

# Michal Masny

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## RESEARCH AREAS

- AOS** Ethics (including Normative Ethics, Metaethics, Bioethics, and the Ethics of Technology)  
**AOC** Epistemology; Political Philosophy; Schopenhauer

## EDUCATION

- Princeton University**, PhD in Philosophy 2018 – 2023  
▪ Advisors: Johann Frick (chair), Tom Kelly, Jake Nebel, Gideon Rosen (expected)  
▪ Visiting student researcher at UC Berkeley, 2021-2023
- Oxford University**, BPhil in Philosophy 2016 – 2018  
▪ Advisors: Jeff McMahan, Tim Williamson, and Anders Sandberg
- Warwick University**, BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics 2013 – 2016

## DISSERTATION

### Preserving the Valuable

*Abstract:* Many people believe that we have a distinctive moral reason to preserve certain non-instrumentally valuable things—such as beautiful paintings, important traditions, and loving relationships—even when a superior replacement is available. G. A. Cohen dubbed this view ‘Conservatism about Value’. My dissertation offers a systematic discussion of this position, traversing normative ethics, metaethics, and bioethics. On the theoretical side, I examine what explains the presence of conservative reasons, how strong these reasons are, which things we have reasons to conserve, and who these reasons apply to. On the practical side, I argue that this view illuminates old and new puzzles concerning the shape of a life, the significance of progress, how a person should direct their life at its different stages, end-of-life choices, and the emerging technologies of life extension.

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 **On Parfit’s Wide Dual Person-Affecting Principle**  
*Philosophical Quarterly*, 70 (278): 114-139.  
▪ Winner of the annual essay prize organized by the Philosophical Quarterly  
▪ Selected for the “Best of 2020: Philosophy” list by Oxford University Press
- 2020 **Friedman on Suspended Judgment**  
*Synthese*, 197 (11): 5009-5026.
- 2021 **Schopenhauer on Suicide and Negation of the Will**  
*British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 29 (3): 494-516.
- 2021 **What Should We Agree on About the Repugnant Conclusion?**  
*Utilitas*, 33 (4): 379-383. With John Broome and 27 co-authors.
- forth. **Wasted Potential: The Value of a Life and the Significance of What Could Have Been**  
*Philosophy & Public Affairs*
- forth. **Healthspan Extension, Completeness of Life, and Justice**  
*Bioethics*

## UNDER REVIEW

**The Shape of History** (R&R at *Philosophy & Public Affairs*)

**Junk, Numerosity, and the Demands of Epistemic Consequentialism** (R&R at *Erkenntnis*)

**Conservatism about Prudential Value**

## AWARDS

**Summer Institute in Technology Ethics Fellowship** 2022

Fellowship to attend a two-week, intensive, interdisciplinary workshop for 25 PhD students and early career researchers working in technology ethics. Organised by Shannon Vallor and John Sullins, and hosted by Santa Clara University.

**Princeton University Graduate School Teaching Award** 2021

Competitive prize awarded to a handful of graduate students across all disciplines who made “a significant and exceptional contribution to undergraduate teaching”.

**Laurence S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship** 2021-2022

Competitive fellowship awarded annually to 10 graduate students at Princeton University “with distinguished academic records in any discipline whose dissertation research centrally involves the critical study of human values”. (Declined to take up a visiting student researcher position at UC Berkeley.)

**University Center for Human Values Merit Grant** 2018

Fellowship top-up prize awarded to selected incoming graduate students at Princeton.

**The Philosophical Quarterly Essay Prize** 2018

Winner of the annual essay prize. Theme: “The Philosophy of Derek Parfit”.

## PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

**Central APA** (Denver, CO) Feb 2023\*  
“The Shape of History”

**Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress** (Boulder, CO) Aug 2022  
“The Shape of History”

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Ethics of Emerging Technologies** Spring 2021  
Designer and co-instructor (alongside Johann Frick) for a new upper-level course.

**Introduction to Moral Philosophy** Fall 2020  
Teaching assistant for Johann Frick. Led one weekly discussion session and graded essays and exams. Produced and edited 24 pre-recorded lectures, available [here](#).

**Introduction to Moral Philosophy** Fall 2019  
Teaching assistant for Johann Frick. Led three weekly discussions sessions and graded essays and exams.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

**Journal Referee**  
Journal of Moral Philosophy (x3); Philosophical Studies (x2); Science & Engineering Ethics (x2); Utilitas (x2); Synthese; Erkenntnis; Inquiry; Journal of Value Inquiry; Acta Analytica.

**Ethics Work-in-Progress Group** (organizer) 2020 – now  
Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have been convening fortnightly work-in-progress meetings of a group that includes graduate students, postdocs, and junior

faculty from UC Berkeley, LMU Munich, NYU, Oxford, Princeton, Rutgers, Stanford, UCL, and UNC Chapel Hill.

**Princeton COMPASS workshop** (application reviewer) Aug 2022

**Princeton Workshop on Population and Procreation Ethics** (co-organizer) May 2019

Speakers: Ralf Bader, David Boonin, Johann Frick, Hilary Greaves, Liz Harman, Jeff McMahan, Melinda Roberts, Tina Rulli, Samuel Scheffler, and Larry Temkin.

**Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference** (co-organizer) Nov 2017

## REFERENCES

### **Johann Frick**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
UC Berkeley  
jfrick@berkeley.edu

### **Thomas Kelly**

Professor of Philosophy  
Princeton University  
tkelly@princeton.edu

### **Jacob Nebel**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
University of Southern California  
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### **Gideon Rosen**

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*Last updated: 18 November 2022*