

GUY AITCHISON

Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Studies

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023 – **Loughborough University, Politics and International Studies**

- Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Studies.

2019 – **Loughborough University, Politics and International Studies**

2023 Lecturer in Politics and International Studies (Permanent since August 2019).

2018 – **King's College, London, Department of Philosophy**

2019 Teaching Fellow in Political Philosophy.

2016 – **University College Dublin, School of Politics and IR**

2018 Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Irish Research Council)

Project: 'Citizenship at the Margins: The case of migrant activism'.

2015 – **European University Institute, Florence, Italy**

2016 Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow

Project: 'Civil disobedience: A republican approach'.

2013 - **University College London, Department of Political Science**

2015 Teaching Fellow/Teaching Assistant

Postgraduate modules.

2011 - **King's College, London, Department of Political Economy**

2015 Teaching Assistant

Undergraduate modules.

EDUCATION

2015 - **University College London, UK**

PhD Political Philosophy

Thesis: 'Claiming from below: Rights, politics and social movements'

Supervisor: Professor Cécile Laborde

Examiners: Professor Leslie Green, Dr. Saladin Meckled-Garcia.

2008 – **University College London, UK**

MA Legal and Political Theory, Distinction.

Thesis: 'Does the UK Human Rights Act provide a model of judicial rights review that successfully addresses democracy-based concerns?'

2006 - **University of Cambridge, Queens' College, UK**

BA History, First: 2.1.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Published journal articles

- Aitchison, Guy, 'When suicide is unjust violence: power, structural harm and moral culpability', *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 86, No. 3 (2024) (36 pages) [Q1, SJR 3.03].
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/729936>
- Essex, R, Dillard-Wright, J, Aitchison, G, Aked, H., 'Everyday resistance in the UK's National Health Service', *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 25.2 (2023) (18 pages) [Q2, SJR 0.5].
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10733766/>
- Aitchison, Guy, Essex, R. 'Self-harm in immigration detention: political, not (just) medical', *Journal of Medical Ethics*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/jme-2022-108366> (23 pages). [Q1; SJR 0.88].
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Fragility as Strength: The Ethics and Politics of Hunger Strikes', *Journal of Political Philosophy*, Vol. 30, Issue 4, (2022): pp. 535- 558.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jopp.12261> [Q1; SJR 1.17]
- Issa, Rita, Baker C., Spooner, R., Abrams R., Gopfert., Evans M., Aitchison, G. 'Mapping the movement for climate change and health in England', *Perspectives in Public Health*, Vol.141, Issue 6, (2021): pp. 328-337.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/17579139211058303> [Q2; SJR 0.64].
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Border-Crossing: Immigration Law, Racism and Justified Resistance', *Political Studies*. (2021): pp. 1-19.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00323217211030184> [Q1; SJR 1.15].
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Beyond Lockdown? The ethics of global movement in a new era', *Ethics and Global Politics*, Vol. 14, (2021): pp. 36 49.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/16544951.2021.1895487> [Q2; SJR 0.24].
- Aitchison, Guy, Meckled-Garcia, S., 'Against Online Public Shaming: Ethical Problems with Mass Social Media', *Social Theory and Practice*, Vol. 47, Issue 1, (2020): pp. 1-31.
<https://doi.org/10.5840/soctheorpract20201117109> [Q2].
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Domination and disobedience: Protest, coercion and the limits of an appeal to justice', *Perspectives on Politics*, Issue 16 (3), (2018): pp. 666 679.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718001111> [Q1; SJR 1.92].
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Coercion, resistance and the radical side of non-violent action', *Raisons Politiques*, Issue 1, No. 69, (2018): pp. 45-61.
<https://doi.org/10.3917/rai.069.0045> [Ranked 'A' (highest score) by the French National Centre for Scientific Research; Q4; 0.12]
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Introduction to special issue: Uncivil Disobedience', *Raisons Politiques*, Issue 1, No. 69, (2018): pp. 5-12.
<https://doi.org/10.3917/rai.069.0005> [Ranked 'A' (highest score) by the French National Centre for Scientific Research; Q4; 0.12]

