

# Thomas Pölzler

## Curriculum Vitae

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Website	thomaspoelzler.com
Nationality	Austria

### Education

- 10/2006 – 04/2015 *Dr. phil. (Austrian PhD) in Philosophy, University of Graz*  
(with interruptions\*) Overall Grade: “mit Auszeichnung” = highest possible distinction  
Thesis: “Moral Reality and the Empirical Sciences”  
First Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. i.R. Dr. Johann C. Marek  
Second Supervisor: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Lukas H. Meyer
- 10/2010 – 10/2012 *MA in Political, Economic and Legal Philosophy, University of Graz/University of New Brunswick*  
Overall Grade: “mit Auszeichnung” = highest possible distinction  
Thesis: “Is Moral Nihilism a Significant Cause of Climate Change Inaction?”  
Supervisor: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Lukas H. Meyer
- 10/2002 – 05/2006 *Mag. phil. (Austrian MA) in Philosophy, University of Graz*  
Overall Grade: “mit Auszeichnung” = highest possible distinction  
Thesis: “Die Logik des Absurden bei Albert Camus” („Albert Camus’ Logic of the Absurd“)  
Supervisor: Univ.-Prof. i.R. Dr. Kurt Salamun

## Areas of Specialisation

Metaethics	Moral Realism/Anti-Realism Moral Cognitivism/Non-Cognitivism Metaethics and the Empirical Sciences
Empirical Research	Moral Psychology Evolution of Morality Experimental Philosophy
Albert Camus	Philosophical and Literary Works before 1944

## Areas of Competence

Metaethics	Moral Motivation Moral Epistemology
Albert Camus	Philosophical and Literary Works after 1944
Applied Ethics	Climate Ethics Geoethics
Political Philosophy	Basic Needs Intergenerational Justice

## Research and Teaching Positions

01/2018 – 04/2019	Researcher Project How to Measure Moral Realism (Erwin Schrödinger Fellowship, Austrian Science Fund)   Department of Psychology, College of Charleston (01/2018 – 11/2018), Department of Philosophy, University of Graz (12/2018 – 04/2019)
07/2016 – 10/2017	Researcher and Lecturer Political Philosophy   Department of Philosophy, University of Graz
03/2014 – 10/2017	Researcher and Lecturer Practical Philosophy   Department of Philosophy, University of Graz
08/2016 – 07/2017	Researcher Project EE-Con (Economic and Ethical Consequences of Natural Hazards in Alpine Valleys)   Austrian Academy of Sciences
11/2014 – 02/2015	Researcher Project RE-ADJUST (Adjusting Efforts in the Global Greenhouse: Responding to Trade, Technology and Responsibility Challenges of European Energy and Climate Policies)   Austrian Climate and Energy Fund

- 09/2013 – 01/2015 Teacher Theory of Knowledge | International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, Campus Wien West
- 03/2012 – 02/2014 Doctoral Scholarship | Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Graz

## Visiting Positions

- 08/2018 Visiting Researcher (two weeks) | Department of Psychology, Princeton University, United States
- 07/2018 Visiting Researcher (one month) | Department of Philosophy, Yale University, United States
- 08/2017 – 09/2017 Visiting Researcher (one month) | Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, Canada
- 03/2015 – 04/2015 Visiting Researcher (one month) | Department of Philosophy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- 09/2011 – 12/2011 Visiting Student (four months) | Department of Philosophy, University of New Brunswick, Canada

## Publications

- Books [1] Pölzler, Thomas (2018): *Moral Reality and the Empirical Sciences*. New York: Routledge.  
[Reviewed by Joel Marks in *Ethical Perspectives* 25 (3).]
- Journal Articles [1] Pölzler, Thomas (forthcoming): How to Determine whether Evolution Debunks Moral Realism. *Jahrbuch für Wissenschaft und Ethik*.
- [2] Pölzler, Thomas (forthcoming): Entschädigung für historisches Unrecht: Das Argument des anhaltenden Unrechts. *Archiv für Rechts- und Sozialphilosophie*.
- [3] Pölzler, Thomas (2018): How to Measure Moral Realism. *Review of Philosophy & Psychology* 9 (3), 647–670.
- [4] Pölzler, Thomas (2018): Can the Empirical Sciences Contribute to the Moral Realism/Anti-Realism Debate? *Synthese*.
- [5] Pölzler, Thomas (2018): Camus' Feeling of the Absurd. *Journal of Value Inquiry*.
- [6] Pölzler, Thomas (2017): On the Contribution of Philosophical and Geoscientific Inquiry to Geoethics (*qua* Applied Ethics). *Annals of Geophysics* 60 (7).

