

Curriculum Vitae

Prof. Dr Maximilian Kiener

<https://maximilian-kiener.weebly.com>

Academic Profile

AOS: the ethics of artificial intelligence, moral philosophy, legal theory.

AOC: political philosophy, philosophy of action, epistemology, Descartes, Aristotle.

Languages: German (native), English (C2), Latin (excellent reading skills), French (intermediate).

Employment

Junior Professor of Ethics in Technology, Hamburg University of Technology from 05/2023

Associate Member of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford from 01/2023

Junior Professor of Digital Ethics, University of Oldenburg 01/2023 – 05/2023

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in Philosophy, University of Oxford 2021 – 2022

This three-year research grant is among the most prestigious postdoctoral positions in the UK. I resigned from this post to take up my professorship at Oldenburg.

Extraordinary Junior Research Fellow (The Queen's College, Oxford) and **ERC Research Fellow** on the project *Roots of Responsibility*, based at UCL: <https://rootsofresponsibility.co.uk/> 2019 – 2021

Education

DPhil Philosophy University of Oxford 2019

Thesis title: Voluntariness, Consent, and Justification. Supervised by Prof John Hyman and Prof Dominic Wilkinson, and examined by Prof Roger Crisp (Oxford) and Prof Erasmus Mayr (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg).

BPhil Philosophy University of Oxford 2017

Supervision on Epistemology, Philosophy of Law, and Ethics. Thesis (*High Distinction*): Voluntariness and Informed Consent. Supervised by Prof John Hyman.

BA Philosophy and Public Law University of Regensburg 2015

Thesis (*First Class*): The Prospects of Constructivism in Normative Ethics and Metaethics. Supervised by Prof Elif Özmen.

Publications

Journal Articles

- Forthcoming. "Strict Moral Answerability", *Ethics*.
- 2022. "Can We Close AI's Responsibility Gap at Will?", *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 25(4), 575-593. (Winner of the 2021 CEPE IACAP Best Paper Award)
- 2021. "Consenting under Third-Party Coercion", *The Journal of Moral Philosophy* 19, 361-389.
- 2021. "When do Nudges Undermine Voluntary Consent?", *Philosophical Studies* 178(12), 4201-4226.
- 2021. "Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and the Disclosure of Risks", *AI & Society* 36(3), 705-713.
- 2021. "Consent and Living Organ Donation", *The Journal of Medical Ethics* 47(12), e50.
- 2020. "Fictionalising Kelsen's Pure Theory of Law", *Archives for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy* (Archiv für Rechts- und Sozialphilosophie) 163, 99-121. (Special issue with John Gardner).
- 2020. "Coercion", *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
- 2018. "Conventions and the Normativity of Law", *Archives for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy* 104 (2), 220-231.
- 2017. "Duress as a Defence in a Case of Murder", *The Philosophical Journal of Conflict and Violence* 1(2), 187-197.

- 2017. “Moral and Non-Moral Testimony. Revisiting an Alleged Asymmetry”, *Kriterion – Journal of Philosophy* 31(1), 25-44. (Winner of the SOPHIA 2016 Best Paper Award).

Books

- 2023. Monograph “Voluntary Consent: Theory and Practice”, Routledge.
- 2023. The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Responsibility. (Edited by Maximilian Kiener)
- *Under Contract*. Monograph “Answering Others: Moral Responsibility and Artificial Intelligence”, Hart.

Book Chapters

- *Forthcoming*. “Consent and Responsibility”, in *Consenting children: autonomy, responsibility, and well-Being*, edited by Lisa Forsberg, Isra Black, Anthony Skelton, and Jonathan Herring. Proceedings of the British Academy, Oxford University Press.
- *Forthcoming*. “AI, Cyber-Risks, and the Future of Medical Ethics”, in *Essays on the Ethics of AI*, edited by David Edmonds, OUP.
- 2023. “Introduction”, The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Responsibility, ed. by Maximilian Kiener.
- 2023. “Varieties of Answerability”, The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Responsibility, ed. by Maximilian Kiener.
- 2017. “The Compulsion to Believe Something. On the Affectivity of Clear & Distinct Perceptions in Descartes”, in Boros, G., Szalai, J., Tóth, O.I. (Ed.): *The Concept of Affectivity in Early Modern Philosophy*, 42-58.

