

# Lucius Caviola

Department of Experimental Psychology, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, OX26GG, UK  
<http://luciuscaviola.com> | [lucius.caviola@psy.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lucius.caviola@psy.ox.ac.uk)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Moral psychology, effective altruism, ineffective charitable giving, speciesism

## EDUCATION

---

**DPhil in Experimental Psychology** Oxford, UK  
University of Oxford 2015 – 2019 (expected)  
Supervisors: Dr Nadira Faber, Prof Julian Savulescu  
Thesis: How We Morally Value Animals: The Psychology of Speciesism

**M.Sc. in Psychological Research (Distinction)** Oxford, UK  
University of Oxford 2014 – 2015  
Master's thesis: *The Effect of Accuracy Motivation on Moral Character Learning*  
(Distinction)  
Supervisors: Prof Molly Crockett, Dr Nadira Faber

**B.Sc. in Psychology** Basel, Switzerland  
University of Basel 2009 – 2013  
Bachelor's thesis: *How Pro-Social Behavior Depends on Social Expectations*  
Exchange scholarship, Simon Fraser University Vancouver (07/2011 – 12/2011)

**Berufsmatura (Vocational A levels)** Basel, Switzerland  
Gewerblich-industrielle Berufsfachschule MuttENZ 2004 – 2008

**Confederate Certificate of Competency in Computer Programming**  
Department of Finance, City of Basel 2004 – 2008  
4-year apprenticeship as a software developer at the IT Section of the Department of Finance, City of Basel

Programming languages: R, MATLAB, Java, Ruby, PHP, JavaScript

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

Research Collaborator, Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford

Research Associate, Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

### Research Visit

Cambridge, MA, USA

Harvard University, Department of Psychology

09/2018

Supervised by Prof Steven Pinker

### Full-time Research Internship

Oxford, UK

University of Oxford, Department of Experimental Psychology

01 – 09/2014

Supervised by Dr Nadira Faber

### Full-time Research Internship

Oxford, UK

University of Oxford, Department of Experimental Psychology  
and Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics

05-07/2013

Supervised by Prof Julian Savulescu and Dr Nadira Faber

### Research Assistant

Basel, Switzerland

University of Basel, Department of Economic Psychology

10/2012 – 04/2013

Research assistant for Dr Vasily Klucharev

### Research Assistant

Basel, Switzerland

University of Basel, Department of Cognitive and Decision Sciences

01/2012 – 11/2012

Research assistant for Prof Ralph Hertwig

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

---

- Everett, J.A.C., **Caviola, L.**, Savulescu, J., & Faber, N.S. (2018). Speciesism, generalized prejudice, and perceptions of prejudiced others. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*.
- Caviola, L.**, Everett, J.A.C., Faber, N.S. (2018). The moral status of animals: towards a psychology of speciesism. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
- Kahane, G., Everett, J.A.C., Earp, B.D., **Caviola, L.**, Faber, N.S., Crockett, M.J., Savulescu, J. (2017). Beyond Sacrificial Harm: A Two-Dimensional Model of Utilitarian Psychology. *Psychological Review*.
- Doolabh, K., **Caviola, L.**, Savulescu, J., Selgelid, M., & Wilkinson, D. J. (2017). Zika, contraception and the non-identity problem. *Developing World Bioethics*, 17(3), 173-204.
- Caviola, L.**, & Faber, N. (2015). Pills or push-ups? Effectiveness and public perception of pharmacological and non-pharmacological cognitive enhancement. *Frontiers in Psychology*.
- Everett, J.A.C., **Caviola, L.**, Kahane, G., Savulescu, J., & Faber, N. (2014). Doing good by doing nothing? The role of social norms in explaining default effects in altruistic contexts. *European Journal of Social Psychology*. doi: 10.1002/ejsp.2080
- Caviola, L.**, & Faber, N. (2014). Moral hypocrisy in economic games—how prosocial behavior is shaped by social expectations. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5(897). doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2014.00897
- Schelle K. S., Faber, N., **Caviola, L.**, & Hewstone, M. (2014). Attitudes towards pharmacological cognitive enhancement – a review. *Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience*, 8(53). doi: 10.3389/fnsys.2014.00053
- Caviola L.**, & Faber, N. (2014). How stress influences our morality. *In-Mind Magazine*, 23.
- Caviola, L.**, Mannino, A., Savulescu, J., & Faulmüller, N. (2014). Biases affecting moral intuitions about cognitive enhancement. *Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience*, 8(195). doi: 10.3389/fnsys.2014.00195
- Caviola, L.**, Faulmüller, N., Everett, J.A.C., Savulescu, J., & Kahane, G. (2014). Evaluability bias in charitable giving: Saving administration costs or saving lives? *Judgment and Decision Making*, 9(4), 303–315.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

