
Ewan Kingston

ewan.kingston@princeton.edu
www.ewan-kingston.net
919-949-5494
M33, Guyot Hall, Princeton, NJ

Areas of Specialization:
Social and Political Philosophy, Environmental Ethics

Areas of Competence:
Non-Western Philosophy, Business Ethics, History (Ancient),
History (Modern).

Academic Employment

(current) Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Princeton Environmental Institute/University Center for Human Values, Princeton.

Education

(2019) Ph.D, Philosophy, Duke University, entered program 2014, ABD 2017.
Dissertation title: Bad Goods: On the political morality of production and consumption in global supply chains.

(2012) Master of Arts by Thesis, (Distinction) Philosophy, Victoria University of Wellington. Thesis: *The Just Allocation of Climate Change Burdens*.

(2010) B.A. (First Class Honours) Philosophy, Victoria University of Wellington.

(2004) Diploma for Graduates, Environmental Studies, University of Otago.

(2000) Bachelor of Arts, English, University of Otago, 2000.

Articles

(2019) [After Katowice: Three Civil Society Strategies for Ratcheting Up Climate Ambition](#) *Ethics and International Affairs* [online exclusive] January, 2019

(2018) (lead author, with Walter Sinnott-Armstrong) [What's Wrong with Joyguzzling?](#) *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 21(1) (2018): 169-186.

(2016) [Clustering Countries, Changing Climates: An NGO Review to Close the Emissions Gap.](#) *Ethics and International Affairs* [online Exclusive], November 2016.

(2014) [Climate Justice and Temporally Remote Emissions.](#) *Social Theory and Practice* 40(2) 281-303.

(2014) [Climate Change as a Three-part Ethical Problem: A reply to Jamieson and Gardiner.](#) *Journal of Science and Engineering Ethics* 20(4):1129-48.

Works in Progress

Lifestyle ethics and benefitting from injustice (in preparation)

Do we know how to shop with a conscience? Conscientious vs compensatory consumption and the significance of uncertainty (under review)

Global cooperation on AI safety: lessons from climate politics. (in preparation)

Don't say the E-Word: Why "exploitation" doesn't matter in global production networks. (in preparation)

Boycotting the boycott? Are there moral constraints on conscientious consumption? (in preparation)

Lessons for Zhi and implicit knowledge in the *Mengzi* (in preparation)

Book Reviews

(2014) Review of "Reason in a Dark Time" by Dale Jamieson and "The Moral Challenge of Dangerous Climate Change" by Darrel Moellendorf. *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 32(3) 326-329.

(2013) Review of 'Climate Matters: Ethics for a Warming World' by John Broome. *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 30(4) 395-396.

Public Philosophy

(2017) [Engaged Buddhism, Anger, and Retribution](#), *Ethics and International Affairs*, June 13

(2017) [Consumer Responsibility and Obscurity](#), *Ethics and International Affairs*, May 12

(2016) [Mudita: the Art of Sharing Well-being](#), *Duke Center for Comparative Philosophy*, October 18.

Refereed Presentations

Boycotting the Boycott?—*Normative Business Ethics Workshop Series*, Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, February 8, 2019

Varieties of Consumer Responsibility (Poster presentation)—*Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, August 12, 2017

How Should We Assess Countries' Climate Change Targets? Given at:

- *International Society for Environmental Ethics Conference*, CUNY, June 30, 2016
- *Climate Ethics and Economics Workshop*, Duke University. March 3, 2016

The Aesthetic Disvalue of Burning Fossil Fuels—*Climate Change: Views from the Humanities* [Online Conference], March 3-23 2016

Right-Libertarianism and The Quasi-Tax On Carbon—*Climate Ethics and Economics Workshop*, Graz, Austria. June 20 2015

Defending the Ability-to-Pay Principle for the ‘Legacy Burden’ of Climate Change Costs—*International Society for Environmental Ethics Conference*, Kiel, Germany, July 23 2015

Must Climate Ethics be Revisionary?—New Zealand AAP Conference, Wellington, December 6 2012

Invited Commentary

Comments on Zairong Xiang’s “Towards a Queer Tianxia” for *Planetary Humanities, Cosmopolitan Philosophies, Social Networks: Perspectives from China and the West*. Duke University, March 26, 2018

Comments on Jay Odenbaugh’s ‘What Should Species Be? Species Pluralism, Taxonomic Inflation, and Environmental Ethics’ *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, August 12, 2017

Comments on Marion Hourdequin’s, “Daoism Meets Environmental Ethics: Relational Virtue in Zhuangzi and Leopold”, *Center for Comparative Philosophy Workshop*, Duke University, February 2, 2017

Comments on Jeremy Moss: Emissions and Climate Justice. Workshop on Climate Change and Philosophy, Victoria University of Wellington, October 3, 2011.