- [7] Pözlner, Thomas; Ortner, Florian (2017): Ethical but Upsetting Geoscience Research: A Case Study. *Annals of Geophysics* 60 (7).
- [8] Pözlner, Thomas (2017): Are Moral Judgements Adaptations? Three Reasons Why It Is so Difficult to Tell. *South African Journal of Philosophy* 36 (3), 425-439.
- [9] Pözlner, Thomas (2017): Revisiting Folk Moral Realism. *Review of Philosophy & Psychology* 8 (2), 455-476.
- [10] Pözlner, Thomas (2016): Further Problems with Projectivism. *South African Journal of Philosophy* 35 (1), 92-102.
- [11] Pözlner, Thomas (2016): Wie schlüssig ist Albert Camus' frühe Logik des Absurden? *Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Philosophie* 41 (1), 59-76.
- [12] Pözlner, Thomas (2015): Moral Judgements and Emotions: A Less Intimate Relationship than Recently Claimed. *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology* 35 (3), 177-195.
- [13] Pözlner, Thomas (2015): Climate Change Inaction and Moral Nihilism. *Ethics, Policy & Environment* 18 (2), 202-214.
- [14] Pözlner, Thomas (2014): Absurdism as Self-Help: Resolving an Essential Inconsistency in Camus' Early Philosophy. *Journal of Camus Studies* 2014, 91-102.
- [15] Pözlner, Thomas (2011): Camus' Early "Logic of the Absurd". *Journal of Camus Studies* 2011, 98-117.

#### Chapters

- [1] Pözlner, Thomas (forthcoming): The Effects of Morality on Acting against Climate Change. In: Garner, Richard; Joyce, Richard (eds.): *The End of Morality*. New York: Routledge.
- [2] Pözlner, Thomas (2017): Lastenteilung in der europäischen Asylpolitik. In: Meyer, Lukas; Reiter, Barbara (eds.): *Wem gehört das Klima?* Graz: Grazer Universitätsverlag, 21-25.
- [3] Pözlner, Thomas (2017): Unsere Verantwortung gegenüber Flüchtlingen. In: Meyer, Lukas; Reiter, Barbara (eds.): *Wem gehört das Klima?* Graz: Grazer Universitätsverlag, 43-47.

#### Conference Articles

- [1] Ortner, Florian; Pözlner, Thomas; Meyer, Lukas; Sass, Oliver (2017): Natural hazards and the normative significance of expectations in protecting alpine communities. In: European Geosciences Union (ed.): *Geophysical Research Abstracts: Abstracts of the European Geosciences Union General Assembly*. Munich: Copernicus.

[2] Pölzler, Thomas (2016): Art in the Face of the Absurd. In: Majetschak, Stefan; Weiberg, Anja (eds.): *Contributions of the 39th International Wittgenstein Symposium*. Kirchberg am Wechsel: Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society, 196-198.

[3] Pölzler, Thomas (2015): Moral Disagreement, Anti-Realism, and the Worry about Overgeneralization. In: Kanzian, Christian; Mitterer, Josef; Neges, Katharina (eds.): *Contributions of the 38th International Wittgenstein Symposium*. Kirchberg am Wechsel: Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society, 245-247.

[4] Pölzler, Thomas (2013): How Does Moral Nihilism Affect our Taking Action against Climate Change? *Proceedings of the 13. International Conference of ISSEI*.

#### Edited Volumes

[1] Meyer, Lukas; Stelzer, Harald; Placani, Adriana; Düvel, Eike; Pölzler, Thomas (eds.) (2018): Special Issue on "Ethics and Risks." *Ethical Perspectives*.

[2] Meyer, Lukas; Pölzler, Thomas; Sanklecha, Pranay (eds.) (2017): Special Issue on "Legitimate Expectations." *Moral Philosophy & Politics* 4 (2).