---

- Caviola, L., Everett, J.A.C., Teperman, E., Savulescu, J., Faber, N.S. (2019). Utilitarianism for Animals, Kantianism for People: Speciesism in Sacrificial Moral Dilemmas. Manuscript in preparation.
- Caviola, L., Schubert, S., Teperman, E., Moss, D., Faber, N.S. (2019). How much good can a charity do? People underestimate differences in charities' effectiveness. Manuscript in preparation.
- Schubert, S., Caviola, L., Faber, N.S. (2019). How bad is human extinction? The psychology of the end of the world. Manuscript in preparation.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE & SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

---

### **Supervisor of Jack Skeggs, BA**

University of Oxford

05 – 09/2017

Jack Skeggs pursued a research project as part of an exchange programme between Monash University and the University of Oxford. I supervised the project (on omission bias) from beginning to end, with weekly meetings

### **Assessor of oral presentations by undergradates in Medical Ethics**

Oxford, UK

Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford

06/2017

### **Tutor for a one-day workshop on Effective Altruism**

Munich, Germany

Technical University Munich

2017

Organized by the German Academic Scholarship Foundation

### **Tutor, “Darwinizing Culture – Evolutionary Explanatory Models of Socio-cultural Phenomena”**

Basel, Switzerland

2012

University of Basel

I taught 14 lessons together with two other students. Topics included sociobiology, evolutionary psychology, memetics, evolution of cooperation and morality. Prof Ueli Mäder oversaw the class.

### **Tutor, “Programming in psychological research”**

Basel, Switzerland

University of Basel

26/08/ 2012

I gave a one-day workshop for the researchers at the Department of Cognitive and Decision Sciences. Topics included web-based experiment development with Ruby on Rails and Amazon Mechanical Turk.

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCE TALKS

---

Caviola, L., Schubert, S., Nemirow, J., Small, D. (03/2019). Why Do People Donate to Ineffective Charities? Symposium (chair) at the ‘International Convention of Psychological Science’, Paris (France).

Caviola, L., Nussberger, A.-M., Faber, N.S. (06/2018). Survey on UK citizen’s attitudes towards vaccination nudges in school. Vaccination conference Oxford Martin School programme on Collective Responsibility for Infectious Disease

Caviola, L. Everett, J.A.C., Tepmeran, E., Savulescu, J., Faber, N.S. (05/2018). Animals in Moral Dilemmas. Talk at ‘Moral Psychology: From Neurons to Norms’ Conference, Beirut (Lebanon).

- Caviola, L., Everett, J.A.C., Faber, N.S. (09/2016). The moral status of animals: towards a psychology of speciesism. Talk at 'Developmental & Social Section Annual Conference of the British Psychological Society' Conference, Manchester (UK).
- Caviola, L., Everett, J.A.C., Faber, N.S. (11/2015). The Psychology of Speciesism. Internal conference by Oxford Centre for the Study of Intergroup Conflict group.
- Caviola L., Faulmüller, N, Everett, J.A.C., Savulescu, J., & Kahane, G. (05/2015). The Evaluability Bias in Charitable Giving: Saving Administration Costs or Saving Lives?. Talk at the 'Inequality, Trust and Ethics Conference: London 2015' Conference, London (UK).
- Caviola L., Faulmüller, N, Everett, J.A.C., Savulescu, J., & Kahane, G. (11/2014). Overhead Ratio vs. Cost-Effectiveness: Evaluability Bias in Charitable Giving. Talk at the '49. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Psychologie' Conference, Bochum (Germany).
- Caviola L., Mannino, A., Savulescu, J., & Faulmüller, N. (08/2014). Biases affecting moral intuitions about cognitive enhancement. Talk at the 'Cognitive Enhancement: Moral, Legal and Scientific Challenges' Conference, Delft (The Netherlands).

