Ronzoni, Dr. Richard Child.