

# Toby Ord

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## Areas of Specialisation

Normative ethics (esp. consequentialism), practical ethics, philosophy of computation

## Areas of Competence

Meta-ethics, formal logic and set theory, metaphysics, epistemology

## Academic Positions

2009 – 2012: **Postdoctoral Research Fellow** (starting in October)

*British Academy*

2009 – 2012: **Junior Research Fellow** (starting in October)

*Balliol College, Oxford University*

2006 – **Research Associate**

*Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford University*

2006 – **Research Associate**

*Future of Humanity Institute, Oxford University*

2006: **Visiting Researcher**

*Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE), Melbourne*

2006: **Visiting Researcher**

*Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University*

## Education

2005 – 2009: **DPhil in Philosophy**

*Balliol College & Christ Church, University of Oxford*

*Thesis: 'Beyond Action:*

*applying consequentialism to decision making and motivation'*

*Supervisors: John Broome & Derek Parfit*

*Examiners: Roger Crisp & Brad Hooker*

2003 – 2005: **BPhil in Philosophy**

*Balliol College, University of Oxford*

*First class honours in coursework; highest possible mark for the thesis*

*Specialisation: Moral Philosophy, Metaphysics and Epistemology,  
The Rise of Modern Logic*

*Thesis supervisors: John Broome & Krister Bykvist*

2001 – 2002: **BSc (Hons) in Computer Science and Philosophy – First class honours**

*University of Melbourne*

2000 – 2001: **BA in Philosophy – First class honours**

*University of Melbourne*

1997 – 1999: **BSc in Computer Science and Mathematics – First class honours**

*University of Melbourne*

## Journal Articles & Book Chapters

1. Ord T, Hillerbrand R, Sandberg A. 'Probing the improbable: methodological challenges for risks with low probabilities and high stakes.' *Journal of Risk Research*, forthcoming.
2. Ord T, Kieu TD. 'Using biased coins as oracles.' *International Journal of Unconventional Computing* 5 253–65, 2009.
3. Ord T. 'The scourge: moral implications of natural embryo loss.' *American Journal of Bioethics* 8(7) 12–19, 2008.
4. Ord T. 'Response to open peer commentaries on "The scourge: moral implications of natural embryo loss."' *American Journal of Bioethics* 8(7) W1–W3, 2008.
5. Ord T, Kieu TD. 'Ω in number theory.' in CS Calude (ed.) *Randomness and Complexity, from Leibniz to Chaitin*, (Singapore: World Scientific), 161–173, 2007.
6. Bostrom N, Ord T. 'The reversal test: eliminating status quo bias in applied ethics.' *Ethics* 116 656–679, 2006.
7. Ord T. 'The many forms of hypercomputation.' *Journal of Applied Mathematics and Computation* 178 142–153, 2006.
8. Ord T, Kieu TD. 'The diagonal method and hypercomputation.' *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 56 147–156, 2005.
9. Ord T, Kieu TD. 'On the existence of a new family of Diophantine equations for Ω.' *Fundamenta Informaticae* 56 273–284, 2003.

## Conference Papers

1. Ord T. 'How to be a consequentialist about everything.' *International Society of Utilitarian Studies*, (Berkley, 11–13 September 2008).
2. Ord T, Hillerbrand R, Sandberg, A. 'Probing the improbable: methodological challenges for risks with low probabilities and high stakes.' Invited presentation for *Global Catastrophic Risks* (Oxford, 17–20 July 2008).
3. Bostrom N, Ord T. 'Status quo bias in bioethics.' Invited presentation for the *Oxford-Scandinavia Ethics Summit* (Oxford, 13–15 June 2005).
4. Bostrom N, Ord T 'Status quo bias and human enhancement.' Invited presentation for *How can human nature be ethically improved?* (New York, 18–19 November 2004).
5. Ord T, Kieu TD. 'Representations of Ω in number theory: finitude versus parity.' *Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science* (Dijon, 7–12 July 2003).
6. Ord T, Blair A. 'Exploitation and peacekeeping: introducing more sophisticated interactions to the iterated prisoner's dilemma.' *World Congress on Computational Intelligence* (Honolulu, 12–17 May 2002).

## Awards & Honours

- 2006 – 2009: Senior Scholarship, Christ Church (full funding)
- 2005: Jowett Arts Prize, Balliol College
- 2003 – 2006: Dervorguilla Arts Scholarship, Balliol College (full funding)
- 2003 – 2006: Clarendon Scholarship, University of Oxford
- 2003 – 2006: Overseas Research Scholarship, UK Government
- 2003: Australian Postgraduate Award, Australian Government (full funding)

## Academic Experience and Activities

2007 – now: **Online writing on ethics**

I write for two well-regarded weblogs on philosophical ethics: [practicaethicsnews.com](http://practicaethicsnews.com) (which discusses the ethical issues behind breaking news stories) and [ethics-etc.net](http://ethics-etc.net) (which discusses new ideas and puzzles in philosophical ethics). Both are run entirely by philosophers from Oxford and other top research universities.

2008 – now: **Service on advisory board**

I am a member of the Lifeboat Foundation's ethics advisory board. The foundation is dedicated to the investigation and avoidance of global catastrophic threats.

2003 – now: **Research Presentations**

I have given research presentations on topics in philosophy and mathematics at Oxford University, Melbourne University, Monash University, Birmingham University and Stockholm University.

2005 – 2006: **Consulting, Balliol College**

I co-ordinated a discussion group with students and academics on the future directions for the college. This involved organising and chairing the meetings, presenting the results to the master and fellows, and writing a formal report on our findings.

## Teaching Experience

2005 – now: **Tutorials, University of Oxford**

*Ethics*  
*Formal Logic*  
*Mill's Utilitarianism*  
*Elements of Deductive Logic*

1998 – 2002: **Teaching Assistance, University of Melbourne**

*Artificial Intelligence*  
*Logic and Computation*  
*Algorithms and Data Structures*

## References

Prof. John Broome, White's Professor in Moral Philosophy (University of Oxford)  
 Mr. Derek Parfit, Senior Research Fellow of All Souls College (University of Oxford)  
 Prof. Nick Bostrom, Director of the Future of Humanity Institute (University of Oxford)  
 Prof. Julian Savulescu, Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics (University of Oxford)  
 Prof. Roger Crisp, Uehiro Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy (University of Oxford)