

Matthew Wray Perry

Manchester Centre for Political Theory (MANCEPT), The University of Manchester
Arthur Lewis Building, Oxford Road, M13 9PL, United Kingdom
matthew.perry@manchester.ac.uk // m.w.perry1@gmail.com
+447561094808

Research Interests: Contemporary political and moral philosophy with a particular focus on dignity, social and relational egalitarianism, human rights, moral status, social justice, and animal ethics.

Education

- 2019-2023* **PhD in Political Theory**, Politics Department, University of Manchester
Thesis: Human Rights Beyond the Human: A Deontic Unitarian Account of Dignity.
Funded by a competitive ESRC 1+3 Doctoral Studentship. *Supervisors:* Dr Liam Shields and Dr Richard Child.
Summary: I argue that dignity should include nonhuman animals in order to overcome the scope challenge against human rights. After defending a novel basis for dignity in *valenced sentience*, I draw out the rights and duties that follow on from this recharacterization of “human” dignity.
- Sept-Dec 2022* **Visiting PhD Student**, Centre for Applied Ethics, University of British Columbia
Supervisor: Prof. Kimberley Brownlee
Funding for this trip was awarded by the ESRC’s Overseas Institutional Visit programme.
My visit involved fortnightly, sometimes weekly, meetings with Prof. Brownlee, as well as participation in Centre for Applied Ethics seminars, graduate, and departmental philosophy colloquiums, and reading groups.
- 2018-2019* **MA in Political Theory** (Research Route), University of Manchester
Distinction (with commendation for the highest grade in my cohort).
Funded by a ESRC 1+3 Doctoral Studentship. Student Representative for my course pathway.
Dissertation: “How, if at all, does dignity act as a justification for human rights?” (which was adapted for publication in an edited collected).
- 2015-2018* **BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)**, University of Manchester
First Class Honours.
Awards: 1) Norman Geras Prize for best Political Theory Dissertation; 2) PPE Final Year Award for highest achieving student; 3) Dean's Award for Achievement.
- Jan-May 2017* **Erasmus Exchange Student**, Paris Institute of Political Studies (Science Po)
Received a high GPA of 16.5/20 (converted to a 77 in UK equivalent).

Academic Publications

1. ““Human” Dignity Beyond the Human”, *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2023.2232221>
 2. “From Concept to Conception: Dignity and the Basic Needs Approach”, in Pribytkova, E. (ed), *In Search for a Social Minimum: Human Dignity, Poverty and Human Rights*, Springer: London (forthcoming 2023).
 3. “The Dignitarian Return”, *European Journal of Political Theory* (forthcoming 2023).
 4. “Jeff Sebo, *Saving Animals, Saving Ourselves*”, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, Book Review (forthcoming 2023).
-

Works in Progress

5. (Title redacted for anonymity) a paper on why there is only a single basis for moral status/dignity (under review).
 6. (Title redacted for anonymity) a paper on why egalitarian concepts of moral status/dignity can unproblematically include nonhumans (under review).
 7. (Title redacted for anonymity) a paper on the claimability objection to rights (under review).
 8. “With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility” (in progress), co-author Hannah Battersby.
-

Qualifications and Awards

- 2022, Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, granted after assessment of my teaching and student engagement activities
 - 2019, Letter of Commendation for attaining the highest grade in my MA cohort
 - 2018, Norman Geras Prize in Political Theory for highest graded Political Theory dissertation.
 - 2018, Deans Award for Achievement.
 - 2018, PPE Final Year Award for highest grade in my undergraduate cohort.
 - 2017, Le Certificat en Sciences Sociales et Humanités, Sciences Po (Paris) for recognition of academic attainment during exchange semester
 - 2015, Global Citizenship award for volunteering activities.
-

Conferences and Workshops Organised

- MANCEPT Workshops (Hybrid), September 2023, at The University of Manchester (co-lead organiser).
- MANCEPT Workshops (Hybrid), September 2022, at The University of Manchester (co-organiser). Additionally, a Co-Convenor for the Panel “Recasting Human Rights Without a Shadow” (with Dr Davide Pala).
- Brave New World Postgraduate Conference (in-person), July 2022 (co-organised with MANCEPT PhD peers).
- Moral Equality at the Margins (Online), January 2022 (co-organised with Dr Giacomo Floris).
- Brave New World Postgraduate Conference (Online), July 2021 (co-organised with Karolina Jedrzejczak).

