

Matthew Wray Perry

Political/Moral Philosopher and Fellow of the Higher Education Academy

Research Interests: Contemporary political and moral philosophy, with a particular focus on questions of moral status, moral equality, sociability and basic rights, especially the rights of animals. I also have expertise in theories of justice and the politics of identity and social ontology.

Research Experience and Education

The University of British Columbia
Sept 2022 – Dec 2022
From September to December 2022, temporary visiting Researcher at The University of British Columbia, working with Prof Kimberley Brownlee in the Centre for Applied Ethics (CAE) and The Department of Philosophy. Funding for this trip was awarded by the North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership's overseas institutional visit programme. Included attendance of and presentations at departmental seminars and events

The University of Manchester
Sept 2019 – June 2023
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Politics – Political Theory. *Title of PhD project:* What is the point of dignity? A re-characterisation of dignity as the basis of (human) rights status. My thesis explains the possession of rights through interrogating the idea often established at their foundation: "human" dignity. I focus on the status of and human differentiation from non-human animals, the problem of equalising status and what the recognition of dignity amounts to. Funded by an Economic and Social Research Council 1+3 Studentship.

Sept 2018 – Sept 2019
Masters degree (MA) in Political Science - Political Theory (Research Route). 79.6% average (with a letter of commendation for the highest grade) Student Representative for my course pathway. Participant/attendee at the Manchester Central for Political Theory seminar series. Funded by an Economic and Social Research Council 1+3 Studentship

Sept 2015 – July 2018
Undergraduate degree (BA) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) completed with a first class (79.4% average).
Awards: 1) Norman Geras Prize for best Political Theory Dissertation; 2) PPE Final Year Award for highest achieving student in my class; 3) Dean's Award for Achievement.

Societies & activities: PPE Society Academic Rep., Cycling Club, Cross Country Club, Squash Club, Manchester Labour Students, The Manchester Magazine, Mancunion and Francophone Society, inc Non-credited qualification of B1 French, achieving a first class (74%).

References available on request

Sciences Po Paris **Exchange Programme:** 5 months studying at the Paris Institute of Political Studies through Erasmus. Received a high GPA of 16.5/20 (converted to a 77 in UK equivalent). Studied French through OLS+ Erasmus, Squash Club, International Exchange Society, Running Club.

Jan 2017 –
May 2017

Awards and Additional Qualifications

- *Fellow of the Higher Education Academy* for recognition of teaching practice, September 2022, after submission of written portfolio and two references.
- *Nominee, Teaching Assistant of the Year Award* and *Nominee, Student Union Teaching Assistant Award* in June 2020.
- *Norma Geras Prize* for best Political Theory undergraduate dissertation, July 2018
- *PPE Final Year Award* for highest achievement in my BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) degree cohort, July 2018.
- *Dean's Award For Achievement* of 75% average on my BA PPE degree, July 2018.

Publications

- (forthcoming) "From Concept to Conception: Dignity and the Basic Needs Approach", in Pribytkova, E. and Schweiger, G. (eds), *In Search for a Social Minimum: Human Dignity, Poverty and Human Rights*, Springer: London.
- (2018) "Closed Borders, Open Immigration: Can Nationalism Ground the Right to Exclude?", *Juncture: The University of Manchester Undergraduate Politics Journal*, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp.86-107.
- (2018) "Can Individuals have Moral Rights in the Absence of Legal Rights?", *Juncture: The University of Manchester Undergraduate Politics Journal*, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp.53-59.

Conference and Workshop Presentations

- "Wronging Without Hierarchy"
 - Human Rights and Human Exceptionalism Workshop, The University of Bergen (In-person), April 2022, organised by Jesse Tomalty and Alasdair Cochrane.
 - Moral Equality at the Margins, January 2022 (Online Workshop).
 - MANCEPT PhD Work-In-Progress Seminar Series (In-person), November 2021.
- "Why Only One Property Grounds Your Moral Status"
 - Sheffield Value X Conference, July 2021 (Online Conference)
 - MANCEPT Seminar Series, April 2021 (Online Seminar)
- "Human Dignity Beyond the Human"
 - Human Dignity and Human Rights Workshop (Online), July 2021, by Suzy Killmister.
 - Brave New World postgrad conference, June 2020 (Online, invited by peers).
 - MANCEPT Workshop on Human Rights, September 2020 (Online).
- "From Concept to Conception: Dignity and the Grounds of Basic Rights"
 - IVR World Congress, July 2019, Lucerne (in-person), panel organised by Gottfried Schweiger and Elena Pribytkova.