Reviews and Commentaries

- 2022. Review of “The Scope of Consent” by T. Dougherty, *Law and Philosophy* 41(5), 655-661.
- 2021. Review of “Unpacking Normativity” (edited by K. Himma et al. Hart Publishing), *Jurisprudence* 12(1), 109-116.
- 2019. “Consent, Threats, and Offers”, *The American Journal of Bioethics* 19(9), 66-68.
- 2018. “Truth-telling and Respect for Autonomy”, *The American Journal of Bioethics (Neuroscience)* 9(3), 193-194.
- 2016. Review of E. Özmen (Ed.) “Über Menschliches. Anthropologie zwischen Natur und Utopie.” *Philosophisches Jahrbuch*, Issue 2.

Conference Presentations (selection)

During the last five years, I have presented my work at over 40 conferences in 8 different countries. Here is a selection of my talks from 2023:

- 12/2023. “Moral Responsibility, AI, and Complex Collectives”, University of Hamburg.
- 10/2023. “Strict Moral Answerability”, University of Zurich.
- 09/2023. “Constructivism about Responsibility”, Tagung Praktische Philosophie, University of Salzburg.
- 07/2023. “Responsibility and Digital Transformation”, University of Bonn.
- 04/2023. “Moral Responsibility and the Lorry Driver Paradox”, Institute of Philosophy, London.
- 04/2023. “Responsibility in the Ethics of AI”, École Polytechnique Paris.
- 03/2023. “Nudging and Medical Consent”, keynote at BEACON conference, University of Bristol.
- 02/2023. “Artificial Intelligence and the Abundance of Responsibility”, University of Southampton.

Teaching

Qualifications

- **Associate Fellowship** at the **Higher Education Academy (AFHEA)** 2021

This fellowship confirms my teaching competence on the basis of the UK Professional Standards Framework for teaching and learning support in higher education and provides me with further opportunities to develop as a teacher: <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/fellowship/associate-fellowship>. I earned this fellowship after providing evidence of successful teaching, where senior members at Oxford observed my classes, and submitting written work on several aspects in current educational science.

- **SEDA Teaching and Learning Certificate** 2018

The SEDA (*Staff and Educational Development Association*) Certificate confirms that I have a range of teaching abilities, including the ability to lead group discussions, give constructive feedback, and create an inclusive learning environment sensitive to the diversity among students. I earned this certificate as the result of attending a term-long course on educational science and submitting a thesis on group teaching.

- **Range of Subjects**

Senior members of the Philosophy Faculty at the University of Oxford confirmed my teaching competence in Applied Ethics, including the Ethics of AI and Philosophy of Technology, Normative Ethics, Metaethics, Epistemology, Early Modern Philosophy, Aristotle, Theory of Politics, Philosophy of Law, and Action Theory.

Practice

Oxford Undergraduate Tutorials 2017 – 2022

- 6 tutorials on General Philosophy, University College, Oxford 2022
- 16 tutorials on normative ethics and meta-ethics, and 16 tutorials on practical ethics. 2019-2021
- 8 tutorials on practical ethics and 8 tutorials on Aristotle's 'Nicomachean Ethics'. 2018/2019
- 8 tutorials on contemporary work in normative ethics, 4 seminars on Mill's 'Utilitarianism', and 4 revision classes on normative ethics. 2017/2018

Thesis Supervision at Oxford

- Supervisor of a DPhil student at Oxford, with a project on the moral status of AI 10/2021 – date
- Supervisor of an undergraduate thesis in computer science and philosophy at Oxford 11/2022 – 04/2023