- Aitchison, Guy, 'Are human rights moralistic?', *Human Rights Review*, Issue 1, Vol. 19, (2018): pp. 23-43.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12142-017-0480-4> [Q2; 0.29].
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Foucault, democracy and the ambivalence of rights', *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, Vol. 22, Issue 6 (2017), pp. 770-785.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2017.1369627> [Q1; SJR 0.35].
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Three Models of Republican Rights: Juridical, Parliamentary and Populist', *Political Studies*, Vol. 65, Issue 2, (2017): pp. 339-355.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0032321716648339> [Q1; SJR 1.15].
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Rights, Citizenship and political struggle', *European Journal of Political Theory*, Vol. 17, Issue 1, (2015): pp. 23-43.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1474885115578052> [Q1, SJR 0.74].
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Reform, rupture or re-imagination: Understanding the purpose of an occupation', *Social Movement Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 4 (2011): pp. 431- 439.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2011.614114> [Q1; SJR 1.01].

Book chapters

- Aitchison, Guy, 'Using interviews in the political philosophy of resistance', *Political Theory and Empirical Social Science*, Miller and Baderin eds. (Oxford University Press) (2026).
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Risking Health as a Means of Resistance: The Case of Australia's offshore detainees' in Essex, Issa, Smith eds. *Activism, Resistance and Health*, (Oxford University Press) (forthcoming).
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Policing and Coercion - What are the Alternatives?' in Koshka Duff ed. *Abolishing the Police*, Dog Section Press, (2021): pp. 133-147.
- Aitchison, Guy, 'Popular resistance and the idea of rights', in Stuart White, Karma Nabulsi and Bruno Leipold, eds., *Radical Republicanism: Reclaiming the Tradition's Popular Heritage*, Oxford University Press, (2020): pp. 103-118.

Policy report

- Aitchison, Guy, *The dangers ahead: COVID-19, authoritarianism and democracy*, Conflict and Civil Society Research Unit, LSE (2020): pp. 1-21, (Co-authored with Luke Cooper).
<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/105103>

Editor

- Special journal issue on (Un)civil disobedience, *Raisons Politiques*, Issue 1, No. 69, (2018).

Book reviews

- Aitchison, Guy, 'The Right of Necessity' by Alijandra Mancilla, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Vol. 20, Issue 5 (2017): pp. 1099-1101.

Aitchison, Guy, 'The Ethics and Politic of Immigration' edited by Alex Sager, *LSE Review of Books*, (2017),
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2017/05/16/book-review-the-ethics-and-politics-of-immigration-core-issues-and-emerging-trends-edited-by-alex-sager>

Aitchison, Guy, 'The Political Theory of the Irish Constitution: Republicanism and the Basic Law' by Eoin Daly and Tom Hickey, *Public Law*, (2017).

Op-eds and interviews

The Conversation, Public Ethics Blog, Guardian, Independent, Social Europe, openDemocracy, Irish Times, Daily Telegraph, Soundings, Politics in Spires, Left Foot Forward, BBC News, Channel 4 News, Leftfield stage (Glastonbury).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Leverhulme Research Project Grant, 'The Right to Liveability: An Ethical Assessment', £222,648.
Loughborough School of Social Sciences and Humanities, End of Year Staff Award for sustained excellence and contribution, £1000 (2025)

Teaching and Innovation Award, 'Using generative AI to teach data literacy and analysis', £2177 (2025)

Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, 'Justice, Responsibility and Workplace Suicide: Lessons for the UK from Japan' £2,500 (2023-24).

British Academy/Leverhulme, Small Grants Award, £10,000, Starving for Dignity: Reframing the ethics of hunger strikes', (2021-2023): <https://starvingfordignity.com>

Irish Research Council, Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship, €90,000, (2016).

Max Weber Scholarship, European University Institute, €50,000 (declined second year), (2015).

University of Frankfurt, Justificata Amplificata Fellowship, €35,000 (declined), (2015).

UCL Graduate Research Scholarship (full fees and maintenance), £66,000, (2011).

European Social Research Council, PhD scholarship, £63,000 (declined).

'Universitas 21' Early Career Workshop (Chile), University College Dublin Research, €2,000.

Max Weber Programme Conferences, €3,000.

University of Cambridge, History Prize (top First in year in 2005 out of 203 students) £300.

