strategy &
weighing

# some logistics



- every Monday at 6pm (workshop & spar debate)
- using zoom for both workshops and debates, links will be posted on **Facebook** and **Discord**
- join **Discord** server (even externals!) here: https://discord.gg/Q5gPkx2
- workshops will be recorded and both slides and recordings can be found in our database document
- **sign-up form** for the post-workshop debate (posted in advance): https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdugE9tMFl4Ri_3Y0AE3E8Gvkag55Evvq4CJ29om9A47U2ApA/viewform
- **no requirements to join**, but more advanced workshops and focus on long term improvement
- private **feedback trackers** to help see you your progress

# Rhys

- EUDC 2020 semifinalist & Top 10 speaker
- CAed something every second weekend since October
- doing a PhD in Maths
- famously known to be a big Twilight and Keeping Up With Kardashians Stan (their favourite Kardashian is Rob)

# Schedule

**Week 1:** Strategy & Weighing

**Week 2:** Principles I: Introduction to Principled Arguments

**Week 3:** Principles II: Common Principled Arguments

**Week 4:** Law and Criminal Justice

**Week 5:** Debating Art

**Week 6:** Understanding Economics I: States and Economic Policy

**Week 7:** Understanding Economics II: Corporations

**Week 8:** Understanding Economics III: Development & International Economics

**Week 9:** Debating Sports

**Week 10:** Assuming the technology exists,' and other hypothetical motions

# structure of this workshop

- **top half** vs. **back half** strategy
- how to
  - predict **clashes** and **burdens**
  - explain **strategic implications**
  - spot **weak** points of arguments
  - weigh
- case selection **exercise**

# top half **strategy**



- **primary goals**
  - taking as much **sensible** material as possible
  - 'surviving' until the end of the debate and staying relevant
- how to stay **relevant**
  - make sure you have multiple mechanisms and layers
  - take the most relevant characterisation that most of the arguments will depend on
    - motions are often shallow and decided by a single characterisation
  - clarity
  - explain to the judge **why** you are on clash
    - outline the scope of the debate and explain why your arguments fit into it
    - if you are dropping / deprioritising an argument, explain why
- **predict** who you need to beat in the debate
- take a POI from diagonal and think of it critically

# back half strategy

- picking an extension because it is **winning**, not because it is new
    - common mistake: crossing off a bucket list
- running fewer extensions and explaining their strategic importance should always be a priority to running many but not positioned
- present the extension not as a series of arguments, but rather an **idea why you are winning**
    - whipping the goal of the argument rather than the arguments separately
- **clarity in positioning**
    - **do not lie** to the judge that you are new when you are not
        - *'we will be reaching the same impact as top half, but using distinct mechanisms'*
    - point the gap in top half clearly at the start of the extension speech - get the judge's attention and make 'space' for the extension
        - mechanistic gaps
        - limitation in impacts (their impacts are implausible)
        - pointing out why they lose the top half and how you'll fix it
- what to do if my top half takes **everything**
    - find distinct mechanisms, focus on rebuttal and explain why your bench beats the other
    - if your top half is **losing** - figure out why and deal with that material

# predicting clashes and burdens



- week 3 '**Prep Time Efficiency**' workshop for detail
- **common mistakes**
  - generating your own arguments in vacuum → instead, always ask yourself whether your arguments are comparative and likely to be contested
  - 'biting off more than one can chew' → consider not just what is the strongest potential argument, but what you can prove
- how to **predict**
  - a lot of it comes with practice and **building intuition**
  - consider the other side's main claims and identify the **contention**
    - both gov and opp are likely to agree about how the motion plays out in two different contexts (e.g. positive in the developed world, negative in the developing world) → **contention:** *framing* on which of these contexts is this motion more likely to be enacted / where the scale of the impacts would be bigger
    - both gov and opp agree on a desirable impact (e.g. improving the situation of women/minorities), but disagree on whether the mechanism is effective or harmful → **contention:** rigorous mechanistic *analysis*
    - gov and opp disagree on which impact is more desirable (e.g. mass mobilisation vs. commitment trade-off in social movement motions) → **contention:** *weigh-off* between the importance of different impacts

# explaining **strategic implications**



**- main advice**



JUST DO IT.