#### Introductions

[1] Placani, Adriana; Düvel, Eike; Pölzler, Thomas (2018): Ethics and Risks: Approaches and Issues. *Ethical Perspectives*.

[2] Meyer, Lukas; Pölzler, Thomas; Sanklecha, Pranay (2017): Introduction to the Special Issue on Legitimate Expectations. *Moral Philosophy & Politics* 4 (2), 173-175.

#### Comments

[1] Pölzler, Thomas (2012): Comment on Sabine Hohl and Dominic Roser. Stepping in for the Polluters? Climate Justice under Partial Compliance. *Analyse & Kritik* 33 (2), 501-508.

#### Book Reviews

[1] Pölzler, Thomas (forthcoming): Review of Iddo Landau's "Finding Meaning in an Imperfect World." *Philosophical Quarterly*.

[2] Pölzler, Thomas (2018): Review of Kieran Setiya's "Midlife: A Philosophical Guide." *Ethical Perspectives*.

[3] Pölzler, Thomas (2015): Review of Erik J. Wielenberg's "Robust Ethics: The Metaphysics and Epistemology of Godless Normative Realism." *Ethical Perspectives* 22 (3), 509-513.

Blog Entries [1] Pözlner, Thomas (2018): Vertrauen ist gut, Kontrolle ist besser: Experimentelle Philosophie und die Qualität empirischer Daten. Philosophy Blog *praefaktisch.de*.

## Presentations

- 10/09/2018 *Anti-Realist Pluralism: A New Approach to Folk Metaethics* | Psychology Department | College of Charleston, United States
- 09/22/2018 *Anti-Realist Pluralism: A New Approach to Folk Metaethics* | Buffalo Annual Experimental Philosophy Conference | Buffalo, United States
- 09/20/2018 *Anti-Realist Pluralism: A New Approach to Folk Metaethics* | Greene and Cushman Moral Psychology Labs | Harvard University, United States
- 09/20/2018 *Anti-Realist Pluralism: A New Approach to Folk Metaethics* | Philosophy Department Work-in-Progress Series | Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States
- 09/18/2018 *Anti-Realist Pluralism: A New Approach to Folk Metaethics* | Philosophy Department Work-in-Progress Series | College of Charleston, United States
- 08/13/2018 *Anti-Realist Pluralism: A New Approach to Folk Metaethics* | Goodwin Lab | University of Pennsylvania, United States
- 08/07/2018 *Anti-Realist Pluralism: A New Approach to Folk Metaethics* | Concepts and Cognition Lab | Princeton University, United States
- 11/08/2017 *Natural Hazards and the Normative Significance of Expectations in Protecting Alpine Communities* (poster presentation, conducted by Florian Ortner) | International Conference on Geomorphology | New Delhi, India
- 10/12/2017 *Moral Realism, Evolution, and Folk Metaethics* | Colloquium | Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognitive Research, Austria
- 09/07/2017 *How to Measure Moral Realism* | Philosophy Department Work-in-Progress Series | University of British Columbia, Canada
- 08/19/2017 *How to Measure Moral Realism* | Buffalo Annual Experimental Philosophy Conference | Buffalo, United States
- 06/22/2017 *Comment on Madeleine Hayenhjelm: The Moral Problem of Risk Impositions and Climate Change* | International Workshop "Responding to an Uncertain Future: Normative Theories of Risk and Climate Change Policy" | University of Graz, Austria

