

1. Plan

a. Purpose

- i. *Note to readers of this plan:* I'm planning to take some time to think over cause prioritization in order to decide which cause areas are most impactful for me to contribute to. I'd like to be thorough and rigorous, but am doing this alongside a full-time job in the context of an already busy life. Therefore, I aim to be as practical and efficient as I can with this process. Unfortunately, this means that many of the investigations will likely feel a bit rushed or unsatisfactory. Nonetheless, this will hopefully serve as a solid foundation / starting point. I imagine I'll be refining these ideas over the course of many years - decades.

b. Motivation

c. Decision-relevant, meta considerations

- i. Foundations, Assumptions
- ii. Classical Utilitarianism vs. Suffering-focused ethics
 1. timebox this based on how decision-relevant the distinction seems to be – otherwise this could turn into a *big* rabbit hole
- iii. Impact Evaluation Framework
- iv. hits-based / speculative paths vs. more measurable, higher confidence paths
- v. What do I think about Longtermism?
 1. Is the world net positive now? Will it be in the future?
- vi. S-risk vs. X-risk
 1. how decision-relevant is the distinction (how much overlap is there between these two types of interventions?)
 2. if decision-relevant, which is more impactful to focus on?
 - a. this will likely be informed by earlier thinking about suffering-focused ethics
- vii. Generalist paths (more broadly transferable career capital) vs. more specialized ones
 1. any relevant impact-related considerations? (in general)
 2. personal considerations:
 - a. How do I feel about my future self remaining in a similar area that I started in?
 - b. What sort of social/personal network do I want to build?
 - c. Potential for burnout
- viii. How impactful is research?
 1. how likely is it that it will just stay on the shelf vs. be put to use?

d. Cause Areas / Paths

- i. Which path? (order is very tentative)

1. AI Safety
2. Cybersecurity
3. EA-aligned research
4. Biosecurity
5. Global health & well-being
6. Animal Welfare
 - a. Farmed
 - i. Scalable food alternatives
 - ii. Humane farming practices
 - b. Wild
 - i. e.g.:
 1. Animal Ethics
 2. Wild Animal Initiative
 3. Rethink Priorities
7. Mental Health
 - a. e.g. [StrongMinds](#)
8. Climate Change
9. Preventing EA echo chambers / the community going down misguided paths
10. [Guided Consumption](#)
11. ...

e. Community Considerations

- i. How would the community's efforts ideally be allocated over issues?
- ii. Where are the gaps, and how can I best move the allocation towards the ideal?
- iii. Where is my comparative advantage compared to other community members?
- iv. above questions are from [this page](#)

f. Earning to Give vs. Direct Impact Work

- i. General (not cause-specific) considerations
- ii. Cause-specific considerations: among the top path(s), is EtG or DIW more effective / needed?

g. Personal Considerations

- i. Think about fit, strengths, weaknesses, enjoyment / satisfaction, & other personal factors among the top cause areas coming out of the above steps
 1. maybe I'd be good at ops roles?

h. First Steps in Top Cause

- i. the top cause will be informed by both more general impact considerations (thru #5) and also personal considerations (#6)

2.Resources

a. Suffering-focused ethics

- i. <https://www.aaronbergman.net/p/my-case-for-suffering-leaning-ethics>
- ii. list of resources from Dan H

b. Longtermism

- i. Is the world net positive now? Will it be in the future?
 - 1. What We Owe the Future – Will (apparently has some analysis of this)
 - 2. [The Future Might Not Be So Great](#)
- ii. [How to find *reliable* ways to improve the future?](#)

c. Guided Consumption

- i. [Why Guided Consumption Can Work](#)

d. Cybersecurity

- i. resources discussed at 1:04 of [this podcast](#)

e. Criticisms of EA

- i. [21 from Peter Wildeford](#)