Teaching at other Institutions

- Ten lectures "Introduction to the Ethics of AI" (online), at Alliance University (India) 10/2022 – 12/2022
- Graduate seminar "The Ethics of Consent", FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg, co-taught with Erasmus Mayr. 04/2022 – 07/2022
- Undergraduate seminar "Introduction to Political Philosophy" at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. 04/2021 – 07/2021
- Graduate seminar "History of Political Philosophy" at the University of Salzburg 04/2021 – 07/2021
- ERC Research graduate seminar "Agency and Responsibility" at UCL, co-taught with John Hyman. 01/2021 – 03/2021

Evaluation

In **anonymous feedback forms**, students made the following statements:

- "Max was one of the best tutors I have had at Oxford, conscientious, interested and sharp. It was a pleasure to be taught by him." (Oxford)
- "Max substantially improved my confidence and ability to write first class philosophy essays that improved my overall potential in my 4 philosophy exams more than any other single tutor." (Oxford)
- "Max's feedback on essays has been the best I have received." (Oxford)
- "One of the best seminars that I have attended in four years" (Salzburg)

Scholarships & Prizes

Award of Excellence for overall performance at the University of Oxford 07/2022
When I received this Award of Excellence, the University of Oxford confirmed that I ‘consistently demonstrated exceptional performance significantly above that which might reasonably have been expected’, taking into account my performance across research, teaching, administration, and knowledge exchange.

Best Paper Award at the CEPE/IACAP Joint Conference 2021 07/2021
For the paper ‘Can “Taking Responsibility” as a Normative Power close AI’s Responsibility Gap?’. (CEPE stands for Computer Ethics-Philosophical Enquiry and IACAP stands for International Association for Computing and Philosophy.)

Doctoral Scholarship of The German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes) 02/2018 – 09/2019
This doctoral scholarship fully covered my living costs during my DPhil at the University of Oxford. It is awarded to 0.5 percent of students who are either German or study in Germany. As I completed my doctorate one year earlier, I did not use my third year of funding.

AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership Studentship 10/2017 – 09/2019
The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) is a public body providing financial support for UK-based research in the arts and humanities. This scholarship fully covered the tuition fees during my DPhil at the University of Oxford. It is awarded to 0.7 percent of applicants for graduate research degrees at Oxford.

“Jahresstipendium” of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) 10/2016 – 07/2017
The DAAD is the world’s largest funding organisation for the international exchange of students and researchers. My specific DAAD scholarship contributed to my living costs during my BPhil at the University of Oxford. It is awarded to 0.5 percent of German students for the purpose of studying abroad.

SOPHIA 2016 Best Paper Award 09/2016
For “Moral and Non-Moral Testimony. Revisiting an Alleged Asymmetry.” Published in *Kriterion*.

Study Abroad Scholarship of the German National Academic Foundation 10/2015 – 07/2017
Together with the DAAD, the German National Academic Foundation fully covered the tuition fees and living costs during my BPhil at the University of Oxford.

Student Scholarship of The German National Academic Foundation 04/2014 – 07/2017
This scholarship provided financial and non-material support during my undergraduate and graduate degree. It is awarded to 0.5 percent of students who are either German or study in Germany.

Max Weber Program of the State of Bavaria 04/2014 – 07/2017
Based on the Bavarian Elite Support Act (BayEFG), the Max Weber Program supports students at universities in Bavaria, offering financial support and academic mentoring. Like the German National Academic Foundation, it admits students only if they pass tests and interviews on topics related to their subjects, interdisciplinary thinking, and extracurricular activities. It is awarded to 0.5 percent of students in or from Bavaria.

Germany Scholarship 10/2013 – 03/2014
The Germany Scholarship was set up by the German government and provides financial and non-material support to students from all over the world. It was then awarded to 0.8 percent of students in Germany. I had to relinquish it in order to be admitted to the Max Weber Program and the German National Academic Foundation.

efellows.net scholarship 05/2011 – 09/2019
efellows.net is an online scholarship and career network. It was once awarded to 1.1 percent of German students.

