**Simon Beard**

Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, 16 Mill Lane , Cambridge CB2 1SB

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**Specialization**

Areas of Specialization Moral and Political Philosophy  
Existential Risk  
Philosophy and Public Policy

Areas of Competence Philosophy of Economics and the Social Sciences  
 Political Theory

**Employment History**

Research Associate **Centre for the Study of Existential Risk** CRASSH, University of Cambridge  
 2015 – 2019

Affiliated Researcher **Institute for Futures Studies**2018 -

Research Advisor **APPG Future Generations** 2017 -

New Generation Thinker **BBC / AHRC***(academic broadcaster on TV and Radio)* 2017 – 2018

Research Fellow in Philosophy **Population Ethics: Theory and Practice**  
 FHI, University of Oxford  
 2015 - 2016

**Education**

PhD in Philosophy **London School of Economics**  
 2011 – 2016

PGCert HE **London School of Economics**  
 2012 – 2014

MSc in Philosophy and Public Policy **London School of Economics**  
*Distinction* 2009 – 2011 (Part time)

BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics **University of Oxford**

*1st Class honours* 2003 – 2007

**Awards**

2016 Cumberland Colloquium, *Cumberland Lodge* (Opportunity to run a large-scale public workshop on Population Ethics at Cumberland Lodge – also raised over 10k additional funding support from external organisations)

2015 Class Teacher Award, *Department of Philosophy, London School of Economics*

2011 Research Studentship, *AHRC* (full funding for PhD research)

2009 Research Development Studentship, *AHRC* (full funding for MSc study)

2008 Small Grant, *Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust* (5k to research concepts of sustainable development in UK policy making)

2006 College Exhibitionership, *Merton College, University of Oxford* (Junior college scholarship)

**Publications**

Journal Special Issues

Forthcoming Ed, with Dasgupta, P. “Population and Ethics: Difficult Issues, Global Challenges.” *Journal of Development Studies*

Journal articles

With Torres, P. “The Validity and Usefulness of the Scientific Concept of Existential Risk”: *Under Review: Science and Engineering Ethics*

“Fairness Based Arguments for a Pure Time Preference for Well-Being” *Under Review: Politics, Philosophy and Economics*

“Perfectionism and the Repugnant Conclusion” *Under Review: Journal of Value Inquiry*

“What’s unfair about unequal brute luck? An intergenerational puzzle” *Under Review: Philosophia*

With Dasgupta, P. “Optimum Population and Global Inequality” *In Preparation*

With Rowe, T. “Probabilities, Methodologies and the Evidence Base in Existential Risk Assessments” *In Preparation*

With Kaczmarek, P. “Derek Parfit’s Theory X and the Evaluation of Global Challenges” *In Preparation*

With Kaczmarek, P. “On the Wrongness of Human Extinction” *In Preparation*

“Paradoxes of Future Fairness and the Value of Mere Addition” *In Preparation*

“Quality of Life and The Repugnant Conclusion” *In Preparation*

“Risk, Relevance and the Aggregation of Competing Claims” *In Preparation*

Forthcoming Weitzdörfer, J., & Beard, S. *Disaster, Law and Social Justice in Japan*, Iudicium / Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien

2018 Brundage, M., Avin, S., Beard, S., et al. “The Malicious Use of Artificial Intelligence: Forecasting, Prevention, and Mitigation.” arXiv preprint

2017 “Climate Change and the Worst-Case Scenario” IPPR Progressive Review 24 (3)

2011 “The Dilemma of Discounting: The impossibility of setting a context independent discount rate for human well-being” *Rerum Causae* 3 (1)

2011 “Book Review: From Higher Aims to Hired Hands” *The Journal of General Management* 36 (1)

**Invited Talks**

2018 “Optimum Population and Global Inequality” Institute for Future Studies (May 23rd)

2018 “Quality of Life and the Repugnant Conclusion” Conference in Memory of Derek Parfit (May 20th)

2018 “Risk, Relevence and the Aggregation of Competing Claims” LSE Choice Group (May 2nd)

2018 “Probability, Evidence and Existential Risk Claims” Second Cambridge Conference on Catastrophic Risk, Centre for the Study of Existential Risk (April 16th

2016 “Personal Identity and the Quality of Life” Workshop on Personal Identity and Public Policy, University of Oxford / Centre for the Study of Existential Risk (November 2nd)

2015 “Perfectionism and the Repugnant Conclusion” Theoretical Population Ethics Conference, University of Oxford (November 21st)

2015 “The Reductionist Criteria of Personal Identity and the Repugnant Conclusion”, Workshop on personal identity and ethics, St Anne’s College, University of Oxford (November 20th)

2015 “Is the lifetime well-being of persons all that matters in population axiology?” Workshop on well-being and population ethics, Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm (October 20th)

2015 “Personal Identity and Population Ethics: Beyond the Non-Identity Problem” Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm (May 18th)

**Conference Presentations**

2018 “Fairness Based Arguments for the Pure Time Preference for Wellbeing” *Climate Ethics and Climate Economics: Discounting, what have we learned? University of Nottingham (June 12th)*

2017 “Fairness, Equity, Precaution and Disaster law: the case of the Great East Japan Earthquake” *Fairness in Law Making conference, University of Belfast (May 18th)*

2016 “Fat tails and Fairness” Climate Ethics and Economics conference, LSE (September 15th)

