

# Mathias Risse

*Curriculum Vitae*

John F. Kennedy School of Government  
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## Employment

As of July 1, 2005: Associate Professor of Public Policy and Philosophy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2005: Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Philosophy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

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

## Areas of Teaching and Research

*Areas of Specialization:* Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy

*Areas of Competence:* 19<sup>th</sup> Century German Philosophy, especially Nietzsche; Decision Theory (Individual and Group)

## 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

## Honors

Spring 2008: Weatherhead Center Distinguished Research Faculty Associate, Harvard University

2006-2007: Laurence S. Rockefeller Visiting Fellow in the University Center for Human Values, Princeton University, and Fellow in the Program for Ethics and Public Affairs

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

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

(all refereed, unless marked by \*)

*forthcoming*

“Nietzschean ‘Animal Psychology’ versus Kantian Ethics,” forthcoming in *Nietzsche and Morality*, edited by Brian Leiter, Oxford: Oxford University Press

“Nietzsche on Justice and the Duties of the *Übermensch*,” forthcoming in Paul Bloomfield (ed.), *Morality and Self-Interest*, Oxford University Press

\* “In Defense of Nietzsche’s Distinctness: Reflections on Gregory Moore’s *Nietzsche, Biology, and Metaphor*, and Kevin Hill’s *Nietzsche’s Critiques: The Kantian Foundations of his Thought*,” forthcoming in the *European Journal of Philosophy*

\* Review of Terry Nardin and Melissa Williams (eds.), *NOMOS XVII: Humanitarian Intervention*

"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

2005

"Why the Count de Borda Cannot Beat the Marquis de Condorcet," *Social Choice and Welfare* 25 (1): pp 95-113

"Should Citizens of a Welfare State be Transformed into 'Queens'? Critical Notice of Julian Le Grand, *Motivation, Agency, and Public Policy: Of Knights and Knaves, Pawns and Queens*, Oxford: Oxford University Press," *Economics and Philosophy* 21 (2), pp 279-289

\* "Warum Kantianer Nietzsches Moralkritik Sehr Ernst Nehmen Sollten", in *Kant und Nietzsche im Widerstreit*, edited by Beatrix Himmelmann, Berlin: de Gruyter

"How Does the Global Order Harm the Poor?," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 33, No. 4, pp 349-376

"On God and Guilt: A Reply to Ridley," *Journal of Nietzsche Studies* (29), pp 49-53

"What We Owe to the Global Poor," *The Journal of Ethics*, Vol. 9, No. 1-2, pp 81-117

*also in: Current Debates in Global Justice*, ed. by G. Brock and D. Moellendorff (New York: Springer, 2005)

"Do We Owe the Poor Assistance or Rectification?," *Ethics and International Affairs*, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp 9-18

\* "Richard C. Jeffrey," Entry in *Dictionary of Modern American Philosophers*, Thoemmes Press

2004

"Does Left-Libertarianism Have Coherent Foundations?," *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics*, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp 337-365

"Racial Profiling" (co-authored with Richard Zeckhauser), *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 32, No. 2, pp 131-170

"Arguing for Majority Rule", *The Journal of Political Philosophy*, Vol. 12, No. 1, pp 41-64

\* Review of Ian Carter, *A Measure of Freedom*, *Ethics* 114 (No. 2), pp 340-343

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*, 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*, Vol. 55, pp 239-269

"Arrow's Theorem, Indeterminacy, and Multiplicity Reconsidered", in *Ethics*, 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*, 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*, Vol. 31, pp 35-85

2000

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

"What is Rational about Nash Equilibria?", in *Synthese*, 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

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

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

## **Work under Review or in Progress**

“Immigration Reconsidered” (co-authored with Michael Blake)

"Fairness in Trade"

“What to Say about the State”

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

"Two Models of Equality and Responsibility" (co-authored with Michael Blake)

“Some Thoughts on Reparations for Past Injustice”

“What Would Freud Have Said about the Eternal Recurrence?”

## **Presentations, Conferences, Round-Tables**

*2006*

Invitation for a talk on racial profiling at the Eastern APA, Washington, DC, December 2006

“Basic Issues in Fairness in Trade: The Pauper-Labor Argument, Subsidies and the WTO,” for a round-table discussion on global justice at the Political Studies Association Conference in Reading, in April 2006

“The Eternal Recurrence: A Freudian Look at What Nietzsche Took to be His Greatest Insight,” at a conference on “Nietzsche on Self, Agency, and Autonomy,” at Birkbeck College, London, April 2006

“The Eternal Recurrence: A Freudian Look at What Nietzsche Took to be His Greatest Insight” Pacific APA, Portland, March 2006

“What to Say about the State,” Werkmeister Conference on Cosmopolitanism, Florida State University, Tallahassee, March 2006

“What to Say about the State,” Political Philosophy Colloquium, Brown University, March 2006

“What to Say about the State,” Colloquium at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, January 2006

*2005*

Commentary on Christopher Janaway, “Nietzsche on Reason and Emotion,” at the NYU Conference on Reason and the Emotions in Modern Philosophy, November 2005