Other Presentations

What’s Wrong with an Ideal Market Price for Labor?—Work in Progress Seminar, Duke University, September 24, 2018

Conscientious Consumption: Mobilizing or Performing?—Dissertation Seminar, Duke University, April 28 2018

Alleged Consumer Responsibility and the State—Work in Progress Seminar, Duke University, April 5 2017

Justly dividing the Climate Burden—Seminar at the Institute for Governance and Policy Studies, Wellington, NZ. February 8, 2013

Discounting and Climate Change—Postgraduate Student Seminar, Victoria University of Wellington, May 4 2011

Does Social Psychology Threaten Virtue Ethics?—Postgraduate Student Seminar, Victoria University of Wellington, July 6 2010

Teaching Experience

Princeton University

Preceptor, The Environmental Nexus (I assist with course design and lead small group discussions in the ethics stream of this interdisciplinary undergraduate course.) Fall 2019.

Global Climate Course

Co-Facilitator: I am currently assisting with syllabus design and in Spring 2020 will help facilitate a multi-institution (Berkeley, Chicago, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Rosario, EHESS, Nova, Oxford), graduate-level course on the unique challenges climate change poses for politics.

Duke University

Instructor (with full responsibility for the course)

- Social and Political Philosophy (Spring 2018)
- Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2017, Summer 2018)
- Logic (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

Co-Taught

- Business Ethics (Summer 2019)

Teaching Assistant

- Climate Change Practicum (*with Emily Pechar*). (Fall 2016)
- Intro to Philosophy, *Instructor: Alex Rosenberg* (Spring 2016)
- Philosophy of Entrepreneurship, *Instructor: John Fjeld* (Fall 2015)
- Chinese Philosophy, *Instructor: David Wong* (Spring 2017)

Guest Lecturer

- Environmental Politics, *Instructor: Jack Zhou* (Spring 2016)

Open Polytechnic of New Zealand

Teaching Assistant

- Business Ethics [online course], *Instructor: Vanessa Scholes* (2012-2015)

Victoria University of Wellington

Guest Lecturer

- Ethics and International Affairs, *Instructor: Ramon Das* (Dec 2012)

Teaching Assistant

- Contemporary Ethical Issues. *Instructors, Ramon Das, Nicholas Agar, Richard Joyce* (Semester 1, 2010, Semester 1, 2011, Semester 2, 2012).

Honors and Awards

Julian Price Graduate Fellowship in Humanities and History, 2019-2020

Duke Graduate School Competitive Summer Research Scholarship, 2017

Kenan Institute for Ethics Graduate Fellow, 2015-16

Victoria University Masters by Thesis Scholarship, 2011

Victoria University Summer Research Scholarship, 2010

Service

Refereeing:

Journal of Political Philosophy, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, International Journal of Wellbeing, Science and Engineering Ethics, Journal of Ethics.

Research:

Research team member, Moral Skills, Templeton World Charity Foundation Moral Intelligences Grant, 2019.

Co-Primary Investigator, Environment and Wellbeing Project, Duke Center for Comparative Philosophy 2017-2018

Rapporteur, Taking stock of India's Mandatory CSR Legislation Four Years Out June 3 2018

Rapporteur, Integral Ecology Working Group, Duke University, Nov 2015-October 2016

Workshop Organizer, Climate Ethics and Economics Workshop, Duke University/Goethe University Frankfurt, 2016

Research Assistant for Allen Buchanan, 2015-16

Administration:

Member, Socially Responsible Investment Working Group, Duke University, 2019

Member, Advisory Committee on Investment Responsibility, Duke University 2017-19

Communications Officer, Duke Philosophy Graduate Student Body, 2016 -2019

Representative, Duke Graduate and Professional Student Council, 2017-2018

Organizer, Victoria University Postgraduate Philosophy Retreat, 2011

Dissertation abstract

Bad goods: on the political morality of production and consumption in global supply chains

People buy many products produced in ways that would be likely to be illegal or immoral if they occurred in developed countries. Call these “dirty” products. For example, one can buy products produced by firms which routinely clear-cut forests, employ child or forced labor, defy domestic health and safety laws, intimidate labour organizers, and so on. On the other hand, many of the global poor rely on the employment opportunities that global production networks create, and developing countries tend to see their low production costs as their comparative advantage to attract foreign investment and upgrade to higher stages of development. In this dissertation, I ask two related questions about the production networks behind “dirty” products. First, what kinds of flaws in global production networks are morally unacceptable? Second, to whom does the responsibility to remedy such flaws fall?

