

Mathias Risse

Curriculum Vitae

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Employment

As of July 1, 2002: Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Philosophy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004: Faculty Fellow in Ethics, University Center for Ethics and the Professions, Harvard University

July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2002: Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Yale University

Education

1995- 2000: Princeton University, Department of Philosophy
Ph.D., Summer 2000
M.A., 1997

1990-1995: University of Bielefeld (Germany), Departments of Philosophy and Mathematics and Institute for Mathematical Economics

M.S. (*Diplom*), 1996, Mathematics, thesis supervisor Professor Robert J. Aumann, Hebrew University; exam areas probability/measure theory, game theory, logic, algebraic topology; grade *sehr gut* (very good)

B.S. (*Vordiplom*), 1992, Mathematics and Mathematical Economics, grade *sehr gut*

B.A. (*Zwischenprüfung*), 1991, Philosophy (no grade given)

1994-1995: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Mathematics and Institute for Advanced Study

Visiting Researcher

1993-1994 University of Pittsburgh, Department of Philosophy and Department of History and Philosophy of Science

Visiting Scholar

Areas of Teaching and Research

Areas of Specialization: Social and Political Philosophy; Nietzsche; Decision Theory (Individual and Group)

Areas of Competence: Ethics; Philosophy of Economics; Logic; Philosophy of Science (General)

Honors

1999-2000 Mrs. Giles Whiting Honorific Fellowship in the Humanities (competitive dissertation research award for humanities students at Princeton; seven fellowships awarded annually)

1998-99 Center for Human Values Mellon Graduate Prize Fellowship (competitive dissertation research award open to students working in value areas in all departments; eleven fellowships awarded annually)

1998 Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award (four annual awards made university-wide)

1992 - 97 Fellow of the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (German Scholarship Foundation; national foundation intended to support the top .5 percent of the German student population)

1995-1998 Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University

1992 Fellowship from the Friedrich-Naumann Foundation, Germany (declined in favor of the Studienstiftung fellowship)

Publications

forthcoming

Dictionary Article on Richard C. Jeffrey, for a forthcoming encyclopedia on recent American philosophers

"Preference Aggregation after Harsanyi" (co-authored with Matthias Hild and Richard C. Jeffrey), to appear in M. Salles and J. Weymark (eds.), *Justice, Political Liberalism, and Utilitarianism: Themes from Harsanyi and Rawls*, Cambridge University Press, 2003 (?)

2004

Review of Ian Carter, *A Measure of Freedom*, forthcoming in *Ethics*, January 2004

"Racial Profiling" (co-authored with Richard Zeckhauser), forthcoming in *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, April 2004

"Arguing for Majority Rule", forthcoming in *The Journal of Political Philosophy* (2004), Vol. 12, No. 2

2003

Review of Joachim Koehler, *Zarathustra's Secret*, for *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (appeared under number 2003.01.13 in January 2003)

"Bayesianism – Quo Vadis? Critical Notice: David Corfield and Jon Williamson (eds.), *Foundations of Bayesianism*", in *Philosophy of Science* (2003), Vol. 70, No. 1, pp 225-232

"Nietzsche's 'Joyous and Trusting Fatalism'", *International Studies in Philosophy* XXXV/3, pp 147-163

"Bayesian Group Agents and Two Modes of Aggregation", *Synthese*, Vol. 135, No. 3, pp 347-377

"Origins of *Ressentiment* and Sources of Normativity", *Nietzsche Studien* 32, pp 142-170

"Flipping and *Ex Post* Aggregation" (co-authored with Matthias Hild and Richard C. Jeffrey), in *Social Choice and Welfare* 20, pp 267-75

2002

"Harsanyi's 'Utilitarian Theorem' and Utilitarianism", in *Nous*, Vol. 36 (4), pp 550-577

"What Equality of Opportunity Could Not Be", in *Ethics*, Vol. 112, pp 720-747

2001

"Instability of *Ex Post* Aggregation in the Bolker-Jeffrey Framework and Related Instability Phenomena", in *Erkenntnis* (2001), Vol. 55, pp 239-269