Expertise in International Policy

Scholar at the Europaeum Scholars Programme

2018 – 2019

During my doctorate, I was a Europaeum Scholar and attended eight four-day long workshops on international politics, current societal challenges, and soft-skills training. On its website (<https://europaeum.org>), the Europaeum Scholars Programme is described as “a world-class programme designed to produce a new generation of leaders, thinkers, and researchers who have the capacity and desire to shape the future of Europe. It runs for two years alongside Scholars’ existing doctoral studies.”

Teaching Fellow at the Europaeum Scholars Programme

2020 – date

After completing the programme as a Scholar myself, I am now employed as Teaching Fellow and lead group discussions on current societal challenges such as inequality in society, privacy, and surveillance, and I also support and supervise the policy projects of current Scholars.

Knowledge Exchange: Industry & Politics (selection)

Consultant to a premium car manufacturer on the ethics of autonomous driving

09/2022 – 12/2022

I led a team of four Oxford academics, including Julian Savulescu, Carissa Véliz, Milo Phillips-Brown, and myself, to help a leading car manufacturer design their autonomous driving programme in ethically sound ways.

Member of an Expert Group at the European Commission

01/2022 – 03/2023

As part of an international and interdisciplinary working group, I helped policy-makers to choose effective and ethical ways to communicate with citizens via new digital technologies. I used my work on the ethics of influencing people’s decision-making, as it is central to my research on consent and responsibility.

Professional Service (selection)

Ethical Expertise

- Lay Plus Member of the **Clinical Research Ethics Committee** Oxford C South Central 08/2021 – 08/2023
As a full REC member, I helped evaluate applications for clinical trials. The committee meets once a month for 3-5 hours.

Organisation of Conferences and Workshops

- **Workshop “The Ethics of Persuasive Technologies”** 05/2023
Speakers: Susanne Boll (Oldenburg), Thomas Douglas (Oxford), Michael Kolain (Berlin), Silvia Milano (Exeter), Carina Prunkl (Oxford), Paul Seeliger (Speyer), Emily Sullivan (Eindhoven). Supported by the Leverhulme Trust and The Society of Applied Philosophy.
- **Seven Workshops for the Routledge Handbook of Responsibility** 10/2022
As part of my role as editor of the Routledge Handbook of Responsibility, I organised seven workshops for the contributors to present and discuss their chapters.
- **Conference “Responsibility and Autonomy in Artificial Intelligence”** 06/2022
Speakers: Mark Coeckelbergh (Vienna), Rafaela Hillerbrand (KIT), Geoff Keeling (Google), Maximilian Kiener (Oxford), Judith Simon (Hamburg), Shannon Vallor (Edinburgh). Supported by the Leverhulme Trust, The Society of Applied Philosophy, and the ERC-project *Roots of Responsibility*.
- **Conference “The Limits of Consent”** 06/2022
Co-organised together with Erasmus Mayr (FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg) and held at FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg. Speakers: Lisa Forsberg (Oxford), Nora Heinzelmann (FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg), Maximilian Kiener (Oxford), Sebastian Martens (Passau), Erasmus Mayr (FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg), Andreas Müller (Bern), David Owens (KCL), Peter Schaber (Zürich).

