Michal Masny

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# Areas of Research

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| **AOS** | Ethics (incl. Normative Ethics, Metaethics, Bioethics, and Ethics of Technology) |
| **AOC** | Epistemology; Political Philosophy; Schopenhauer |

# Education

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

# Dissertation

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| **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 one should direct their life at its different stages, end-of-life choices, and the emerging life extension technology. |

# Publications

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| 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: 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: 379-383. With Stephane Zuber and 27 co-authors. |

# Under review

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|  | **A paper on the nature of well-being**  R&R at *Philosophy & Public Affairs* |
|  | **A paper on the significance of progress** |
|  | **A paper on preserving loving relationships and important personal projects** |
|  | **A paper on epistemic demandingness** |

# Awards

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| **Graduate School Teaching Award**  Competitive prize awarded to a handful of graduate students who made “a significant and exceptional contribution to undergraduate teaching”. | 2021 |
| **Laurence S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship** (declined)  Competitive fellowship awarded annually to 10 graduate students “with distinguished academic records in any discipline whose dissertation research centrally involves the critical study of human values”. | 2021-2022 |
| **University Center for Human Values Merit Grant**  Fellowship top-up prize awarded to selected incoming graduate students. | 2018-2019 |
| **The Philosophical Quarterly Essay Prize**  Winner of the annual essay prize. Theme: “The Philosophy of Derek Parfit”. | 2018 |

# Teaching Experience

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| **Ethics of Emerging Technologies**  Co-instructor, alongside Johann Frick, for a newly designed upper-level course. | Spring 2021 |
| **Introduction to Moral Philosophy**  Teaching assistant for Johann Frick. Led one weekly discussion session and graded essays and exams. Produced and edited 24 pre-recorded lectures, available [here](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCESvg5QrHrUJ32UszYsHFtw/videos). | Fall 2020 |
| **Introduction to Moral Philosophy**  Teaching assistant for Johann Frick. Led three weekly discussions sessions and graded essays and exams. | Fall 2019 |

# Academic Service

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| **Journal Referee**  Journal of Moral Philosophy (x3); Philosophical Studies (x2); Science & Engineering Ethics (x2); Synthese, Utilitas; Erkenntnis; Inquiry; Journal of Value Inquiry; Acta Analytica. |  |
| **Ethics Work-in-Progress Group** (organizer)  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. | 2020 – now |
| **Princeton Workshop on Population and Procreation Ethics** (co-organizer)  Speakers included: Ralf Bader, David Boonin, Johann Frick, Hilary Greaves, Elizabeth Harman, Jeff McMahan, Melinda Roberts, Tina Rulli, Samuel Scheffler, and Larry Temkin. | May 2019 |
| **Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference** (co-organizer) | Nov 2017 |

# References

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| **Johann Frick**  Associate Professor of Philosophy  UC Berkeley  jfrick@berkeley.edu | **Thomas Kelly**  Professor of Philosophy  Princeton University  tkelly@princeton.edu |
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| **Jacob Nebel**  Assistant Professor of Philosophy  University of Southern California  jnebel@usc.edu | **Gideon Rosen**  Stuart Professor of Philosophy  Princeton University  grosen@princeton.edu |