Background

AIM OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is to be a living document for Q3-4 2020 to support me making career decisions. This should be well-written enough that I can share it with others

RELATED DOCUMENTS

[Redacted]

CONTENTS

Chapter 1: ethics values and causes
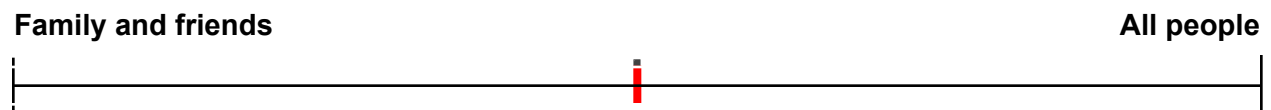
1.1 Ethics review

WHO MATTERS

In this section I consider who I care about morally. I distinguish:
- moral worth: how much a being matters
- moral responsibility: how responsible I am for that being.
- In practice: how much given the state of the world, this actually affects my decisions

E.g. I do not think my parents have greater intrinsic moral worth than others, but I do have a greater moral responsibility for them. In practice they do not currently need much from me.
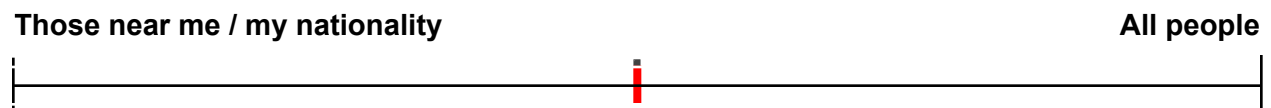
(The sliders visually sums up both worth and responsibility)

Family and friends   **All people**

Worth:

Responsibility:

In practice:

Those near me / my nationality   **All people**

Worth:

Responsibility:

In practice:

Only humans   **All creatures**
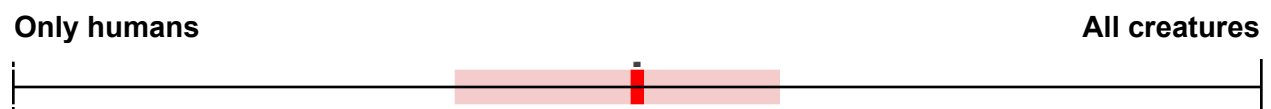
Worth:

Responsibility:

In practice:

Those alive now   **Future beings matter**

Worth:

Responsibility:

In practice:

WHAT MATTERS

In this section I consider what I care about morally when I am deciding how to act. (Different question to how I morally judge others, etc). As a useful starting point I compare my views to hedonistic utilitarianism.

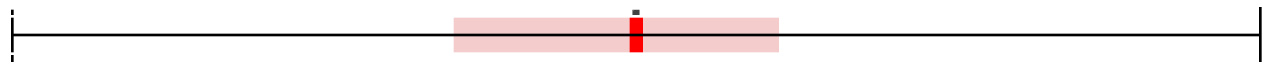**Consequences**　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**Methodology / other**

Notes:

Happiness / Preferences　　　　　　　　　**Equality / fairness / freedom / life / etc**

Notes:

Preventing suffering / badness　　　　　　　**Creating happiness / goodness**

Notes:

HOW TO DECIDE

Need empirical evidence   **Theory is fine**

Notes:

Epistemic humility   **Self belief**

Notes:

1.2 _ Causes

TOP CAUSES

I break down different ways I can affect the world into different areas. I don't go into detail here but these are the causes that I think focusing on will have the biggest effect on the world, given my ethical views (alphabetical order):
- [Cause 1]
- [Cause 2]
- ...
-

TOP CAUSES – WHAT WOULD MAKE THEM NO.1

Same list above but for each thing I elaborate on what would persuade me it is the most valuable thing
- [Cause 1] – elaboration ...
- [Cause 2] – elaboration ...
- ...
-

TOP CAUSES – ORDERED LIST

I have broken this down further into specific areas of work. This is not exhaustive (eg I know nothing about improving academia so have not discussed it). This is in priority order, based on where I think I should donate the bulk of my annual donation, opportunities permitting:

1.

1.3 _ Commitment

I ascribe to the "personal best" approach to doing good. I am not a saint and I am not perfect but I can each year be a better person than I was last year. I can set challenging yet achievable goals to do more but also be careful to ensure I am living in a way that is sustainable for myself.

Rather than comparing where I want to be to anything in the world I focus on myself. I compare my current lifestyle to where I think I should be: given how I currently live, do I think I could do more for the world or that I should be giving more to myself?