"Arrow's Theorem, Indeterminacy, and Multiplicity Reconsidered", in *Ethics* (2001), Vol. 111, pp 706-734

"The Second Treatise in *On the Genealogy of Morality*: Nietzsche on the Origin of the Bad Conscience", in *The European Journal of Philosophy* (2001), Vol 9, pp 55-81

"What to Make of the Liberal Paradox?", in *Theory and Decision* (2001), Vol. 50, pp 169-196

"The Virtuous Group -- Foundations for the Argument from the Wisdom of the Multitude", in *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (2001), Vol. 31, pp 35-85

2000

"The Morally Decent Person", in *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* (2000), Vol. XXXVIII, pp 263-279

"What is Rational about Nash Equilibria?", in *Synthese* (2000), Vol. 124, No. 3, pp 361-384

1999

"Aumann's 'No Agreement' Theorem Generalized" (co-authored with Matthias Hild and Richard C. Jeffrey), in C. Bicchieri, R. C. Jeffrey, and B. Skyrms (ed.), *The Logic of Strategy*, Oxford University Press, 1999

1998

"Agreeing to Disagree: Harsanyi and Aumann" (co-authored with Matthias Hild and Richard C. Jeffrey), in W. Leinfellner and E. Koehler (eds.), *Game Theory, Experience, Rationality*, 109-115, Kluwer, 1998

1995

"A Syntactic Model of Forgetting -- a Partially Solved Problem", appeared as No. 71 in the *Center for Rationality Discussion Paper Series*, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1995

Work under Review or in Progress

"World-Ownership, Self-Ownership: Some Worries about Otsuka's Left-Libertarianism"

"Primary Goods Revisited" (co-authored with Robert Hockett)

"Do We Live in an Unjust World?"

"What Do We Know about What Makes Societies Rich or Poor, and Does it Matter for Global Justice: Rawls, Institutions, and Theories of Growth"

"Democracy and Social Choice: A Reply to Saari"

"Rawls and Responsibility" (co-authored with Michael Blake)

"Nietzsche and Korsgaard's Kant on the Unity of Agency"

"Nietzsche on the Obligations of the *Übermensch*"

Presentations, Conferences, Round-Tables

2004

Invitation to co-chair a workshop "Kategorischer Imperativ oder Wille zur Macht?", at a conference of the German Nietzsche Society, Naumburg, August 2004

Invitation to a talk at Ohio State University, April 2004

Invitation to a talk at Missouri State University, April 2004

(I am organizing an interdisciplinary conference on "The Theory and Practice of Equality", involving 12 talks with commentators, to be held at Harvard in April 2004)

Commentator on Charles Beitz' keynote address to a conference on global justice at the Pacific APA in March 2004

"What Do We Know about What Makes Societies Rich or Poor, and Does it Matter for Global Justice," on the Panel on Political Philosophy and Development Economics, Pacific APA, Pasadena, March 2004

"How to Argue for Majority Rule," at the Chair Hoover d'éthique économique et sociale, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium), February 2004

"Leben Wir in einer Gerechten Welt?" at the department of philosophy, University of Konstanz (Germany), January 2004

"Politische Philosophie und Globalisierung: Globale Gerechtigkeit unter Empirischen und Normativen Gesichtspunkten" at the Center for Junior Research Fellows, University of Konstanz, January 2004

"Warum Borda Condorcet Nicht Schlagen Kann", at the workshop on Probabilistic Modeling, University of Konstanz, January 2004

2003

"Do We Harm the Global Poor?" at an author-meets-critic session on Thomas Pogge's *World Poverty and Human Rights* at the Eastern APA, Washington DC, December 2003

"Do We Live in an Unjust World?" Montreal Political Theory Colloquium, Montreal, November 2003