- **how** to do it?
  - explaining strategic implications ≠ dropping a lot of meaningless phrases ('*we are winning because our impact is big*')
  - explain how the argument/rebuttal/characterisation you did affects other teams cases and subsequently position of your case in relation to others
    - e.g. how you made it unlikely that other teams will prove certain things (*e.g. THO the commercialisation of Mindfulness*)

# spotting **weak points** of arguments

- try to think from the mindset of the judge - if you were judging, which part of the team's arguments would still make you doubt?
- arguments are often repetitive and follow similar patterns - pay attention to them to spot gaps quicker
- listen to OAs even about other teams

**exercise:**

*TH, as the feminist movement, would promote narratives about the importance of relying on and supporting other women (e.g. 'sisterhood'), as opposed to emphasising self-reliance.*

**OG:**

'We are going to include these narratives in campaigns, popular media like films and books. Once women hear these narratives, they are likely to find them inspiring and become more involved in the feminist movement, and would act more in solidarity with women around them, for example in workplaces.'

# ways of **weighing**

- **common metrics** to use for weighing
  - **number** of people affected
  - **intensity** of harm
  - **likelihood** of outcome
  - availability of alternatives to achieve the same outcome (**uniqueness**)

  - special **duty** owed to the actors involved
  - **consent** of the actor

- if the motion is balanced, both sides will be able to use some metric - need to also **justify** why your metric is the better one!



size of impact

probability of impact
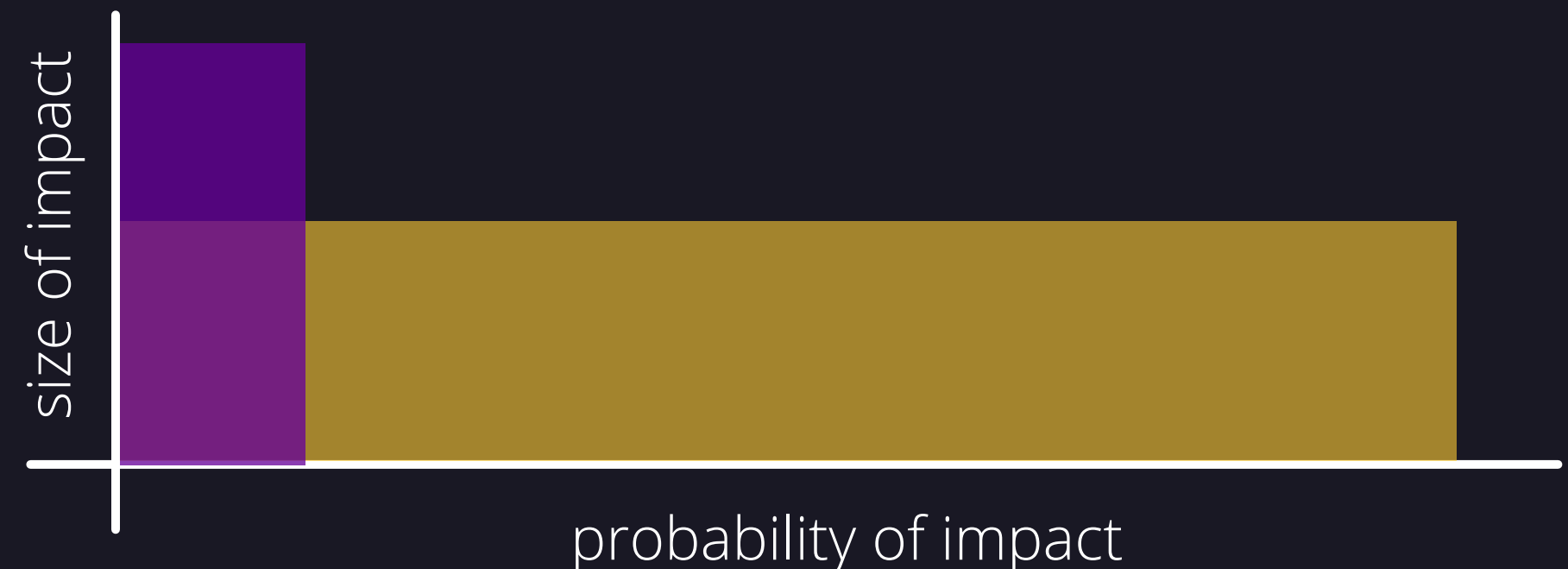
# case selection **exercise**

THR the increasing trend of the modern left characterizing conservative politicians and voters as morally reprehensible

## OG

**better policy**
- less demonisation → more likelihood of cooperation and solution-oriented policies

**voter mobilisation**
- on opp, you can't flip conservative voters because they see you as the enemy
- you get more engagement in politics

## OO

**X** conservatives would still engage in similar behaviour on gov
**X** conservative voters won't change their mind

**voter mobilisation**
- more efficient criticism and mobilisation for protests
- shame as a motivator to make people take better actions

## CG

😍 you 😍

## CO