“Fairness in Trade,” Global Justice Workshop, Stanford University, October 2005

“The Pauper-Labor Argument”, at the Workshop on Economics, Philosophy and Public Policy at the 5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Analytical Philosophy in Lisbon, August 2005

“Fairness in Trade,” at the workshop on Global justice and Borders at the Université de Montréal, April 2005

Comments on Jeremy Waldron, “Legitimacy an Electoral Legitimacy,” at the Conference on Moral Leadership and The Right to Rule, Harvard University

“Fairness in Trade,” at the “Priority of Practice” conference at University College London, April 2005

“Fairness in Trade,” at the Conference on Fairness and the Political Economy of Globalization, at Tulane University, New Orleans, April 2005

“Fairness in Trade,” at the Pacific APA, San Francisco, March 2005

“Fairness in Trade,” at the Murphy Institute, Tulane University, New Orleans, February 2005

“Fairness in Trade”, at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Bristol, January 2005

“Fairness in Trade”, at the Department of Government, International Politics, and Philosophy at the University of Manchester, January 2005

## 2004

“Nietzschean ‘Animal Psychology’ versus Kantian Ethics”, at the workshop “Nietzsche and Naturalism” (organized by myself), Harvard University, November 2004

“Nietzschean ‘Animal Psychology’ versus Kantian Ethics” at the conference “Vernunft, Leben, Existenz: Kant und Nietzsche im Widerstreit”, organized by the German Nietzsche Society, Naumburg, August 2004

“Do We Live in an Unjust World?” Mershon Center, Ohio State University, April 2004

“Do We Live in an Unjust World?” Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, Columbia, April 2004

“What We Owe to the Global Poor: Or how to be a Domestic Egalitarian Without Being a Global Egalitarian,” at the conference on “The Theory and Practice of Equality” (organized by myself in collaboration with Jonathan Wolff, University College London), Harvard University, April 2004

“Two Models of Equality and Responsibility”, at the conference on “The Theory and Practice of Equality” (organized by myself in collaboration with Jonathan Wolff, University College London), Harvard University, April 2004

“A Plea for More Philosophical Reflection on ‘Global Governance’,” Comments on Charles Beitz’s keynote address to a conference on global justice at the Pacific APA in Pasadena, 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

"Why the Count de Borda Cannot Beat the Marquis the Condorcet", 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

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 Worthwhile 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

At Harvard

*At the Kennedy School*

Fall 2002, again in Fall 2004 and in Fall 2005: The Responsibilities of Public Action (API 601) – class on ethics and public policy

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))

Spring 2005, again in Spring 2006: Justice (API 606)

*In the Philosophy Department*

Fall 2005: Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud

At Yale

*In Political Philosophy*

Spring 2002: Seminar on Property Rights (Phil 660)

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*; Professor Alexander Nehamas

Fall 1997: Philosophy 312, *Intermediate Logic* (Princeton); Professor Paul Benacerraf

Spring 1997: Philosophy 203, *Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology* (Princeton); Professor Gideon Rosen

Fall 1996: Philosophy 309, *Political Philosophy* (Princeton); Professor Gopal Sreenivasan

Spring 1993: *Introduction to Philosophy*, focused on Applied Ethics (Bielefeld); Professor Rüdiger Bittner

Fall 1992: *Introduction to Philosophy*, focused on writing philosophical essays (Bielefeld); Professor Wolfgang Spohn

**Conferences Organized**

2006 Interdisciplinary Conference on "Equality and the New Global Order," at the Kennedy School of Government, co-sponsored by the Center for Ethics and the Justice/Welfare/Economics Initiative at Harvard, with additional financial support from various other Harvard sources; 12 talks with commentators (budget of \$50,000)

2004 Workshop on "Nietzsche and Naturalism", held at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard; 12 talks; sponsored by the Radcliffe Institute (budget of \$12,000)

2004 Interdisciplinary conference on “The Theory and Practice of Equality,” at the Kennedy School of Government. 12 talks with commentators; in collaboration with Jonathan Wolff, University College London (with a conference budget of about \$38,000, sponsored by various Harvard and MIT sources)

## **Other Activities**

2006 Member of Program Committee for Social Choice and Welfare meeting in Istanbul, July 2006

2004 – Faculty Associate of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University

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 Policy, Harvard University

2002-2003 Member of the MPP Admissions Committee, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard; since 2004 member of the MPA Admissions Committee

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

2000-05 Referee for *Ethics*; *The Journal of Political Philosophy*; *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy*; *The American Political Science Review*; *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics*; *Erkenntnis*; *Economics and Philosophy*; *Synthese*; *Legal Theory*; *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Studies*, *Economic Studies*, and *Rationality and Society*, and also for the British Society for Ethical Theory (BSET); evaluator for the Emmy-Noether Program of the Deutsche Forschungs-Gesellschaft (German Research Foundation)

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

(I received an offer from Robert Nozick to publish this dissertation in the Routledge "Distinguished Dissertation Series" edited by him, but chose to publish individual chapters in journals instead.)