"Racial Profiling," at the conference on "The Priority of the Practice", organized by Jonathan Wolff, University College, London, September 2003

Invited Participant in a Round-Table on "Nietzsche and Normativity", University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, organized by Richard Schacht

"Group Decision Making, Indeterminacy, and the General Will," at the 26th International Wittgenstein Symposium in Kirchberg (Austria), August 2003 (special session on the work of Richard Jeffrey)

"Nietzsche and Korsgaard's Kant on the Unity of Agency," at the annual conference of the British Society for Ethical Theory, Belfast, July 2003

"Nietzsche and Korsgaard's Kant on the Unity of Agency", at the meeting of the North American Nietzsche Society, Central APA, Cleveland, April 2003

"Nietzsche's Naturalistic Ethics", at the conference "Moral Theory after Nietzsche", University of Texas at Austin, February 2003

2002

"Origins of *Ressentiment*, Sources of Normativity", at the conference on "Ethik nach Nietzsche" of the German Nietzsche Society, Naumburg, August 2002

"Nietzsche's 'Joyous and Trusting Fatalism'", at the meeting of the North American Nietzsche Society, Central APA, Chicago, April 2002

Talk on Nietzsche's *Genealogy of Morality* to the faculty of the program on "Contemporary Civilization" at Columbia University, March 2002

"Rawls on Responsibility and Primary Goods", at the department of philosophy at Boston University, February 2002

"Harsanyi's 'Utilitarian Theorem' and Utilitarianism", at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, January 2002

"Nietzsche's *Genealogy of Morality*", guest talk in Professor Arash Abizadeh's class on social theory, Wesleyan University, December 2002

2000

"The Second Treatise in 'On the Genealogy of Morality': Nietzsche on the Origin of Guilt and the Bad Conscience", presented to the Yale Political Theory Workshop, November 2000

"Majority Rule and the Indeterminacy Problem, or Why it is Worth While Knowing the Marquis de Condorcet," job talk given in January and February 2000 at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), the University of California at Irvine, Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh), Yale University, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore), and McGill University (Montreal)

1998

"Flipping in the Bolker/Jeffrey Framework", at the summer school on *Foundations of Normative Economics*, Venice (Italy), August 1998

1997

"Interactive Epistemology", at the conference on *Probabilistic Epistemology* (joint paper with Richard C. Jeffrey and Matthias Hild), Trento, October 1997

1996

"Agreeing to Disagree Reconsidered", at the conference on *Logic and Computer Science in Honor of Rohit Parikh* (joint paper with Richard C. Jeffrey and Matthias Hild), New York City, November 1996

"Preference Aggregation after Harsanyi", at the conference on *Justice, Political Liberalism and Utilitarianism in Honor of John Rawls and John Harsanyi* (joint paper with Richard C. Jeffrey and Matthias Hild), Caen, June 1996

"Agreeing to Disagree Reconsidered", at the conference on *Rationality, Game Theory and Experience* (joint paper with Richard C. Jeffrey and Matthias Hild), Vienna, June 1996

Teaching Experience

As Assistant Professor at Harvard

Fall 2002: The Responsibilities of Public Action (API 601)

Spring 2003: Just War Theory and Justice Among States (ISP 342) (won a dean's award for average student evaluations of higher than 4.5 (in 5))

As Assistant Professor at Yale

In Political Philosophy

Spring 2002: Seminar on Property Rights (Phil 658)

Fall 2001: Seminar on the Political Philosophy of John Rawls (Phil 659)

Spring 2001: Lecture Class on Contemporary Political Philosophy (Phil 305)

Fall 2000: Introduction to Political Philosophy (Phil 125)

In Ethics

Fall 2001: Introduction to Ethics (Phil 120)

Spring 2001: Seminar on Applied Ethics (Phil 658)

On Nietzsche

Spring 2002: Lecture class on Nietzsche (Phil 181)

Fall 2000: Seminar on Nietzsche's Genealogy of Morality (Phil 618)

