

Matthew Hooton

CV as at 20 August 2024

SUMMARY

- Five years' experience tutoring stage-one philosophy at a top-100 world university, including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political philosophy and critical thinking
- PhD thesis under examination on principles of conservatism across ontology, epistemology, ethics, metaethics and political philosophy
- Able to tutor introductory economics, politics and international relations
- Twenty years' experience in public discourse, including public speaking and discussion panels on live national TV and radio
- Outstanding media-relations and content-placement capability
- Seeks roles at ANU tutoring undergraduate philosophy, politics and/or economics from the first semester of calendar-year 2025 while working on publications for academic journals
- Interested in assisting colleagues in achieving publication of their philosophical work in mainstream media

ACADEMIC CV

Qualifications

- 2020-2024: PhD in Philosophy (tbc – under examination)
 University of Auckland
- Thesis: "Groundwork and Principles for Applied Conservatism"
 Supervisors: Profs Tim Mulgan and John Bishop
- 2018-2019: MA in Philosophy
 King's College London
- Dissertation: "How Objects Exist"
 Papers in Chinese and Indian philosophy
- 2016-2018: BA (First Class Honours) in Philosophy
 University of Auckland
- Dissertation: "A Philosophy of Regret: Replacing Regret with the Four
 Brahmviharas" (A+)
 Supervisor: Prof Tim Mulgan

Papers: Ancient & Medieval Philosophy (A); Philosophy of Religion 1 (A+); Special Topic: Ethics for Possible Futures (A+); Special Studies: Buddhist Metaphysics (A+); Ethics 2 (A); Philosophy of Religion 2 (A+)

GPA for degree: 4.00 on US scale; 8.750 on NZ scale

2015-2016: GradDipArts in Philosophy and International Relations
University of Auckland

Papers: Virtue Theory (A+); Introduction to Logic (B); Philosophy of Mind (A+); The European Union (A-); Special Topic: Philosophy of Atheism (A); Metaphysical Structures of the World (A+); War, Anarchy and the State: Theorising International Relations (A-); New Zealand Diplomacy: Interests, Issues and Soft Power (A+)

GPA for Diploma: 3.80 on US scale; 7.875 on NZ scale

1990-2015: BCom in Economics
University of Auckland

Law School: Completed Part II of LLB (Criminal, Public, Torts, Contract, Law & Society)
University of Auckland, 2003

Other: Certificate of Proficiency: Intermediate Logic
University of Auckland, 2017

Awards

- Fulbright General Graduate Scholarship (2019), not taken up for family reasons
- Professor Robert Solomon Memorial Award (2023) University of Auckland
- University of Auckland First in Course Awards:
 - ⇒ PHIL 766: Ethics for Possible Futures – S1 2017
 - ⇒ PHIL 743: Philosophy of Religion 2 – S2 2016
 - ⇒ PHIL 361: Metaphysical Structures of the World – S2 2015
 - ⇒ POLS 340: New Zealand Diplomacy: Interests, Issues and Soft Power – S2 2015

Publications

- “A Conservative Analysis of the Proposed Codification of the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi”, funded by Manukau Urban Māori Authority, forthcoming, 2024
 - ⇒ [Exposure draft](#) already cited by [Dame Claudia Orange](#) in her [Friends of the Turnbull Library Address](#), Wellington, June 2024
- “[The Queen is Dead! Long Live the President?](#)”. *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs* (London), 107, no. 4 (2018): 525–528.

Presentations

- “A Conservative Perspective on Taniwha Ontology”
University of Waikato, 2024 (forthcoming: 9 September)

- “The Danger of ‘Glory-Style’ Politics to Liberal Democracy”
Australasian Association of Philosophers Annual Conference
University of Western Australia, 2024
- “Rescuing Conservatism (Again)”
Australasian Association of Philosophers 100th Annual Conference
Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, 2023
- “The Ontology of Inflation”
University of Auckland, 2023

Teaching

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Auckland:

- PHIL 100: Mind, Knowledge and Reality – S1 2021, S1 2024
- PHIL 104: Ethics and Justice – S2 2021, S2 2022
- PHIL 105: Critical Thinking – S1 2020, S1 2022

Future Research Interests

- Buddhist Metaphysics and Mental Health

Background: This would resume my honours-level work, based on personal experience, about how developing an understanding of key concepts in Buddhist metaphysics can assist in becoming free from drug and alcohol addiction, in better managing ADHD and in overcoming subsequent regret.

- Conservative Analysis of the Proposed Codification of the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (underway)

Background: New Zealand’s Parliament will soon consider a proposal to codify principles of the Treaty of Waitangi 1840, one of New Zealand’s founding documents, which have evolved under the common law since the 1970s. My preliminary analysis, supported by a grant by the Manukau Urban Māori Authority, suggests that one particular Parliament substituting its judgment on this matter over what has evolved discursively over decades would be radical not conservative.

- Conservative Perspective on Taniwha Ontology (underway)

Background: Taniwha are supranatural entities in the Māori tradition but are not well-known or accepted by the dominant tradition of the New Zealand state. A public debate in 2011 on how the New Zealand state should accommodate the interests of taniwha, on which I provided paid public-relations advice to Auckland Council’s Independent Māori Statutory Board, has helped spark an academic debate which may benefit from a conservative perspective.

- Conservative Response to Singer’s Drowning Children

Concept: This would seek to apply conservative principles to argue why it is utterly morally obligatory to save a child in one’s immediate spatiotemporal region but not similarly morally obligatory to mitigate suffering in other spatiotemporal regions. This may help the effective altruism movement avoid some of its more extreme and controversial positions.

- Conservative Response to Reckless But Legal Military Orders

Concept: This would consider what conservative principles suggest about how the military leadership of great powers ought to manage orders from their civilian commanders-in-chief that, while technically legal, are very much outside the bounds of what has been contemplated previously, and which clearly carry costs and risks far exceeding any apprehendable strategic benefits.

- Conservative Response to Hypothetical Russian Invasion of Estonia's Ida-Viru County

Concept: This would consider what conservative principles suggest about how civilian and military leaders in Nato countries should respond to a Russian invasion and occupation of Estonia, if limited to its small but energy-rich eastern Ida-Viru county, with a majority Russian and Russian-speaking population.

- Post-Trump Conservatism: Return to Pre-9/11 Bush?

Concept: This would consider whether the "compassionate conservatism" of George W Bush, including his preferred "humble" foreign policy which did not survive the 9/11 attacks, might be a useful starting point for conservatives to begin rebuilding their movement in the post-Trump era.

- Conservative Analysis of Disastrous Decisions by NZ Businesses in Australia

Concept: Otherwise globally successful New Zealand businesses haven a poor record investing in or expending their operations to Australia. This research idea is to consider what conservative principles suggest about how investors, governance and management should have analysed various proposals, including the disastrous 2001 takeover of Ansett Australia by Air New Zealand, and other infamous misadventures by New Zealand businesses in Australia. This may assist such debacles from being repeated.

JOURNALISM

2023-present Regular NZ Political Columnist
The Australian

2018-present: Weekly Political Columnist
New Zealand Herald

2013-present: Monthly Political Columnist
Auckland Metro Magazine

2008-2018: Weekly Political Columnist
National Business Review

2005-2008: Fortnightly Political Columnist
Sunday-Star Times

2004-2020 Weekly Political Commentator
Radio New Zealand

2004-present: Regular political commentator on New Zealand television and radio

Australian Financial Review: "NZ's wide open for business, but the era of liberalisation is over",
October 29, 2017

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Regular speaker at industry conferences and other events, including New Zealand Government Public Sector Chief Executives Pre-Election Retreat; Society of Local Government Managers; Roger Dickie Forestry Conference; New Zealand Automobile Association; Retirement Villages Association; Northern Club (Auckland); St Peter's College (Epsom) Graduation Dinner; [Auckland Grammar School Scholarship Awards](#)

PROFESSIONAL

2005-Present: Managing Director
Excelltium Corporate and Public Affairs / Matthew Hooton Ltd

Clients included: Rank Group; Rio Tinto; Fonterra Shareholders Council; Carter Holt Harvey; Zespri; Sealord; PwC; Meredith Connell; ANZ Bank; ASB Bank; Pfizer; Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority; Māori Economic Development Panel; Te Puni Kōkiri; Office of Treaty Settlements; Auckland Transport; 2Degrees Mobile; Vodafone; Trafalgar Copley; Landcorp; Wairakei Pastoral; Kyoto Forestry Association; Vector Energy; Contact Energy; Mercury Energy; Amazon; Ngāi Tahu; Ngāti Whātua o Orākei; Royal Academy of Arts, London; Khan Bank, Mongolia; Green Party of Mongolia; Act New Zealand; Viaduct Holdings Ltd; Silo Theatre; Westland Dairy Company

2004: Senior Consultant
Senescall Akers
Clients included: Synlait Milk

2001-2002 Global Head of Communications
Fonterra Co-operative Group

2000 Senior Consultant
Sue Wood & Associates
Clients included: Treaty Tribes Coalition; Edison Mission Energy

1999 Independent Consultant
Clients included: APEC Taskforce, PricewaterhouseCoopers, NZ Dairy Board

1991-1998 Press Secretary & Speechwriter
Minister of Education, Agriculture & International Trade

2017-present: Honorary-Consul of Mongolia to New Zealand