- 06/22/2017 *Natural Hazards and the Normative Significance of Expectations in Protecting Alpine Communities* (poster presentation, together with Florian Ortner) | International Workshop “Responding to an Uncertain Future: Normative Theories of Risk and Climate Change Policy” | University of Graz, Austria
- 05/08/2017 *Intergenerationelle Klimagerechtigkeit und Grundbedürfnisse (Intergenerational Climate Justice and Basic Needs)* | Research Group ClimateProtectionLaw | University of Graz, Austria
- 04/26/2017 *Natural Hazards and the Normative Significance of Expectations in Protecting Alpine Communities* (together with Florian Ortner) | European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2017 | Vienna, Austria
- 03/07/2017 *Natural Hazards and the Normative Significance of Expectations in Protecting Alpine Communities* (together with Florian Ortner) | Colloquium of the FWF Doctoral Program Climate Change | University of Graz, Austria
- 12/01/2016 *Some Guidelines for Measuring Moral Realism* | Philosophy Department Colloquium | University of Hong Kong, China
- 08/11/2016 *Art in the Face of the Absurd* | 39th International Wittgenstein Symposium | Kirchberg am Wechsel, Austria
- 04/10/2016 *Intergenerational Climate Justice and Basic Needs* | Special Interdepartmental Seminar of the Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies and the Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication | Open University of Israel, Israel
- 04/05/2016 *Can the Empirical Sciences Contribute to the Moral Realism/Anti-Realism Debate?* | Philosophy Department Seminar | Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel
- 03/30/2016 *Can the Empirical Sciences Contribute to the Moral Realism/Anti-Realism Debate?* | Colloquium of the Sydney M. Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine | Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- 03/23/2016 *What Difference Does Morality Make (with Regard to Acting against Climate Change)?* | Philosophy Department Seminar | Bar-Ilan University, Israel
- 02/12/2016 *How to Measure Moral Realism* | Experimental Philosophy Colloquium | Institut Jean Nicod (École Normale Supérieure/École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales), France

- 09/24/2015 *Moral by Nature? On the Difficulty of Determining the Adaptedness of Moral Judgements* | Humane Philosophy Project Conference “Humane Philosophy and Human Nature” (University of Oxford/University of Warsaw) | University of Warsaw, Poland
- 08/11/2015 *Moral Disagreement, Anti-Realism, and the Worry about Overgeneralization* | 38th International Wittgenstein Symposium | Kirchberg am Wechsel, Austria
- 06/03/2015 *The Metaethical Implications of Moral Disagreement* | Public Talk | California State University East Bay, United States
- 11/18/2014 *Albert Camus’ frühe Logik des Absurden (Albert Camus’ Early Logic of the Absurd)* | Public Talk, organized by the Studienvertretung Philosophie Uni Graz | University of Graz, Austria
- 04/04/2014 *What if Moral Values Were Projections?* | First Graz-Vienna-Bratislava Graduate Workshop | Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia
- 10/21/2013 *“Gilding and Staining”: Projectivist Arguments against the Reality of Moral Values* | Philosophy Talks 7 - Public Talk | Istanbul Şehir University, Turkey
- 06/20/2013 *Was können die empirischen Wissenschaften zur Debatte um die Realität moralischer Werte beitragen? (What Can the Empirical Sciences Contribute to the Debate about the Reality of Moral Values?)* (poster presentation) | Day of the Humanities | University of Graz, Austria
- 01/30/2013 *Evolutionary Moral Anti-Realism* | Departmental Graduate Seminar | University of Warwick, Great Britain
- 07/03/2012 *How does Moral Nihilism Affect our Taking Action Against Climate Change?* | 13. International Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas | Nicosia, Cyprus

## Grants and Awards

- 2017 Erwin Schrödinger Fellowship for a Ten Months Research Stay at the College of Charleston (including a Five Months Return Phase at the University of Graz) | Austrian Science Fund
- MAX KADE Fellowship for a One-Year Research Stay at the College of Charleston (Declined) | Max Kade Foundation and the Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Nomination for the University of Graz’s Best Teaching Award *Lehre: Ausgezeichnet!* | University of Graz



	Funding for a One-Month Research Stay at the University of Toronto   State Styria
2016	Special Young Researcher Funding for a One-Month Research Stay at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem   Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Graz Funding for a One-Month Research Stay at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem   State Styria
2015	Award for a Peer-Reviewed Publication Based on Master Thesis   Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Graz
2012 – 2014	Doctoral Scholarship   Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Graz
2012	Achievement-Scholarship of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Graz
2011	Scholarship   Alumni Scholarship Association, University of Graz Scholarship for Studying Abroad   State Styria Joint Study Scholarship for Studying Abroad   Office for International Relations, University of Graz
2009	Forum Alpbach Scholarship   Club Alpbach Styria
2008	Forum Alpbach Course Assistant Scholarship   Club Alpbach Styria
2006	Achievement-Scholarship   Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Graz
2005	Achievement-Scholarship   Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Graz
2004	Achievement-Scholarship   Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Graz
2003	Achievement-Scholarship   Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Graz

