

Edmund Handby
204A Gross Hall, 140 Science Dr, Durham, NC 27708
edmund.handby@duke.edu
www.edmundhandby.com

Research Profile

My research develops empirically informed political theory by integrating normative political theory with contemporary political science, philosophy of language, and behavioural research. My work focuses on democratic institutions, political representation, political theory methodology, and the history of political thought. Current projects examine democratic institutions and electoral behaviour, political representation, the methodology of political theory, and the use of artificial intelligence in normative inquiry.

Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral Associate July 2023 - Present
Duke University, Department of Political Science

Sessional Lecturer February 2022 – July 2023
Australian National University, School of Politics and International Relations

Education

Ph.D., Political Science (Political Theory), **Australian National University** 2023
Dissertation: Evaluating Models of Conceptual Change
Committee: Keith Dowding (Chair), John Uhr, April Biccham

LL. B (Hons), **Australian National University** 2020
B.A (International Relations) (Hons), **Australian National University** 2017

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Handby, Edmund. 2026. [Defending Methodological Anarchism in Empirically Informed Political Theory](https://doi.org/10.1086/738893), *The Journal of Politics*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1086/738893>

Handby, Edmund. 2026. [The Metaethical Commitments of Intuition Use in Analytic Political Theory](https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2026.2631940), *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2026.2631940>

Rutledge-Prior, Serrin and **Handby, Edmund.** 2024. [Political Representation, the Environment, and Edmund Burke: A Re-Reading of the Western Canon Through the Lens of Multispecies Justice](#), *European Journal of Political Theory* 24(4): 578-598.

Handby, Edmund. 2024. [Semantic Externalism and the History of Ideas: A Critical Review](#), *Journal of the Philosophy of History* 18(1): 1-21.

Handby, Edmund 2023. [Book Review: Teaching Political Theory: A Pluralistic Approach. By Tampio, Nicholas \(Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022\)](#), *Journal of Political Science Education* 19(3): 526-529.

Handby, Edmund. 2022. [Assessing the Use of Intuitions in Contemporary Political Theory](#), *The Journal of Politics* 84(3): 1595-1606.

Handby, Edmund. 2021. [Classroom Games to Teach Contemporary Political Theory](#), *Journal of Political Science Education* 17(S1): 23-31.

Handby, Edmund. 2020. [The Survival and Tenure of Australian Attorneys-General](#), *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* 58(2): 162-183.

Book Manuscript

Semantic Externalism and the History of Political Thought

(book manuscript under editorial review with **Cambridge University Press**)

This manuscript develops a novel approach to the history of political thought grounded in semantic externalism and Saul Kripke's causal theory of reference. It argues that this framework provides a more coherent account of conceptual continuity and change than existing approaches and applies this account to debates in democratic theory and political representation.

Editorial Work/Special Issues

Edited Symposia/Special Issues/Newsletters

Editor – [‘Do Actions Speak Louder Than Thoughts? Normative Behaviourism Reconsidered’](#) *Political Studies Review* (2023) 21(3): 437-500.

- Handby, Edmund. 2023. [Editorial to Special Issue: Do Actions Speak Louder than Thoughts? Normative Behaviourism Reconsidered](#), *Political Studies Review* 21(3): 437-440.

Co-Editor - [ECPR Standing Group on Methods of Normative Political Theory Quarterly Newsletter](#).

Public-Facing Publications

Handby, Edmund. [‘Are Intuitions Reliable Enough for Political Theorising?’](#) *The Journal of Politics Blog*.

Handby, Edmund. [‘The Survival and Tenure of Australian Attorneys-General.’](#) *POP Politics Blog*.

Handby, Edmund. [‘Promoting Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Communication at Duke’](#), *The Graduate School, Duke University Blog*.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

- Frontiers in Political Science Grant, Duke University (\$14,500.00USD)
- Fellow – Duke Emerging Leadership Institute
- Associate Fellow – Advance HE (formerly Higher Education Academy).
- Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship – Stipend Scholarship.
- Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship – Fee-Offset Scholarship.

Working Papers

‘A Condorcetian Defence of Compulsory Voting’ (in preparation)

‘Is Strategic Voting So Bad Compared to the Alternatives?’ (in preparation)

‘Nozick’s Theory of Rectification and Benefitting from Injustice’ (with Angela Gao (ANU)) (in preparation)
‘Artificial Intelligence as a Method of Normative Political Philosophy’ (under review)

Research Presentations

‘Artificial Intelligence as a Method of Normative Political Philosophy’

- MANCEPT Workshop 2025
- ECPR General Conference 2024; 2025

‘A Condorcetian Defence of Mandatory Voting’

- APSA Annual Meeting 2024
- SUNY at Buffalo PPE Graduate Workshop 2024
- APT Annual Conference 2024

‘Defending Methodological Anarchism and Empirically Informed Political Theory’ (published in The Journal of Politics)

- Monash University Methods in Normative Theory Workshop 2024.

‘Is Strategic Voting So Bad Compared to the Alternatives?’

- Duke Political Theory Fall Workshop 2023.
- PPE Society Annual Meeting 2023
- WPSA Annual Meeting 2024

‘The Metaethical Commitments of Intuition Use in Analytic Political Theory’ (published in CRISPP)

- ECPR General Conference 2022
- WPSA Annual Meeting 2024

‘Political Representation, the Environment, and Edmund Burke: A Re-Reading of the Western Canon Through the Lens of Multispecies Justice’ (with Serrin Rutledge-Prior) (published in the European Journal of Political Theory).

- ECPR Standing Group on Political Theory Seminar Series 2023
- APT Annual Conference 2022
- MPSA Annual Conference 2022

‘Assessing the Use of Intuitions in Contemporary Political Theory’ (published in The Journal of Politics)

- ECPR Political Theory Standing Group Seminar Series 2021-2022
- ECPR General Conference 2019; 2021
- MANCEPT Brave New World 2021
- Stanford Graduate Conference in Political Theory 2021

‘Semantic Externalism and the History of Ideas: A Critical Review’ (published in The Journal of the Philosophy of History)

- MPSA Annual Conference 2021

‘The Survival and Tenure of Australian Attorneys-General’ (published in Commonwealth and Comparative Politics)

- Australian Political Science Association Conference 2019

Invited Talks

SUNY at Buffalo PPE Graduate Workshop, April 2024.

ANU School of Politics and International Relations Seminar Series, July 2024.

Teaching Experience

(number of semesters in parentheses)

Instructor of Record

Duke University

- POLSCI104: Capitalism: For and Against (1)
- POLSCI 175: Introduction to Political Philosophy (3)
- POLSCI 290: Introduction to Contemporary Political Theory (2)
- POLSCI 384: Inequality in Western Political Thought (1)

Australian National University

- POLS2063: Contemporary Political Theory (1)
- POLS2009: Bureaucracy, Politics, and Power (1)

Tutor/Teaching Assistant

Australian National University

- POLS1002 - Introduction to Politics (2)
- POLS1008 - Politics, Philosophy, and Economics: Integration 1 (2)
- POLS1009 - Research and Writing in Politics (2)
- POLS2130 - Public Choice and Policy (1)
- POLS2063 - Contemporary Political Theory (4)
- POLS2119 - Ideas in Politics (4)

Professional Service

Co-Section Chair: Methods in Normative Theory Section:

- ECPR General Conference 2025, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
- ECPR General Conference 2026, Jagiellonian University, Kraków.

Anonymous Reviewer,

European Research Council.

Anonymous Reviewer,

American Journal of Political Science, The Journal of Politics, European Journal of Political Theory, Res Publica, Political Studies Review, Contemporary Political Theory, Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophical Studies, Polity, International Theory, Journal of Political Science Education, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Jurisprudence, New Jersey Journal of Politics.

Mentor, APSA Mentoring Program, 2024

Member, Association for Political Theory Conference Program Committee, 2023.

Judging Panellist, The Undergraduate Awards (Politics and International Relations Section), 2020 – 2025.

Co-Organiser, Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference, 2020.

Departmental Service - Duke University

Review Committee, The Graduate School Dean's Awards for Excellence in Mentoring, 2024.

Volunteer, Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2023 – 2026.

Co-Organiser, Postdoc Job Market Workshop, 2023-2024.

Departmental Service - Australian National University

Post-Graduate Cohort Representative - School of Politics and International Relations, Australian National University, 2021 – 2022.

Assessor, ANU Educational Fellowship Scheme (EFS), 2024 – present.

Mentor, ANU School of Law Momentum Mentoring and Professional Development Program, 2022.

References

Professor Alexander Kirshner
Professor of Political Science
Duke University
alexander.kirshner@duke.edu

Professor Alexandra Oprea
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
SUNY at Buffalo
aoprea@buffalo.edu

Professor Jill Sheppard
Associate Professor of Political Science
Australian National University
jill.sheppard@anu.edu.au

Professor Darren Halpin
Professor of Political Science
& Associate Dean (Research)
Australian National University
darren.halpin@anu.edu.au