TEACHING

QUALIFICATIONS

HEA Fellowship (Distinction) - February 2022

MODULES TAUGHT AT LOUGHBOROUGH

Module Convenor

The Ethics of War, Security and Artificial Intelligence (MA) (12 x seminars) (2019 -)

Introduction to Philosophy (Part A) (6 x lectures/seminars) (2024 -)

Contemporary Debates in Philosophy (Part B) (12 x lectures/seminars) (2022 -)

Lecturer and seminar leader

Power, Politics and Ideology (Part A) (12 x lectures) (2019 -)

Research Design (Part B) (5 x seminars) (2021-22)
Diploma in Professional Studies (Part I) (2021 -)
Dissertation (Part C) (1 x lecture) (2021 -)
Security in Global Politics (MA) (1 x seminar) (2019 -)
Dissertation in Security Studies (MA) (2019 -)

PRIOR TEACHING

Public Ethics (King's College, London, MA)
General Philosophy (King's College, London, MA)
Introduction to Political Theory (King's College, London, Part A)
Economic and Political Philosophy (King's College, London, Part A)
Political Theories of Capitalism (King's College, London, Part B)
Gender and Philosophy (King's College, London, Part B)
History of Political Philosophy II (King's College, London, Part B)
Applied Ethics (King's College, London, Part B)
Philosophy of Race (King's College, London, Part C)
Advanced Research Seminar (King's College, London, PhD)
Political Ethics (European University Institute, PhD)
Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights (UCL, MA)
International Human Rights Standards and Institutions (UCL, MA)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Leadership:

Undergraduate Programme Lead IRPH (Loughborough)
Research Ethics Lead for IRPH division (Loughborough)
Convenor, *Ethics in Public Life* research group (Loughborough)
Research Review Board for REF 2028 (Loughborough)
E Building Working Group (Loughborough)
Mentor for applicants to postgraduate and postdoctoral schemes, University College Dublin
Research Proposal Support.
Max Weber Fellows' representative to the Social and Political Sciences department.
Teacher, Philosophy Forum, Stuart Low Charitable Trust, London.

Journal Reviewer:

American Journal of Political Science, *American Political Science Review*, *Political Studies*,
Journal of Political Philosophy, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *Journal of Politics*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Bioethics*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Social Philosophy Today*,
Human Rights Review, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *Res Publica*,
Global Justice: Theory, Practice, Rhetoric, *Journal of Social Philosophy*, *CRISPP*.

Grant Reviewer:

British Academy, *Knowledge Frontier Programme*, *University of Vienna* ('Reinforcing Women In Research (REWIRE)'), *Teaching Programmes of the Central European University, Budapest (CEU)*.

CONFERENCES

Invited Presentations and Keynotes

June 2024 – Workshop Presentation, Healthcare as a battleground in offshore detention, *Civility and Incivility*, Reading University.

May 2022 – Conference Presentation, *Book Launch for Reclaiming Humanity in Palestinian Hunger Strikes*, University of Warwick.

September 2021 – Conference Presentation, ‘The politics of suicide’ at *Political Resistance and Contemporary Injustice*, Manchester Centre for Political Theory annual conference, Manchester University.

October 2020 – Departmental Seminar, ‘The ethics of hunger strikes’ at *Political Theory Seminar*, Reading University.

May 2019 – Conference Presentation, ‘Migrant hunger strikes’ at *The Ethics of Resistance to Immigration Controls*, Bristol University.

April 2019 – Departmental Seminar, ‘Border-Crossing as Resistance’ at *Political Theory Seminar*, Queen’s University, Belfast.

October 2018 – Conference Presentation, ‘Thinking through and against borders’ at *Universitas 21* online seminar.

September 2018 - Keynote Lecture, ‘Border-Crossing’ at *Legitimate Injustice and Just Resistance* at Manchester Centre for Political Theory annual conference, Manchester.

June 2018 - Keynote Lecture, ‘Migrant resistance’ at *Demarcating the Demos*, Justitia Amplificata conference, Frankfurt.

May 2017 - Conference Presentation, ‘Popular resistance and the idea of rights’ at *Relationships & Responsibilities: A conference in honour of Iseult Honohan*, Irish Royal Academy, Dublin.

Presentations

July 2025, ‘The Right to Liveability? Mental health, suicide and social justice’, King’s College, London, PPE Society annual conference.

July 2025, ‘Using interviews in the political philosophy of resistance’ University of Glasgow, Association for Social and Political Philosophy annual conference .

July 2025, ‘The Right to Liveability’ University of Glasgow, Association for Social and Political Philosophy annual conference.

June 2025, ‘The Right to Liveability’, British Sociology Association on study group on sociology, psychoanalysis and the psychosocial.