References available on request

Conferences Organised

- Co-organizer for the MANCEPT Workshops (in-person), September 2022, at The University of Manchester (co-organised with MANCEPT PhD peers).
- Co-Convenor for the Panel “Recasting Human Rights Without a Shadow”, July 2022.
- Brave New World Postgraduate Conference (in-person), July 2022 (co-organised).
- Moral Equality at the Margins Workshop (Online), January 2022 (co-organised).
- Brave New World Postgraduate Conference (Online), July 2021 (co-organised).

Teaching Experience

The University of Manchester:
Teaching Assistant
Feb 2020 – Present

Course Unit: Challenges for Democratic Politics (Dual Delivery) – 6 weekly seminars on a 10 week intermediate level course on applied political theory, covering a range of contemporary debates including for instance: Misogyny, Riots, Private Schools, Voting and Statues of Wrongdoers.

Course Unit: Ideals of Social Justice (Online, over Zoom) – 3 weekly seminars on a 10 week intermediate level course on contemporary theories of justice with a particular focus on Liberal Egalitarianism, its foundations, form and critique.

Course Unit: Introduction to Political Theory (In-person only, then moved online, over BB Collaborate) – 5 weekly seminars on a 10 week introductory course with three blocks 1) why we have states, 2) how states should govern and 3) how states can be more just.

The average lesson was structured as follows: 5 minute recap of lecture material (with pp slides), questions to check understandings, further summary, followed by discursive activities to engage critical thought. For each of the above, I marked two assessments: one formative midterm and an exam.

My latest peer review report each that:

“Matthew did an excellent job in creating a friendly and welcoming environment. He often encouraged students to speak and praised them when their interventions were up to the point... [He] succeeded in delivering an engaging and enjoyable tutorial, where the level of discussion thoroughly maintained the quality threshold that is expected at the academic level.”

The University of Manchester:
Widening Participation Fellow
Oct 2020 – Sept 2022

As a Widening Participation Fellow, my role is to support the university in both increasing access to HE for pre-university students from under-represented socio-economic backgrounds and helping current students from such backgrounds in facing the challenges posed by progressing through university. This has comprised of three main activities:

1. I have produced three pre-recorded sessions for the pre-university side of my role, which schools are able to use, subsequently booking me for Q&A follow up sessions if they wish (one on “Why Study Politics” at University, and two other guided Philosophy Subject Taster Workshops, with activities, on “Should animals have human rights?” and “Should corruption be understood in terms of bad people, or bad institutions?”). I worked with a

teacher from Manchester Hospital School to adapt the subject taster workshops for 1 to 1 delivery, to be appropriate for those with learning difficulties and suitable for those from more challenging backgrounds.

2. For current university students, I have (alongside the WP Lead for Politics) organised and ran two workshops to support current students through their undergraduate journeys and beyond. One of these was on Essay Writing and the other on Applying to Postgraduate Study.
3. I also act as a Data and Evaluation Partner for the WP team to support them in the production of reports on the impact of WP work at The University of Manchester.

Further Work Experience

Course Planning Assistant <i>Dec 2021 – Jan 2022</i>	I completed 15 hours 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. This involved reading and searching for articles to producing a list of recommendations.
Political Perspectives: Co-Chief Editor <i>Jan 2020 – Jan 2022</i>	Political Perspectives is the Graduate Journal at The University of Manchester, publishing academic papers, working papers and blog posts from academics in the social sciences. When my colleague and I took over the journal, we updated the website and expanded its focus: as editors, we publicise the journal, administer peer-reviews with colleagues and affiliates of the journal, and finalise contributions
Chief-Editor and Co-Founder of Juncture <i>Sept 2017 – Sept 2018</i>	Juncture is the University of Manchester Undergraduate Politics Journal. Founded in collaboration with a course-mate in order to provide space to share ideas and kindle debate. As Chief Editor, I directed board meetings, oversaw/participated in peer-review of papers, adjudicated on board decisions, oversaw the editing of final pieces, promoted the journal, wrote reviews, and ensured academic integrity.
General Marking Supervisor: Pearson <i>May 2018 – July 2018</i>	Temporary role leading and advising teams of general markers for the national SATs qualifications. I helped oversee the marking process, advised markers on correct implementation of the approved mark scheme, managed teams to ensure speed/accuracy with marking and supported the lead Marking Centre Managers with administrative tasks.
The University of Manchester: Research Intern <i>June 2017 – August 2017</i>	Work as a research intern for the Business Engagement team at the Faculty of Science and Engineering. I produced and updated detailed reports analysing companies to provide recommendations for future strategic partners. Written reports include various quantitative and qualitative analysis, including company goals, matching with university vision, research priorities, financial condition, development, spending, market position, etc.

Prior to the above I worked in retail and hospitality, at Homebase for two years and J D Whetherspoon for one year.