## INVITED TALKS

---

- Introduction to Effective Altruism*. Effective Altruism Oxford student group, University of Oxford (10/2018)
- The psychology of (in)effective giving*. Wharton Business school, University of Pennsylvania (09/2018)
- The psychology of (in)effective giving*. Paul Bloom's lab at Yale University (09/2018)
- The psychology of (in)effective giving*. Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford (05/2018)
- Oxford Utilitarianism Scale*, Talk via Skype to EA Zurich student group (2017)
- A New Utilitarianism Scale*. Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford (11/2017)
- Against Naive Effective Altruism*, EAGxBerlin (2017)
- Panel discussion on empathy and altruism, Giving What We Can: Oxford (2017)
- How to Save Thousands of Lives With Your Career*. At the universities of Düsseldorf, Bonn, Cologne, Osnabrück, Zürich, Vienna (11 –12/2016)
- Dysrationalia - The IQ-RQ gap and what to do about it*, EAGxPrague (11/2016)
- Dysrationalia - The IQ-RQ gap and what to do about it*, EAGxBerlin (10/2016)
- Psychology of speciesism*, Sentience Conference (05/2016)
- The psychology of effective altruism*, Humboldt University of Berlin (03/2016)
- The psychology of effective altruism*, EA Munich (02/2016)
- The psychology of effective altruism*, University of Bayreuth (11/2015)
- Psychological cost of moral progress*, EAGxBasel (09/2015)
- The psychology of charitable giving*, Lord Florey talk, Michaelmas Term 2014, Lincoln College, University of Oxford (11/2014)

*Moral biases and our daily life and death decisions*, psyKo, national congress of students of psychology (03/2014)

*Moral biases and our daily life and death decisions*, THINK at the University of Bern (02/2014)

*Moral biases and our daily life and death decisions*, frei denken uni basel (04/2014)

*Cognitive Biases & Rationality*, THINK at the University of St. Gallen (11/2013)

*Cognitive Biases & Rationality*, THINK at University of Bern (10/2013)

*Effective Altruism: Impact through Rationality*, THINK at University of St. Gallen (03/2013)

*Cognitive Biases & Rationality*, frei denken uni basel (11/2012)

*Human Cooperation – social psychological, evolutionary and game theoretical perspectives*, frei denken uni basel (04/2012)

## COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

---

**Co-founder of the *Effective Altruism Foundation*** Berlin, Germany

Think tank and project incubator working at the intersection of ethics and science 2013

Co-founded in 2013, today based in Berlin, 15+ employees

**Co-founder of the student discussion group *frei denken uni basel*** Basel, Switzerland

University of Basel 2012

Weekly presentations and discussions by students about scientific and philosophical topics

**Delegate of the student parliament** Basel, Switzerland

University of Basel 2010 – 2012

**Active member of the psychology student group** Basel, Switzerland

University of Basel 2010 – 2012

## REVIEWER

---

*Judgment and Decision Making*

*Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

---

### **Daniel M. Wegner Theoretical Innovation Prize (2018)**

Together with Kahane, G., Everett, J.A.C., Earp, B.D., Faber, N.S., Crockett, M.J., Savulescu, J. for our publication “Beyond Sacrificial Harm: A Two-Dimensional Model of Utilitarian Psychology” in *Psychological Review*.

“The Daniel M. Wegner Theoretical Innovation Prize recognizes the author of an article or book chapter judged to provide the most innovative theoretical contribution to social/personality psychology within a given year.”

### **Berkeley Existential Risk Initiative Grant (2018)**

\$44,000 to conduct research on the psychology of existential risk

### **Centre for Effective Altruism Grant (2018)**

£17,000 to conduct research on the psychology of effective altruism

### **Janggen-Poehn Foundation Scholarship (2018)**

CHF 45,000 to finalize my DPhil programme

### **Graduate Research Fund by Lincoln College, Oxford (2018)**

£450 for moral psychology conference attendance

### **Swiss Study Foundation Scholarship (2017)**

CHF 20,000 to continue with my DPhil programme

### **Berrow Foundation Lord Florey Scholarship (2014 – 2017)**

Full MSc and DPhil funding award of ca. £20,000 per year, covering university and college fees as well as a living allowance.

### **Selected Member of the Swiss Study Foundation (2012 – present)**

“The Swiss Study Foundation (‘Schweizerische Studienstiftung’) is a foundation promoting outstanding students (98th percentile) during their undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Requirements for admission are excellent academic records, motivation and enthusiasm, faculty to perform and commitment, broad interests, creativity and intellectual curiosity, sense of responsibility, strong communication skills, also in foreign languages.”

## REFERENCES

---

Dr Nadira Faber, University of Oxford, Department of Experimental Psychology

Prof Julian Savulescu, University of Oxford, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics