

KIAN MINTZ-WOO

CONTACT INFORMATION

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AREAS OF RESEARCH

Areas of Specialization applied ethics (climate ethics) · metaethics · philosophy of science (economics)
Areas of Competence political philosophy · logic · metaphilosophy · metaphysics

EMPLOYMENT

Univ. College Cork 2020– Lecturer (Permanent Position)
Lecturer, with a focus on the HEALTH AND SOCIETY Programme · Cork, Ireland

University of Oxford 2021 Early Career Conference Programme
Month-long funded summer research stay at the GLOBAL PRIORITIES INSTITUTE working on fundamental issues in cost-benefit analysis and internalizing externalities · <https://globalprioritiesinstitute.org/>

Princeton University 2018–2020 Lecturer and Postdoctoral Fellow
Lecturer in the PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE
Postdoc co-appointed by UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR HUMAN VALUES and PRINCETON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS · <https://uchv.princeton.edu/>
Supervisor: **Marc FLEURBAEY**

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis 2018 Young Scientist
Examined the links between losses and damages (climatic effects beyond our ability to adapt) and the obligations of private market actors, especially historically disproportionate contributors to climate change · <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/>
Supervisors: **Thomas SCHINKO** & **Reinhard MECHLER**

EDUCATION

PhD 2014–2018 University of Graz, Austria
Philosophy *with distinction* · Doctoral College in Climate Change
Dissertation: *Moral Uncertainty Over Policy Evaluation*
In the context of intertemporal cost-benefit analyses, like for climate policies, the thesis argues for eliciting moral parameter assignments from domain experts.
Supervisors: **Lukas MEYER** & **Karl STEININGER**
External Examiner: Stephen GARDINER

BPhil 2012–2014 Oxford University, United Kingdom
Thesis: *A Moral Accounting of Climate Change*
Supervisor: John BROOME

MA 2010–2011 University of Reading, United Kingdom
Ethics and Political Theory *with distinction*

Thesis: *A Nested Theory of Morality*
 Supervisor: Brad HOOKER

2008-2010 University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
 MSc Logic *with distinction* · Institute for Logic, Language and Computing
 Thesis: *Independence Weakening in Judgment Aggregation*

2003-2008 University of British Columbia, Canada
 BA Fields: Philosophy, Creative Writing and English Literature *with honours*

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Accepted What Do Climate Winners Owe, and to Whom?

*Philosophy &
Economics*

This paper considers climate ethics as a constellation of externalities, positive and negative, with different associated demands of justice. It is argued that those who are subject to positive climate externalities owe gains not to the net losers, but to the emitters, just as the emitters owe it to the net losers to compensate them for the negative externalities.

Forthcoming Public Values in the Right Context

*Australasian
Philosophical
Review*

This paper compares the role of values in moral theory with their role in scientific evaluation. In particular, it argues that moral philosophical methodology should invert the philosophy of science position where values come in at the context of discovery and not at the context of justification.

Forthcoming A Philosopher's Guide to Discounting

*Philosophy &
Climate Change
(Book Chapter)*

Oxford University Press
 This chapter introduces discounting in the context of climate change. It draws attention to, *inter alia*, the difference between discounting in pure and impure terms while arguing that appeals to expertise in setting values may be justified for such problems (edited by Gustaf Arrhenius, Mark Budolfson & Dean Spears).

Forthcoming Fossil Fuels

*Routledge
Companion to
Environmental
Ethics (Book
Chapter)*

Routledge
 The chapter introduces several debates in environmental ethics on fossil fuels: whether offsetting emissions is morally required and practically possible; what role forms of local resistance can take, especially divestment and pipeline protesting; and how trade in natural goods on international markets could be priced or curtailed (edited by Benjamin Hale & Andrew Light).

Apr 2019 Principled Utility Discounting Under Risk

*Moral Philosophy
and Politics*

6(1):89–112. doi:[10.1515/mopp-2018-0060](https://doi.org/10.1515/mopp-2018-0060)
 Utility discounting can be defended normatively; it is rational for future utility to be discounted to take into account model-independent outcomes when decision-making under risk. I suggest a principle for utility discounting on this basis and defend the principle against objections from Parfit and Broome. A sample utility discount rate is derived from the principle.