2015 “Perfectionism and the Repugnant Conclusion” and “What is bad about bad brute luck? An Intergenerational Puzzle” OZSW Conference, VU Amsterdam (December 11th and 12th)

2015 “What is bad about brute bad luck? An Intergenerational Puzzle” Pavia Graduate Political Philosophy Conference, University of Pavia (September 9th)

2015 “So, just how complex is Equality Anyway?” *MANCEPT Workshops: New Work in Population Ethics, University of Manchester (September 3rd*)

2015 “Perfectionism and the Repugnant Conclusion” *Intercollegiate Graduate Philosophy Conference, Institute of Philosophy, London (February 27th)*

2014 “What is the source of intransitivity in the mere addition paradox” *The London Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop, University College London (November 7th)*

2012 “Why is the Repugnant Conclusion repugnant?” *Brave New World, University of Manchester (June 29th)*

**Media (last 12 months)**

2018 “What do you do if you are a Manically Depressed Robot?” *BBC Radio 3 Essay, broadcast March 23rd*

2018 “Should we Stop Having Children?” *BBC On-line, published March 9th*

2018 “Geoengineering Is A Very, Very Bad Idea – But Here’s Why We May Have To Do It Anyway” Huffington Post, published January 24th

2017 With Rachel Polfer, “Should we be worried about GMOs?” Quilette, published November 28th

2017 “Can AI Help to Build a Fairer World?” Huffington Post, published November 21st

2017 “The Countdown to Artificial intelligence” The Naked Scientists, broadcast October 17th

2017 “Should We Care About The Worst-Case Scenario When It Comes To Climate Change?” Huffington Post, published September 28th

2017 “Days the World Nearly Ended” BBC History Magazine, published October

2017 With Michael Plant, “Why Philosophers Fail to Influence Public Debate – and How They Can Do Better” Huffington Post, published August 2nd

**Other Publications**

2017 “Response to the Artificial Intellegence Select Committee enquiry into Artificial Intelligence” (CSER)

2017 “Risk, Uncertainty and Catastrophe Scenarios” Conference Report (CSER)

2017 “Personal identity and Public Policy” Conference Report (CSER)

2016 “Population and Ethics” Conference Report (Cumberland Lodge)

2016 “Evaluating extreme risks of artificial intelligence – a response to the Science and Technology Select Committee enquiry into Robotics and Artificial Intelligence” (CSER)

2012 “It's not what you see it’s how you see it” Journal of Inclusive Practice in Higher Education

2010 “End of life care and decision making – a review of party policies” (Dignity in Dying)

2009 “Examining, evaluating and exploring Spiritual Capital” (Ekklesia)

2009 “A law out of step” (Dignity in Dying)

2008 “Dods New Constituency Guide” (Dods parliamentary communications) (contributor)

2005 “Guide to an Unknown University” (Oxford Muse Foundation) (Contributor)

**Teaching**

2017 “Political Obligation”, University of Cambridge (4 undergraduate lectures in the philosophy faculty) – student satisfaction score 1.3/5

2017 “An Introduction to Existential Risk” VU Amsterdam (Guest lecturer) – Student Satisfaction Score 1.53/5

2015 “Global Justice” (PH229), LSE (GTA) – Student Satisfaction Score 1.0/5

2013 - 14 “Reason Knowledge and Values” (PH103), LSE (GTA) – Student Satisfaction Score 1.6/5

2012 - 13 “Philosophy and Public Policy” (PH221), LSE (GTA) – Student Satisfaction Score 1.9/5

**Service to the Profession**

2017 Convenor: ESRC workshop on “Risk, Uncertainty and Catastrophe Scenarios”

2016 Convenor: University of Oxford / Centre for the Study of Existential Risk workshop on “Personal Identity and Public Policy”

2016 Academic Convenor: Cumberland Lodge Colloquium on “Population and Ethics”

2015 - Referee: Journal of Moral Philosophy, Utilitas, AI and Society, Futures, Forsight, Theoria, Economics and Philosophy

2015 Convenor: MANCEPT workshop on “New Work in Population Ethics”

2014 - 15 Paper selector and panel chair, LSE Graduate Political Theory Conference

**Other Employment**

2014 - 15 Educational Development Advisor, Insight Education

2009 – 12 Private Tutor in Economics and Philosophy, Holland Park Tuition

2010 – 11 Research Associate, ResPublica (Think Tank)

2008 – 11 Freelance researcher and political consultant, UK House of Lords

2009 – 10 Parliament and Policy Officer, Dignity in Dying

2009 – 10 Researcher, Ekklesia (Think Tank)

2008 Research Assistant, SCOPE

2008 Intern, CentreForum (Think Tank)

2007 Intern, Social Market Foundation (Think Tank)

**Service to the Community**

2015, 2017 Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Dartford (Liberal Democrat)

2011 - 14 School Governor, Dunton Green Primary School

2010 - Mentor for Insight Education (Oxbridge applicants from minority backgrounds)

2009 - 11 Member of Liberal Democrat Federal Policy Working Group on Quality of Life

2005 – 06 Community researcher, Oxford Muse Foundation

**References**

Professor Partha Dasgupta – Department of Economics, University of Cambridge pd1000@cam.ac.uk

Professor Gustaf Arrhenius – Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm gustaf.arrhenius@iffs.se

Professor Larry Temkin – Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University ltemkin@rci.rutgers.edu

Professor Michael Otsuka – Department of Philosophy, London School of Economics m.h.otsuka@lse.ac.uk