

# Dr Richard Povey

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**Date of birth:** 8<sup>th</sup> October 1981

**Citizenship:** UK

## Education:

<i>St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford</i>	<u>DPhil: Economics</u> Thesis title: " <i>The Socially Optimal Level of Altruism</i> " Supervisor: <i>Professor Kevin Roberts, University of Oxford</i> Examiners: <i>Professor Peter Hammond, University of Warwick</i> <i>Professor Chris Wallace, University of Manchester</i>	<b>2005 - 2011</b>
<i>St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford</i>	<u>MA (Oxon)</u>	<b>2009</b>
<i>St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford</i>	<u>MPhil: Economics</u> Papers: <i>Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics, Public Economics, International Economics, Thesis</i>	<b>2003 - 2005</b>
<i>St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford</i>	<u>BA: Philosophy, Politics and Economics.</u> Classed 2:1. Papers: <i>Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Public Economics, Economic Theory, Theory of Politics, Philosophy of Science and Social Science, Political Sociology, Sociological Theory.</i>	<b>2000 - 2003</b>
<i>Prince William School, Oundle</i>	<u>A - Levels: Maths, Further Maths, History and Sociology.</u> Awarded 4 'A' grades and grade 1 in the History Special Paper.	<b>1998 - 2000</b>

## Research interests:

My primary research interest is in welfare economics and game theory. My DPhil thesis is entitled "The Socially Optimal Level of Altruism", and in it I model the possible social inefficiencies which can be caused by altruistic motivation and behaviour. I would like to explore further applications of these concepts to optimal taxation theory. I am also interested in evolutionary economic theory and related computer simulation techniques.

## Published articles:

"Solved and Unsolved Problems, No. 246", *EMS Magazine No. 123* (Feb 2022)

"The Welfare Economics of Infectious Happiness", *Economics Letters* (May 2015)

"Punishment and the Potency of Group Selection", *Journal of Evolutionary Economics* (July 2014)

## Working papers:

"Socially Optimal Altruism in a Game of Sequential Punishment"

"The Limits to Altruism - A Survey"

"Socially Optimal Ideology"

(Available at <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sedm1375>).

## Presentations:

"Game Theory in the Real World – Intro. to Mechanism Design", Oxford Prospects (2021 - 24)  
"Bounded Rationality and the Limits to Altruism", St Hilda's College, Oxford (May 2022)  
"Anticipating the Arrival of Universal Credit", Wessex Public Health Conference (March 2019)  
"The Limits to Altruism", Global Priorities Institute, Oxford (May 2018)  
"An Introduction to Game Theory", Oxford Prospects (2018-19)  
"Socially Optimal Altruism in a Game of Sequential Punishment", RES, Brighton (March 2018)  
"The Socially Optimal Level of Altruism", Public Economic Theory, Bloomington, Indiana (2011)

## Research skills:

*Latex, Maple, Maxima, C++, Java, OxMetrics*

## Awards:

<u>Royal Economic Society Junior Fellowship</u>	2007 - 2008
<u>ESRC Studentship funding for MPhil and DPhil</u>	2003 - 2007
<u>St Edmund Hall College Scholar</u>	2001 - 2003

## Current positions:

<u>Lecturer in Economics, St Hilda's College, Oxford</u>	October 2018 -
<u>Lecturer in Economics, Hertford College, Oxford</u>	October 2013 -

## Previous positions:

<u>Fixed-Term Fellow in Economics, St Hilda's College, Oxford</u>	Oct 2016 – Sept 2018
<u>Lecturer in Economics, Oxford</u>	Oct 2004 - Sept 2016

Pembroke College (2015-16), Lincoln College (2014-15), Brasenose College (2013-14), Balliol College (2013), New College (2010-13), Wadham College (2009-12), St Hilda's College (2008-09), Keble College (2007-08), St Edmund Hall (2004-07)

## Other employment:

<u>Lecturer, Public Economics, Oxford</u>	November 2024
<u>Lecturer, Summer Institute at Oriel College, Oxford</u>	June 2023 -
<u>Undergraduate Examiner / Assessor, Oxford</u>	May 2021 -
<u>Lecturer, Quantitative Economics, Oxford</u>	May – June 2018
<u>Marker, Managerial Economics, London Business School</u>	January 2010 – August 2019
<u>Assessor, Core Microeconomics Paper, Oxford</u>	June 2009
<u>Research Assistant to Professor John Knight, Oxford</u>	September 2008 - January 2009
<u>Economics Co-ordinator, Reach Cambridge</u>	July 2008 - August 2011

## College service:

<u>Dean of Degrees, St Hilda's College, Oxford</u>	Sept 2023 -
<u>PPE Co-ordinator, St Hilda's College, Oxford</u>	Oct 2018 -
<u>Academic Committee Member, Hertford College, Oxford</u>	Oct 2019 – July 2022
<u>Appointment Panel for CDF in Politics, St Hilda's College, Oxford</u>	March 2019 – April 2019
<u>Organising Tutor in Economics, St Hilda's College, Oxford</u>	Oct 2016 – Sept 2017
<u>Organising Tutor in Economics, St Hilda's College, Oxford</u>	Oct 2008 – Sept 2009

## Other service:

<u>Associate Editor, Economics Bulletin</u>	April 2011 -
<u>Assessor for Final Examination Thesis in Economics, Oxford</u>	June 2019, June 2024

## Teaching experience:

I have experience teaching tutorials at Oxford University in groups of 1-6 students, as well as classes of up to 20 for covering mathematical techniques. I also have experience designing and delivering lecture courses for the Department of Economics and on several summer school programmes. I have tutored Oxford undergraduates for the following courses:

Introductory Economics  
(2004-16, 2017-25)

*Microeconomics:* Consumer theory; producer theory; market equilibrium with perfect competition, monopoly and simple oligopoly models; factor markets; general equilibrium, welfare and externalities. Mathematical techniques: mathematical economics, applications of functions and graphs, differentiation, partial differentiation, maxima and minima, optimisation subject to constraints.

*Macroeconomics:* National income, consumption, investment, international trade, money and banks, inflation, unemployment, business cycles, monetary and fiscal policy, and the financial crisis.

Microeconomics  
(2008-09, 2010-15, 2016-25)

Risk, expected utility theory; welfare economics and general equilibrium, public goods and externalities; game theory and industrial organisation; information economics; empirical and policy applications of microeconomics, including environmental economics and competition policy.

Macroeconomics  
(2008-09, 2013-19)

Macroeconomic theories and their policy implications; macroeconomic shocks and fluctuations; unemployment and inflation; exchange rates, interest rates and current account; inter-temporal adjustment; growth theory; monetary and fiscal policy.

Quantitative Economics  
(2008-09, 2010-13, 2014-15, 2016-19)

Descriptive statistics; statistical distributions and applications to data; sampling and hypothesis testing; regression analysis and the testing and interpretation of regression results; time series modelling and empirical applications of these methods in microeconomics and macroeconomics.

Game Theory  
(2009-13, 2015-25)

Strategic-form games and extensive-form games; solution concepts; games with incomplete information. Applications and topics which include: bargaining, auctions, global games, evolutionary games, cooperative games, learning, games in political science.

Public Economics  
(2007-08, 2009-10, 2013-25)

Welfare-theoretic foundations of policy analysis; rationale for government intervention and the constraints on government action; taxation and government expenditure; principles of optimal tax design, including income and commodity taxation; social insurance systems; rationale for major categories of public spending, including health, education and pensions.