Presentations

- “On the Bright Side of Rights”
 - MANCEPT PhD Work-In-Progress Seminar Series (In-person), April 2023
 - Centre for Applied Ethics, The University of British Columbia (In-person), Nov 2022.
 - Philosophy Graduate Colloquium, The University of British Columbia (In-person), Nov 2022.
 - Paper on why egalitarian concepts of moral status/dignity can unproblematically include nonhumans (title redacted).
 - Human Dignity: Theory and Practice Conference (in person), Montréal, April 2023, hosted jointly by Concordia and McGill Universities.
 - GREEA Early Career Researcher Conference (Online), Sept 2022.
 - Human Rights and Human Exceptionalism Workshop, The University of Bergen (In-person), Apr 2022, organised by Dr Jesse Tomalty and Prof Alasdair Cochrane.
 - Moral Equality at the Margins, Jan 2022 (Online Workshop).
 - Paper on why there is only a single basis for moral status/dignity (title redacted).
 - Sheffield Value X Conference, July 2021 (Online Conference).
 - MANCEPT Seminar Series, Apr 2021 (Online Seminar).
 - ““Human” Dignity Beyond the Human”
 - Human Dignity and Human Rights Workshop (Online), July 2021, organised by Dr Suzy Killmister.
 - Brave New World postgrad conference, June 2020 (Online, invited by peers).
 - MANCEPT Workshop on Human Rights, Sept 2020 (Online).
 - Paper: “From Concept to Conception: Dignity and the Grounds of Basic Rights”
 - IVR World Congress, July 2019, Lucerne (in-person), panel organised by Dr Gottfried Schweiger and Dr Elena Pribytkova.
-

Work Experience

- 2023 - Present* **Senior Postgraduate Teaching Assistant**, Politics, University College London
- Course unit: Ethics & Public Policy* (in person) – Intermediate course focusing on normative issues in policy analysis and development. Awarded this role after external application and interview.
- 2020–Present* **Teaching Assistant**, Politics, The University of Manchester
- Course Unit: Issue in PPE* (in Person) – Introductory course for BA PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics students). I led seminars and supervised students during their group work.
- Course Unit: Introduction to Political Theory* (Taught twice – once in-person and once online, over BB Collaborate) – introductory course with three blocks 1) why we have states, 2) how states should govern and 3) how states can be more just.

Course Unit: Injustice and Resistance (formerly Challenges for Democratic Politics) (Taught twice - dual delivery once, in person once) – intermediate level course on applied political philosophy.

Course Unit: Ideals of Social Justice (Online, over Zoom) –intermediate level course on contemporary theories of justice.

For each of the above, I marked one formative midterm and an exam. I have been nominated for two teaching awards, once by a course convenor, and once by the students themselves. Feedback on my teaching is consistently very positive. Please let me know if you would like to see feedback reports.

2021–Present

Organiser, MANCEPT Workshops, The University of Manchester

The MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory is one of the largest conferences in the world. Each year, around 250 delegates participate in small panels spread across the three days of the conference focusing on a variety of topics in moral, political and social philosophy. For the 2022 series of the conference, I was an organiser, and for the 2023 series, I have been promoted to co-lead organiser due to my performance in supporting the 2022 lead, as well as my indispensable role in building the website. As a co-lead, I jointly manage and direct the team and I am responsible for ensuring the conference runs well.

2021–2022

Course Planning Assistant, The University of Manchester

Paid work with two lecturers at The University of Manchester, Dr Clara Sandelind and Dr Juri Viehoff to help diversify the curriculum for the Introduction to Political Theory course unit. Produced a new list of course reading recommendations considering decolonial and diverse perspectives.

2020–2022

Widening Participation Fellow, The University of Manchester

Supporting the university on an hourly rate in both increasing access to HE for pre-university students from under-represented backgrounds and helping current widening participation students face the challenges of progressing through university. The position comprised two main activities:

1. Produced three pre-recorded sessions, which schools were able to use, subsequently booking me for a Q&A follow up sessions (one on “Why Study Politics”, and two guided Philosophy Taster Workshops on “Should Animals Have Human Rights?” and “Corruption: Bad People or Bad Institutions?”).
2. For current university students, I organised and ran two workshops (on essay writing and applying to postgraduate study) to support current students through their undergraduate journeys and beyond.

2020–2022

Co-editor of Political Perspectives, The University of Manchester

Political Perspectives is the Graduate Journal at The University of Manchester, publishing academic papers and blog posts. During my time as co-editor, I updated the website, expanded the journal’s focus, publicised it, administered peer-reviews, and finalised contributions.

2017–2018

Lead Editor of Juncture, The University of Manchester

Juncture is the University of Manchester Undergraduate Politics Journal. I co-founded the journal (which is still running today) in September 2017 in collaboration with a course-mate. We aimed to provide a space to encourage

academic debate outside the seminar room at an undergraduate level. Directed board meetings, oversaw the peer-review of papers, adjudicated on board decisions, oversaw the editing of final pieces, promoted the journal, etc.

Prior to the above and during my undergraduate studies, I completed two internships, and worked in secondary school exams marking, retail and hospitality. For brevity, I do not list these experiences, but please contact me should you require further information.