

John Halstead Academic Curriculum Vitae

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Education

- 2010-2015 St. Anne's College, Oxford, DPhil Political Theory.
Thesis title: 'Government for the people: the primacy of substance in the justification of democracy'
- 2009-10 Brasenose College, Oxford, MSc Political Theory Research, thesis with distinction.
Thesis title: 'Bernard Williams and Michael Oakeshott on the nature and limits of political theory: a comparison and appraisal'.
- 2006-09 York University, B.A. Politics and Economics, First class honours.

Academic positions

- Jan 2017 **Researcher**, Blavatnik School of Government
I am drafting a policy paper on post-Brexit student immigration policy for Dr Tom Simpson.
- Oct 2016 **Research Assistant**, Future of Humanity Institute, Oxford
Author of book proposal for Dr Toby Ord, and working with Hilary Greaves, Toby Ord, and Amanda Askeff with their research.
- 2015 **Seminar Leader** in political philosophy for students of Masters of Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford
The course covered utilitarianism, distributive justice, authority, and rights.

Publications

- 2017 'High Stakes Instrumentalism' *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, (forthcoming)
- 2016 'The Numbers Always Count', *Ethics* 126, No. 3 (March 2016): pp. 789-802.
- 2015 'The Impotence of the Value Pump', *Utilitas* 27, No. 2 (June, 2015): pp.195-216.

Conference presentations

- 2016 'Solar Radiation Management, Existential Risk and Moral Hazard', Cambridge Conference on Catastrophic Risk.
- 'Solar Radiation Management and existential risk', Effective Altruism GlobalX, Oxford.
- 'The Small Improvement Argument, Ignorance and Incomparability', White Rose Early Career Ethics Researchers, York University.

- 2015 ‘Learning to Love Repugnance in All Its Forms’, Theoretical Population Ethics Conference, Oxford
- ‘High Stakes Instrumentalism’, Harvard Graduate Political Theory Conference
- ‘Sharing Political Control’ at *Enacting the People: Political Representation and Democratic Legitimacy*, Graduate Conference, York University.
- ‘Political liberalism, animals and moral patients’, Warwick Graduate Conference in Political Theory.
- 2014 ‘The Impotence of the Value Pump’ at the Oxford Ockham Society.
- ‘The unacceptable moral costs of political liberalism’ at the Warwick Graduate Political Theory Conference.
- ‘The Primacy of Substance’ at the Princeton Graduate Conference in Political Theory.
- 2012 ‘Government for the people’ at the Warwick Graduate Conference in Political and Legal Theory.
- Abstract reviewer for the Oxford Graduate Conference in Political Theory.
- 2011 ‘The irrelevance of the fairness of electoral systems’ at the Manchester University conference on normative perspective on electoral reform.

Working papers

- ‘The Small Improvement Argument, Ignorance and Incomparability’, co-authored with Tweedy Flanigan
R&R, Economics and Philosophy.
- ‘Effective altruism and systemic change’, invited for a volume on effective altruism edited by Lisa Fuller
Defends effective altruism against the charge that it unduly neglects systemic change. In preparation.
- ‘Equality and Vagueness’
Some equality predicates are vague but neither sorites susceptible nor tolerant. Under consideration.
- ‘Sharing Political Control’
I use a decision-theoretic framework to work out which political procedure we ought to use on the assumption that each person has an equal right to political power. Under consideration.
- ‘Solar Radiation Management, Existential Risk and Moral Hazard’
Clarifies the nature of the moral hazard worry about solar radiation management (SRM) research, and argues that SRM research is on balance justified. In preparation.

- 'Effective altruism: an elucidation and defence', co-authored with Stefan Schubert, and others.
We clarify the nature of effective altruism and defend it against common criticisms, including the systemic change objection and the 'billionaire problem'. Under consideration.

Scholarships and funding awards

- 2014 - St Anne's Conference Travel Grant: £1,000.
- 2013-14 - Department of Politics writing up studentship: £2,000.
- 2011-13 - St Anne's Graduate Research Scholarship: £5,000.
- 2009-10 - AHRC BGP full award for MSc study: £18,000.

Teaching

My role at the Blavatnik School involved teaching a political philosophy course to two groups of six students in the Masters of Public Policy. In addition to my basic teaching responsibilities, I designed three of the summative examination questions and marked the cohort's summative exam and essay scripts.

I have also provided tutorials in *Theory of Politics* and in *History of Political Thought* modules to four different undergraduates at St Anne's and St Hugh's. I have taught groups of 1-3, provided revision sessions and marked collections.

I am able to teach in any area of meta-ethics, ethics, decision theory, and history of political thought. With some preparation, I would be able to teach epistemology and philosophy of science.

Professional Service

Reviewer for *Political Studies*.

Think tanks

- Nov 2016- **Voluntary researcher,**
Jan 2017 I was involved in a project run by David Denkenberger researching how to improve resilience to large global food shocks.
- Jan 2016- **Research Fellow, *The Global Priorities Project***
Sep 2016 I was the lead author on the *Global Catastrophic Risks 2016* report, which was covered in most major UK newspapers. I was also the lead author on a report for the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs on concrete steps the diplomatic community could take to existential risks to humanity. On the topic of *Global Catastrophic Risks 2016*, I was interviewed by a range of UK and international radio stations.

2014-15 **Operations Manager**, *Politeia*, a Westminster political think tank
My tasks included arranging speakers from government, academia and industry; fundraising with private individuals and industry figures; and general office management.

Public Service

2016 **Consultant**, Adviser on the road safety strategy of the government of Rwanda

2015 **Research Intern** at *Animal Charity Evaluators*
This job involved researching the effectiveness of different animal charities. Philosophical issues, such as wild animal suffering and animal population ethics, are involved in aspects of the research. I also produced a blog about the effectiveness of divestment as an advocacy strategy.

Voluntary Researcher at *The International Growth Centre*
I prepared a briefing paper on road safety which was considered by the government of Rwanda. We are currently looking into developing the paper with the aim of presenting it to other developing world governments.

2014 **Voluntary Researcher** at *Giving What We Can*
I conducted research into the most successful historical public health interventions and into the effectiveness of road safety charities. The full 30 page reports are available on the GWWC website.

Discussion Groups

2016 Organiser of a Symposium on David Enoch's 'Against Public Reason'.

2013/
2014 Joint organiser of the St Anne's Science Discussion Group.
A weekly discussion group devoted to interdisciplinary discussion of science. Past speakers have included Lord John Krebs, Lord Robert Winston, Lord Matt Ridley, Prof. Charles Godfrey, Prof. Brian Cox and Lord Robert May.

2012 Organiser of the Oxford Graduate David Estlund Discussion Group.
A term-long discussion group discussing the main themes in the work of David Estlund.

Journalism

2008/
2009 I wrote for the York student newspaper *Nouse* when studying at York University. I was nominated for a Guardian Student Media Award.

Referees

Dr. Daniel McDermott, Keble College

- Daniel.mcdermott@politics.ox.ac.uk
- Doctoral supervisor.

Dr Laura Valentini, LSE

- L.M.Valentini@lse.ac.uk
- DPhil examiner.

Dr Johan Gustafsson, York

- Johan.eric.gustafsson@gmail.com

Dr Thomas Simpson, Wadham College

- Thomas.simpson@bsg.ox.ac.uk
- Supervisor at the Blavatnik School; teaching reference.

Prof. Adam Swift, Warwick University

- Adam.swift@warwick.ac.uk
- Transfer of status assessor.