Mar 2019 Security and Distribution, or Should You Care About Merely Possible Losses?

*Ethics, Policy &
Environment
(Comment)*

21(3):382–386. doi:[10.1080/21550085.2018.1562532](https://doi.org/10.1080/21550085.2018.1562532)
 Herington's recent defence of security as a component of well-being appeals to modal concerns; it relates to what the distribution is of basic goods across future counterparts. I offer two objections, one related to whether this appeal to security is truly additional and one related to the problematic implication that cross-counterpart axiology would introduce overdemandingness.

- The Monist*
 Jan 2019 The Social Cost of Carbon: Valuing Inequality, Risk, and Population for Climate Policy
 102(1):84–109. doi:[10.1093/monist/ony023](https://doi.org/10.1093/monist/ony023)
 Co-Authors: Marc FLEURBAEY, Maddalena FERRANNA, Mark BUDOLFSON, et al.
 While discounting is a familiar moral issue in determining the SCC, we survey several often overlooked issues including total utilitarianism given endogenous population growth; valuing non-human animals; and ex ante versus ex post prioritarianism in climate policy.
- Loss and Damage from Climate Change* (Book Chapter)
 Jan 2019 Ethical Challenges in the Context of Climate Loss & Damage
 Springer, ch 2:39–62. doi:[10.1007/978-3-319-72026-52](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-72026-52)
 Co-Authors: Ivo WALLIMANN-HELMER, Lukas MEYER, et al.
 Adverse climatic impacts beyond adaptation (“Loss & Damage”) are rarely distinguished from those impacts resulting from failure to mitigate or adapt. We argue that, at the national level, L&D costs should be covered by appeal to distributive instead of compensatory justice due to current scientific limitations regarding historical responsibility.
- Loss and Damage from Climate Change* (Book Chapter)
 Jan 2019 Science for Loss and Damage. Findings and Propositions
 Springer, ch 1:3–37. doi:[10.1007/978-3-319-72026-51](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-72026-51)
 Co-Authors: Reinhard MECHLER, Elisa CALLIARI, Laurens M BOUWER, et al.
 This introductory chapter summarizes key findings of the book in terms of five propositions. These propositions each build on relevant findings linked to suggestions for research, policy and practice. They proceed from setting the stage to critical issues, followed by methods and tools, to geographic perspectives, and finally to potential policy options.
- Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics* (Thesis Summary)
 Oct 2018 Moral Uncertainty Over Policy Evaluation
 11(2):291–294. doi:[10.23941/ejpe.v11i2.351](https://doi.org/10.23941/ejpe.v11i2.351)
 When performing intertemporal cost-benefit analyses of policies, both in terms of climate change and other long-term problems, the discounting problem becomes critical. The question is how to weight intertemporal costs and benefits to generate present value equivalents. I argue that those best placed to answer the discounting problem are domain experts, not moral philosophers or the public at large. It does this by arguing that the discounting problem is a special case of an interesting class of problems, those which are both what I call morally complex and quantitative.
- Addressing the Challenges in Communicating Climate Change* (Book Chapter)
 Oct 2018 Blogging Climate Change: A Case Study
 Springer, ch 9:129–142. doi:[10.1007/978-3-319-98294-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-98294-6)
 Co-Authors: Erangu Purath Mohankumar SAJEEV, Matthias DAMERT, et al.
 Our doctoral program produced a blog discussing our climate change research for a lay audience. This chapter discusses the challenges and successes of the blog with reference to communication theory.
- Canadian Journal of Philosophy*
 Aug 2018 On Parfit’s Ontology
 48(5):707–725. doi:[10.1080/00455091.2017.1381935](https://doi.org/10.1080/00455091.2017.1381935)
 Derek Parfit denies that the introduction of reasons into our ontology is costly for his theory. I show that his arguments for this claim, the Plural Senses View and the Argument from Empty Ontology, do not establish the claim, demonstrating the instability of Parfit’s claimed metaethical advantages over naturalism. [Currently third most read article overall at this journal]
- Ethics, Policy & Environment* (Comment)
 May 2018 Two Moral Arguments for a Global Social Cost of Carbon
 21(1):60–63. doi:[10.1080/21550085.2018.1448038](https://doi.org/10.1080/21550085.2018.1448038)
 I provide two moral arguments against the domestic cost of carbon advocated