## Teaching

Summer 2018	<i>Experimental Philosophy: An Introduction</i> [English]   Guest Session (2.5 hours) in the Summer Course Introduction to Psychology   Department of Psychology, Yale University
Summer 2017	<i>Basic Needs and their Relevance for Political Philosophy and Ethics</i> [German]   Advanced Seminar Course   Department of Philosophy, University of Graz

	<i>Moral Responsibility for the Environment</i> [German]   Advanced Seminar Course   Department of Philosophy, University of Graz
Winter 2016	<i>Interdisciplinary Moral Psychology</i> [English]   Advanced Seminar Course   Department of Philosophy, University of Graz
Winter 2015	<i>Metaethics: Moral Disagreement and Anti-Realism</i> [German]   Advanced Seminar Course   Department of Philosophy, University of Graz
Summer 2015	<i>Methods in the Humanities</i> [German]   Interdisciplinary Lecture Series (Conception, Preparation, and Exams)   Department of Philosophy, University of Graz
Winter 2014	<i>Introduction to Philosophy (Including Introduction to Academic Writing)</i> [German]   Introductory Seminar Course   Department of Philosophy, University of Graz
	<i>Theory of Knowledge</i> [German]   High School Course   International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, Campus Wien West
Summer 2014	<i>Theory of Knowledge</i> [German]   High School Course   International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, Campus Wien West
Winter 2013	<i>Theory of Knowledge</i> [German]   High School Course   International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, Campus Wien West
Winter 2011	<i>Private tutor for various courses in philosophy</i> [English]   Department of Philosophy, University of New Brunswick
2006 – 2013	<i>Part-time private tutor for German and English for pupils between 10 and 19</i>   Schülerhilfe Hartberg, Schülerhilfe Oberwart

## Media Coverage

09/05/2018	Von der Relativität der Moral   Der Standard
03/01/2016	Fairer Wandel   UNIZEIT
07/02/2015	Erfolg im Doppel: Thomas Pözlner und Lukas Meyer erhalten Preis für Publikation   uni.on

## Additional Training

02/2018	<i>Human Subjects Research – Basic Module, College of Charleston (6 hours)</i>
09/2014 – 06/2015	<i>UNISTART-Wiss Training Program for Staff, University of Graz (66 hours)</i> University Law

Personnel Law  
 Didactics Basic  
 Methods of University Didactics  
 Research Funding and Proposal Writing  
 International University Cooperation  
 Public Relations for Scientists  
 Presentations  
 University and Equality of Opportunity  
 Ethics of Science

04/2015 *Teaching Certificate, University of Graz (24 hours)*  
 Visualization and Presentation  
 Teaching and Learning with Media  
 Student Evaluation

06 – 07/2013 *Theory of Knowledge New Curriculum Workshop, International  
 Baccalaureate Organization (24 hours)*

## Events Co-Organized

06/21/ – 06/23/2017 Responding to an Uncertain Future: Normative Theories of Risk and  
 Climate Change Policy | International Workshop | University of Graz

06/29/ – 06/30/2016 Justice and Legitimate Expectations | International Workshop | University  
 of Graz

11/2014 – 01/2016 Philosophical Perspectives | Lecture Series of the Philosophy Graduate  
 Student Society Graz | University of Graz

03/10/ – 06/30/2015 Methods in the Humanities | Interdisciplinary Lecture Series of the  
 Faculty of Arts and Humanities | University of Graz

06/30/ – 07/01/2014 Graz-Cologne-Vienna Colloquium | Workshop for Doctoral Students and  
 Post-Docs | University of Graz

## Professional Activities

Reviews  
 Oxford University Press (1)  
 Philosophical Studies (1)  
 Philosophical Psychology (3)  
 Ethical Theory and Moral Practice (1)  
 Neuroethics (1)  
 Zeitschrift für Praktische Philosophie (2)

Memberships

Austrian Society for Philosophy  
Albert Camus Society of the UK & US  
International Association for Promoting Geoethics  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Research Group ClimateProtectionLaw  
Club Alpbach Styria

Other

Member Curriculum Commission Philosophy at the University of Graz  
Co-Founder Philosophy Graduate Student Society Graz