Some public figures and philosophers place significant responsibility on consumers: they call on consumers to practice conscientious consumption – to selectively purchase goods based on the relative moral value of the production processes that lead to those goods. The first part of my dissertation argues against this widespread view. I illustrate that arguments for this kind of moralization of consumption typically rely on several highly questionable assumptions. I examine two in some detail. One is the assumption that consumers are in a strong epistemic situation regarding both the relative “dirtiness” of different products and the consequences of aggregate avoidance of dirty goods. Another is the assumption that the costs of moralizing consumption are obvious and easily accounted for. In a separate chapter, I highlight a related questionable assumption in political morality – that starting a campaign of conscientious consumption is an act that needs no further justification apart from its potential effectiveness. I argue that while consumers are free to choose goods for a wide range of reasons, including altruistic or political ones, actors that try to mobilize such conscientious consumption for political ends must meet stringent procedural standards. Overall, I conclude that consumers lack moral responsibility for identifying, let alone remedying the moral flaws of global production networks in a general sense.

I then turn to the role of firms. Here I deal with the charge from activists and scholars that moral analysis of global production networks must rest on the understanding that employers typically exploit workers in developing countries, taking unfair advantage of them. I argue that, in adversarial domains such as a global market, marked by routine voluntary and mutually beneficial exchanges, exploitation is an ill-fitting concept. But this does not mean multi-nationals utilizing developing world labor are free from moral constraints. Instead, I draw on the market-failures approach in business ethics to argue that the very principles of efficiency that justify markets provide an imperative for firms to cooperatively promote, or at least not hinder the advancement of, a range of labor standards. It is these principles that should guide the numerous practical attempts to foster effective self-regulation amongst firms involved in global production networks.

GRADUATE COURSES

* = officially audited

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| <i>Value theory</i> | |
| Proseminar in Ethics | Allen Buchanan Jennie Hawkins |
| Eastern & Western Conceptions of Human Nature, Ethics, & Politics | Owen Flanagan |
| Philosophy of Human Rights | Allen Buchanan |
| Climate Ethics | Douglas Maclean (UNC) |
| UN Climate Change Practicum | William Pizer Jonathan Weiner Emily Pechar |
| Comparative Ethics* | David Wong |
| <i>History</i> | |
| Modern Political Theory | Darren Beattie |
| Plato* | Michael Ferejohn |
| Historical and Philosophical Perspectives on Science | Andrew Janiak |
| Aristotle* | Michael Ferejohn |
| <i>Metaphysics and Epistemology</i> | |
| Proseminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology | Alex Rosenberg Felipe De Brigard |
| Methodology of the Empirical Sciences | Robert Brandon |
| Causation | Kevin Hoover |
| <i>Other</i> | |
| Symbolic Logic | Orlin Vakarelov |
| Teaching Philosophy | Kevin Hoover |
| Teaching Triangles | Hugh Crumley |

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2001-2003, 2005-2006 Library Assistant, Victoria University of Wellington Library

2006-2009: Travel: working and living in Australia, the UK, Germany, France and China, exploring 23 other countries in Europe and Asia, including travelling London to Sydney without flying

2009-2014: Freelance writing for The Ecologist (UK) The Listener (NZ) and Fishhead (NZ) on travel and environmental issues

Referees

The following people have indicated that they are willing to be contacted with questions about my academic achievements, character, and suitability for academic positions.

Wayne Norman

Mike and Ruth Mackowski Professor of Ethics
Kenan Institute of Ethics/Department of Philosophy
Duke University
wayne.norman@duke.edu

Walter Sinnott-Armstrong

Chauncey Stillman Professor of Practical Ethics
Kenan Institute of Ethics/Department of Philosophy
Duke University
walter.sinnott-armstrong@duke.edu

Darrell Moellendorf

Professor of International Political Theory and Professor of Philosophy
Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main
darrel.moellendorf@normativeorders.net

Douglas Maclean

Professor of Philosophy
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
maclea@unc.edu
(for climate ethics in particular)

Matthew Adler

Richard A. Horvitz Professor of Law, Professor of Economics, Philosophy
and Public Policy
Duke University
adler@law.duke.edu
(for climate ethics and interdisciplinary work)

Billy Pizer

Susan B. King Professor of Public Policy
Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Research in the Sanford School of Public Policy
billy.pizer@duke.edu
(for engagement with the UNFCCC)