- **Conference “Responsibility and Control”** 06/2021
 Speakers: David Shoemaker (Tulane), Antony Duff (Stirling), Susan Wolf (UC Chapel Hill), David Enoch (Jerusalem), Victor Tadros (Warwick), Mark Coeckelbergh (Vienna), Elinor Mason (UC Santa Barbara), Karen Yeung (Birmingham), Leonhard Menges (Salzburg), Kristine La Cour (UCL), Claire Field (Stirling), Maximilian Kiener (Oxford). Supported by the ERC-Project *Roots of Responsibility*.
- **Workshop “Recent Work on the Ethics of Consent”** 12/2020 & 03/2021
 Two-part workshop, co-organised with Karamvir Chadha (Cambridge). Speakers: Mollie Gerver (Essex), Neil Manson (Lancaster), Karamvir Chadha (Cambridge), Maximilian Kiener (Oxford). Supported by the ERC-Project *Root of Responsibility* and *Durham Law School*.
- **Conference “Normative Powers in Law and Morality”** 07/2019
 Co-organised with Crescente Molina (Oxford). Speakers: Ruth Chang (Oxford), David Owens (KCL), Tom Dougherty (UNC Chapel Hill), Heidi Hurd (Illinois), Jed Lewissohn (Pittsburgh), Joseph Millum (National Institutes of Health), Massimo Renzo (KCL), Peter Schaber (Zürich), Ezequiel Monti (Torcuato di Tella University), Catherine Robb (Tilburg). Funded by the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Oxford (£ 250), the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford (£ 1713), The Society for Applied Philosophy (£3000), and The Mind Association (£1000). Website: <https://normativepowers2019.weebly.com/>

Academic Journals

- **Associate Editor of The Journal of Practical Ethics** 10/2020 – date
 See www.jpe.ox.ac.uk
- **Recent Responsibilities as Reviewer** 2020 – date
 Reviewer for *Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *Bioethics*, *Ratio*, *Law and Philosophy*, *The Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, *Philosophy and Technology*, UKRI *Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council*, *Science and Engineering Ethics*.

Administrative Roles

- **Annexe Warden at St. Peter’s College, University of Oxford** 10/2016 – 09/2020
 As Annexe Warden, I was the initial point of contact for all students living in a particular annexe of St. Peter’s College. My tasks were mediating between students and college, acting as a fire safety officer in the event of fire, helping enforce College regulations, and communicating closely with other people at St. Peter’s College, e.g. the Junior Dean, the Dean, the Welfare Officer and the Accommodation Officer as appropriate.
- **Junior Representative at The Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics** 02/2019 – 09/2019
 I represented the interests of DPhil students, early Postdocs, and academics without a permanent position at the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford. As the Junior Representative, I attended committee meetings and forwarded relevant information (e.g. information about career planning) to those I represent.

Recent Public Engagement

Publications in *The Conversation*

- 2021. [‘Should you stop wearing a mask just because the law gives you permission to do so?’](#)
- 2021. [‘COVID: Is it OK to manipulate people into getting vaccinated?’](#)
- 2020. [‘You may be hacked’ and other things doctors should tell you](#)
- 2020. [‘Infecting a volunteer with coronavirus to develop a vaccine – here’s what consent should look like’](#)

Further Writing

- 2022. [Are We Heading Towards a Post-responsibility Era? Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Morality](#). Public Ethics Blog, Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace

- 2022. [Sex and Punishment: How Old Do You Have to Be?](#) Oxford Uehiro Public Ethics Blog
- 2022. [The ABC of Responsible AI](#). Oxford Uehiro Public Ethics Blog

Radio and Podcasts

- 2022. Interview on the podcast Plato's Cave on the topics of consent and responsibility: <https://platoscave.fireside.fm/29>
- 2022. Interview on the National Technology News Podcast on the ethics of artificial intelligence: <https://www.nationaltechnology.co.uk/ai-and-responsibility-who-is-accountable-for-AIs-bad-decisions.php>
- 2021. Interview on the 640 Toronto Global News on the ethics of covid vaccination: <https://omny.fm/shows/640-toronto/is-it-ok-to-manipulate-people-into-getting-vaccina>

Art

- 2022. Video statement for **exhibition of AI Collective** in Berlin, Vienna und Seoul, funded by, among others, Fraunhofer Fokus: <https://artistintelligence.org>

Public Panels

- 2021. Panellist on the Ethics of Sustainability at The N2 Conference, a network of researchers and public stakeholders and supported by the Max Planck Society: <https://www.phdnet.mpg.de/events-and-activities/n2-conference>