

# Nicholas Makins

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## Research Interests

AOS: Practical Rationality, Metaethics, Decision Theory.

AOC: Normative Ethics, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Science.

## Education

2018 – present: LSE – MPhil/PhD Philosophy

Thesis title: *Rationality and Choice Under Moral Uncertainty*

My thesis investigates the question of what features of normative uncertainty, if any, make it appropriate to treat it any differently from empirical uncertainty in models of rational choice. Potential difference-making features considered will include the problem of intertheoretic comparisons, objective versus subjective “oughts”, accounts of moral motivation, and metaethical considerations.

2016 – 2017: LSE – MSc Philosophy of Science. Distinction.

Thesis title: *Decision Making Under Normative Uncertainty about Population Axiology*

2010 – 2016: UCL – MBBS Medicine.

2012 – 2013: UCL – BSc Medical Sciences with Psychology. 2.1 (Hons)

## Articles

Forthcoming: *Attitudinal Ambivalence: Moral Uncertainty for Non-cognitivists.*  
Forthcoming in the Australasian Journal of Philosophy.

Under review: *Preference and Commitment Under Moral Uncertainty.*

*The Possibility of Intertheoretic Value Comparisons Under Uncertainty About Population Axiology*

In preparation: *The Relevance of Belief: Subjective Norms Under Empirical and Moral Uncertainty.*

*The Balance and Weight of Reasons.*

## Presentations

2019: *Attitudinal Ambivalence: Moral Uncertainty for Non-cognitivists.*

- London Graduate Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop
- LSE/ColAForm Workshop on Individual and Collective Attitudes
- The 23<sup>rd</sup> Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference

2020: *Attitudinal Ambivalence: Moral Uncertainty for Non-cognitivists.*

- The European Congress of Analytic Philosophy 10 (ECAP10), Utrecht University

- Upcoming:
- Preference and Commitment Under Moral Uncertainty.*
    - Choice Group, LSE
    - Understanding Value IX, University of Sheffield
  - The Balance and Weight of Reasons.*
    - London Graduate Philosophy Conference
  - Attitudinal Ambivalence: Moral Uncertainty for Non-cognitivists.*
    - 2020 Annual Conference of the British Society for Ethical Theory (postponed due to COVID-19).
  - Rational Choice Under Uncertainty About Population Axiology.*
    - Workshop on Welfare, Saarland University (postponed due to COVID-19)
  - Preference and Commitment Under Moral Uncertainty.*
    - Preferences, Commitments and Choice, University of Zurich (postponed due to COVID-19)
    - Great Lakes Philosophy Conference: Ethics in Action, Siena Heights University
  - The Balance and Weight of Reasons.*
    - Value Incommensurability Workshop, Lund University
  - The Relevance of Belief: Subjective Norms Under Empirical and Moral Uncertainty.*
    - APA Pacific Division Meeting 2021

### **Teaching Experience**

Graduate Teaching Assistant at LSE.

2019-20: *Philosophy, Morals and Politics.*

*Philosophy of Economics.*

2020-21: *Philosophy and Public Policy.*

*Historical and Global Perspectives on Philosophy.*

### **Service**

2018-19: Student Representative, Staff-Student Liaison Committee.  
Departmental Representative, LSE Research Students Consultative Forum.

2019 – present: Co-organiser, LSE Choice Group seminar series.

### **Awards and Scholarships**

2018-22: LSE PhD Studentship.

2019-20: LSE Class Teacher Award Winner.

### **Employment**

2017 – 2018: Project Research Officer, Government Office for Science.  
Primary responsibilities: gather scientific research to inform policy decisions; engage with stakeholders across government, academia, and industry; commission evidence reviews from academics; coordination and report drafting of a major Foresight project into the Future of Mobility.

2016 – present: Private tuition in GCSE and A-level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and English.