Donate less   **Donate more**
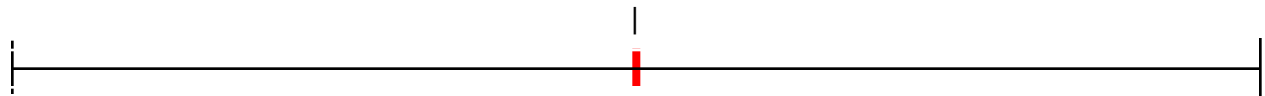
Donating less: I possibly underspend on things like fast hardware or nice clothes that could help me do more good for the world – but I think this underspend is mostly driven by a dislike of change and of shopping rather than by altruistic frugalness (although I should be wary of this). I think I could travel a bit more (I leave the UK, for non-EA stuff, about once every 2 years).

Donating more: I lead quite a comfortable lifestyle. My savings are growing I can afford to donate more. I think a bigger priority is having a savings account and pension and setting money aside and then I can be more confident in my finances and donate more. Could aim for 30% p.a.

Work less   **Work more**
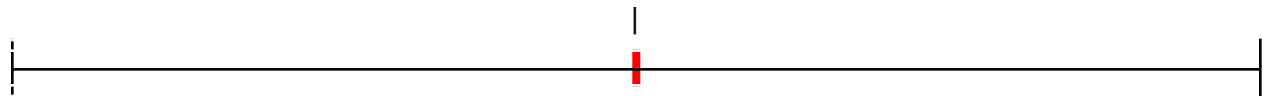
In the short run – work less: I have worked quite hard in lockdown – in part because of lack of other things to do. I feel less motivated and more tired of (EA) work than I have done in the past so I should probably ease off the accelerator for a bit and take things a bit more slowly.

In the long run – work less: I think I neglect other things that matter to me like family and relationships as these are long-run goals and I am a short run human, so I should put more attention into these.

Career decisions for me   **Career decisions for good**
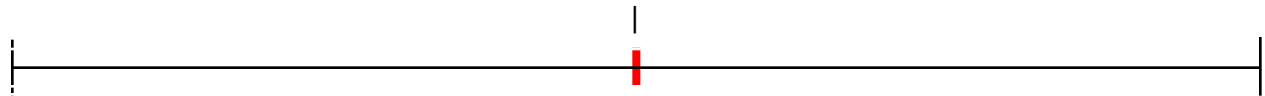
Looking back on my career to date the things I have been happies working on matches strongly with the things that are best for the world (as far as I can tell) so there is no conflict here.

Be more self-focused   **More care for others**

I think I could care more for my friends and family. I think I already care a lot but doing nice things for my friends does make me happy and them happy so this should be a greater part of my current way of being.

More self-centered consumer lifestyle   **More ethical consumer lifestyle**

Animal products: I am happy being a 99.5% vegan. No need to change.
Recycling: I could probably care less about recycling.
Ethically sourced products: Neutral, I assume buying cheap and donating is better but it could be worth looking into at some point.
Other: Neutral on other issues.

Chapter 2: Careers

2.1 _ Career to date

<u>THE OVERARCHING PICTURE</u>

<u>THE LAST / CURRENT JOB</u>
How is it going?
What have I learnt?
WHat would I have done differently in my career to date?
How does my ethics (above) connect to my current work?

<u>JOB SATISFACTION – MY KEY CRITERIA</u>
Based on available evidence on career satisfaction and work experiences to date.
Brightspots / darkspots (job satisfaction)

<u>JOBS I HAVE SEEN IN LAST 12 MONTHS I WAS EXCITED BY</u>

2.2 _ Skills review

<u>EXPERIENCE</u>

<u>BRIGHTSPOTS / DARKSPOTS (SKILLS)</u>

<u>STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES – PERSONAL THOUGHTS</u>

<u>STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES – BASED ON VIEWS OF OTHERS</u>
Based on annual 360 reviews

2.3 Looking forward

<u>VISIONS OF A SUPER HIGH IMPACT SAM IN 2 YEARS TIME LOOKS LIKE?</u>

<u>WORK IDEAS</u>
Job ideas
Entrepreneurial ideas

<u>SKILL NEEDS (OF CURRENT WORKPLACE / CAUSE AREA / COMMUNITY)</u>

<u>OVERALL THOUGHTS</u>
Maybe weighted factor model of top options ([example](#)).

Chapter 3: next steps

NEXT STEPS FOR CONSIDERATION

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

PEOPLE TO TALK TO

CONVERSATION NOTES

TEMPLATES

Slider template 1:

[Point of view 1]   **[Point of view 2]**

Worth:

Responsibility:

In practice:

Slider template 2:

[Point of view 1]   **[Point of view 2]**

Worth:

Responsibility:

In practice:

Slider template 3:

[Point of view 1]   **[Point of view 2]**