in Trump's executive order on energy. The first argument is grounded in reinforcing international norms in the context of commons problems; the second argument is grounded in evidence that rules out the applicability of probabilistic indifference about global effects of emissions.

Jan 2017 A New Defence of Probability Discounting

Routledge, ch 6:87–102. doi: [10.4324/9781315649153](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315649153)

I argue that, for decisions under risk, Simon Caney's rights-based approach overgeneralises and that rights-based theories structurally face similar problems. I make a new moral case for probability discounting on the grounds that moral responsibility for outcomes scales with credence in outcomes (edited by Adrian Walsh, Säde Hormio & Duncan Purves).

Dec 2015 Review: *Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice*

22(4):732–735. doi:[10.2143/EP.22.4.3127273](https://doi.org/10.2143/EP.22.4.3127273)

Written by Marion HOURDEQUIN. Published in 2015 by Bloomsbury Academic.

*The Ethical
Underpinnings of
Climate Economics*
(Book Chapter)

*Ethical
Perspectives*
(Book Review)

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

May 2020 Put a Price on Carbon Now!

<https://prosyn.org/cL6cNDx>

Co-Author: Peter SINGER

This op-ed argues that the COVID-19 crisis is the appropriate time to introduce a carbon tax and internalize climate externalities.

Project Syndicate

TEACHING

2019 Environmental Nexus

Instructor of record co-taught with three cross-disciplinary professors · a second-year undergraduate course examining environmental issues through different disciplinary lenses: biology, literature, economics and moral philosophy

2018 Values and Public Life Senior Thesis Seminar

Sole instructor of record · a senior thesis graduate-style workshopping seminar

2016 Introduction to Contemporary Consequentialism

Sole instructor of record · a mixed undergraduate and master class, created the syllabus and chose materials from scratch

*Princeton
University*

University of Graz

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

What Do Climate Change Winners Owe?

Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference · 2020

Fourth Philosophy, Politics and Economics Meeting · 2020

Effective Altruism Initiative Seminar Series · 2020

Canadian Philosophical Association Congress · 2019

Draining the Swamp, Together

American Philosophical Association – Eastern · 2020

Business Should Deal with Climate Loss & Damage

International Society for Environmental Ethics Summer Conference · 2019

European Consortium for Political Research General Conference · 2018

Normative Business Ethics Workshop Series · Wharton School · 2018

*University of
Colorado
New Orleans*

Brown University

*University of
British Columbia*

Philadelphia

*HJ Andrews Forest
Research Station*

*University of
Hamburg*

*University of
Pennsylvania*

On Parfit's Ontology

Oxford University

21st Annual Oxford Philosophy Graduate Conference · 2017

A Few Optimistic Thoughts on Climate Change

New Orleans

Inaugural Philosophy, Politics and Economics Meeting · 2017

Scouting the Risks Ahead

London School of
Economics

Climate Ethics and Climate Economics: Redistributing Risks · 2016

Expert Elicitation in Climate Economics

Mercator Institute
on Climate Change

Research Seminar Series · 2017

Oxford Martin
School

Climate Ethics and Economics: Discounting the Future · 2016

When Philosophers are Not Moral Experts

University of
Copenhagen

Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference · 2017

University of
Tilburg

Fifth Annual Descartes Lecture · 2016

Rethinking Prescriptivism and Descriptivism

UNESCO

Our Common Future Under Climate Change · 2015

Sorbonne

Uncertainty in Climate Science and its Impact on Decision-Making · 2015

Tilburg University

Objectivity in Science · 2015

University of
Helsinki

Ethical Underpinnings of Climate Economics · 2014

Internal and External Reasons in Confucius

Oxford University

Moral Philosophy and New Confucianism · Christ Church College · 2018

Principled Utility Discounting Under Risk

Münster

Workshop on Demandingness · 2018

San Francisco

American Philosophical Association – Pacific · 2016

University of
Salamanca

European Consortium for Political Research Joint Sessions · 2014

A Defence of Causation by Absence

University of
Toronto

Twelfth Annual University of Toronto Conference: Varieties of Possibility · 2012

University of
Leeds

Fifth Annual Centre for Metaphysics and Mind Graduate Conference · 2010

How Many G-ds in Pascal's Wager?

University of
Victoria

Western Canadian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference · 2008

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Reviewer

Analysis · *British Journal of Political Science* · *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*
· *Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics* · *Ethics* · *Ethics, Policy &*
Environment · *Journal of Applied Philosophy* · *Noûs* · *Philosophical Quarterly* ·
Philosophical Studies · 16th Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference

Workshop
Organizer

August 2020 · *Bridging Gaps of Affluence, Nation, and Time Workshop* · Invited
Speakers included: Simon CANEY, Elizabeth CRIPPS, Stephen GARDINER, Marion
HOURDEQUIN, Robert KEOHANE, and Haro VAN ASSELT

May 2019 · *Climate Policy and Sustainable Growth* · Invited Speakers: Michael
GREENSTONE, Marc FLEURBAEY, Narasimha RAO, and Valentina BOSETTI

July 2017 · *Climate Change Economics Workshop* · Invited Speakers: Francis
DENNIG, Maddalena FERRANA, Mark BUDOLFSON, and Fabian WAGNER

Commentator

June 2015 · *Climate Ethics and Climate Economics* · Invited Speakers: Dale JAMIESON, Stephen GARDINER, and Darrel MOELLENDORF

September 2020 · *MANCEPT Panel on Democracy & Intergenerational Justice* (University of Manchester) · on a presentation by Tyler JOHN

July 2020 · *New Methods in Applied Ethics* (University of Tübingen) · on a presentation by Nora HEINZELMANN

July 2019 · *International Society for Environmental Ethics* (HJ Andrews Forest Research Station) · on a presentation by Jeremy BENDIK-KEYMER

June 2019 · *Canadian Philosophical Association* (University of British Columbia) · on a presentation by Juliette ROUSSIN

February 2019 · *American Philosophical Association—Central Division* (Denver) · on a presentation by Chris TWEEDT

May 2018 · *Current Perspectives on Climate Justice* (University of Graz) · on a presentation by Àfrica Bauza GARCIA-ARICOLLAR

June 2017 · *Responding to an Uncertain Future* (University of Graz) · on a presentation by Maria Paola FERRETTI

November 2014 · *Ethical Underpinnings of Climate Economics* (University of Helsinki) · on a presentation by Simo KYLLÖNEN and Alessandra BASSO

March 2013 · *Postgraduate Student Association Conference* (University of Waterloo) · on a presentation by Avery ARCHER

September 2011 · *British Philosophical Postgraduate Conference* (University of Reading) · on a presentation by Renée Jorgensen BOLINGER

SELECTED AWARDS

2019 · Best Applied Ethics Blog Post Award · \$250 Prize · [Peasoup Blog](#)

2017 · APA Graduate Student Award · travel award

2008-2010 · Huygens Scholarship (full scholarship for MSc, including maintenance) · Faculty of Higher Education, NUFFIC Netherlands

2008 · Student speaker for graduation (nominated by philosophy department head) · University of British Columbia

2008 · James Ruggles Macdonell Memorial Scholarship (most promising student graduating in philosophy) · University of British Columbia

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association, Canadian Philosophical Association, International Association for Environmental Philosophy, International Society for Environmental Ethics, Philosophers for Sustainability

REFERENCES

Lukas Meyer

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Stephen Gardiner

390 Savery Hall
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Anna Stilz [Teaching]

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[Emails are links]

September 8, 2020