As Teaching Assistant at Princeton and Bielefeld

Spring 1998: Philosophy 306 (Princeton), *Nietzsche*; led weekly discussion sections and graded for Professor Alexander Nehamas

Fall 1997: Philosophy 312, *Intermediate Logic* (Princeton); led weekly review sections, gave one lecture, and graded for Professor Paul Benacerraf

Spring 1997: Philosophy 203, *Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology* (Princeton); led weekly discussion sections and graded for Professor Gideon Rosen

Fall 1996: Philosophy 309, *Political Philosophy* (Princeton); led weekly discussion sections, gave one lecture, and graded for Professor Gopal Sreenivasan

Spring 1993: *Introduction to Philosophy*, focused on Applied Ethics (Bielefeld); led weekly discussion sections supervised by Professor Rüdiger Bittner

Fall 1992: *Introduction to Philosophy*, focused on writing philosophical essays (Bielefeld); led weekly discussion section supervised by Professor Wolfgang Spohn

Other Activities

2003- Director of the McCloy Program (scholarship program jointly conducted by the Kennedy School and the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes)

2003- Faculty Associate of the Center for Ethics and the Professions, Harvard University; Faculty Associate of the Carr Center for Human Rights, Harvard University

2002-2003 Member of the Admissions Committee, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard

2001- 2002 Member of the Advisory Board of the Yale Program in Ethics, Politics, and Economics

2000-02 Referee for *The Journal of Political Philosophy*, *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *The American Political Science Review*, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics*, *Erkenntnis*, *Synthese*, *Legal Theory*, and *Rationality and Society*

2000-01 Junior Search and Graduate Student Admissions at Yale; again Junior Search in 2001-02; dissertation and senior thesis supervision

1998-99 Graduate Representative, Philosophy, Princeton University

1998-99 Member of the Senior Search Committee, Philosophy, Princeton University

1997-98 Member of the Appointments Committee, Philosophy, Princeton University

Languages

German (native language), French (reading and speaking), Latin (elementary reading), Greek (elementary reading)

Dissertation Abstract

Philosophical Essays in Decision-Theoretic Aggregation

Majority Rule, Rights, Utilitarianism, and Bayesian Group Decision Theory

My dissertation focuses on problems (mostly in ethics and political philosophy) whose unifying feature is that they arise in situations where a group makes decisions that are in reasonable ways connected to the beliefs or values of the individuals who constitute it. These situations are represented by models of *decision-theoretic aggregation*: Suppose that a model of rationality in decision-making applies to each of a group of agents. Suppose that this model also applies to the group *as a whole*, and that the group model is *derived* or *aggregated* from the individual models. Two kinds of questions arise. First, what sets of reasonable conditions can we consistently impose on the aggregation? Second, what can we learn from formal results gained in such models, in particular for ethics and political philosophy? The dissertation contains seven chapters falling into three parts. Each part uses a different model of individual rationality. Part I uses a model of decision making in which agents are only assumed to rank their options. Arrow's "Impossibility Theorem" shows that certain conditions that it would be natural to impose on all aggregation cannot be so imposed, on pain of contradiction. I discuss the impact of this result on democratic theory. I also discuss Sen's "Liberal Paradox", which addresses the possibility of incorporating rights into aggregation. Part II uses the von Neumann/Morgenstern theory of expected utility (vN/M). A well-known result under this model (Harsanyi's "Utilitarian Theorem") has been regarded as supporting utilitarianism. I locate a place within utilitarianism where the theorem can do some work. To prepare the ground, I interpret vN/M as part of a theory of deliberation. Thereby, I embed a generalization of the expected utility principle into the philosophy of practical reasoning. The underlying model in Part III is Bayesian decision theory. Research into Bayesian aggregation has only begun. One essay surveys the area, and a second explores a curious phenomenon that occurs within one theory of Bayesian aggregation ("flipping").

Co-Supervisors: Paul Benacerraf, Richard C. Jeffrey