November 2024, ‘Using interviews in the Political Philosophy of Resistance’, Durham University, political theory seminar.

March 2024, ‘Immigration detention as structural violence’, *The Political Theory of Migration*, Louvain University, Belgium.

June 2023, ‘Suicide as Unjust Violence’ at *Suicide Cultures: Reimagining Suicide Research*, University of Edinburgh.

December 2022 – Conference Presentation, ‘Induced Self-Violence’ at *International Conference of Carceral Geography*, University of Melbourne.

December 2022 – Conference Presentation, ‘Authoritarian Populism’ at *Responding to Injustice*, Sydney University.

November 2022 – Online Seminar, ‘Adapting Vevox to classroom setting’, *Vevox autumn webinar series*.

October 2022 – Departmental Conference, ‘Starving for Dignity: Re-Framing the Ethics of Hunger Strikes’ at *Loughborough University Research Day*, Loughborough.

September 2022 – Conference Presentation, ‘Induced Self-Violence’, *American Political Science Association Annual Conference*, University of Montreal.

April 2022 – Conference Presentation, ‘Civil disobedience against authoritarian populism’ at *Political Studies Association Annual Conference*, York University.

March 2022 – Conference Presentation, ‘Induced self-violence’, *Philosophy and Borders*, Oxford University.

November 2020 – Departmental Seminar, ‘Civil disobedience against authoritarian populism?’ at *Populism Group Seminar*, Loughborough University.

September 2020 – Conference Presentation, ‘Migrant hunger strikes’, *American Political Science Association Annual Conference*, Virtual meeting.

June 2020 – Public talk, ‘New Authoritarianism: COVID19 and the challenges facing democracy’, *LSE Events*, webinar.

May 2020 – Conference Presentation, ‘Resisting democratic law: Circumstances, Methods, and Examples’ Queen Mary, University of London.

February 2020 – Departmental Seminar, ‘Hunger strikes and self-destructive resistance’ *Centre for Security Studies Seminar Series*, Loughborough University.

September 2018 – Conference Presentation, ‘Popular resistance and the idea of rights’ at *New Perspectives on Republicanism and Democracy: Political, Economic and Social, European Consortium for Political Research general conference*, Hamburg.

January 2018 – Conference Presentation, ‘Migrant Resistance’ at *The Ethics of Migration beyond the Immigrant-Host State Nexus*, European University Institute, Florence.

November 2017 – Conference Presentation, ‘Online Public Shaming’ at *The Ethics of Vulnerability*, University College Dublin Centre for Ethics in Public Life.

September 2017 – Conference Presentation, ‘Migrants as political subjects’ at *Universitas 21 Early Career Workshop, Interculturality and Multiculturalism: the challenges for changing societies*, Pontificia Universidad de Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile.

June 2017 – Conference Presentation, ‘Disobedience across borders’ at *Association for Social and Political Philosophy Annual Conference*, University of Sheffield.

May 2017 – Conference Presentation, ‘Migrant resistance and disobedience’ at *Migration and refugees: Law, ethics and institutional responses*, Centre for Human Rights, University College Dublin.

June 2017 – Conference Presentation, ‘Migrant resistance and disobedience’ at *Max Weber Programme Annual Conference*, European University Institute, Florence.

June 2016 – Conference Presentation, ‘Realist disobedience? Protest, coercion and the limits of an appeal to justice’, *Association for Social and Political Philosophy Annual Conference*, LSE, London.

June 2016 – Conference Presentation, ‘Do the critics of human rights have a point?’ at *International Studies Association Annual Conference*, Fordham University, New York.

February 2016 – Conference Presentation, ‘Realist disobedience? Protest, coercion and the limits of an appeal to justice’, *Max Weber conference*, European University Institute, Florence.

September 2015 – Conference Presentation, ‘Was Gandhi wrong? Power, protest and disobedience’ at *Disobey! Understanding the Ethics and Politics of disobedience*, Sciences Po, Paris.

June 2015 – Conference Presentation, ‘Three models of republican rights: Juridical, Parliamentary and Populist’ at *Reclaiming Republicanism*, University of Oxford.

June 2015 – Conference Presentation, ‘Republican rights’ at *Association for Social and Political Philosophy Annual Conference*, University of Amsterdam.

September 2014 – Conference Presentation, ‘What’s political about right? A social movement-based approach’ at *Graduate Political Theory Conference*, Sciences Po, Paris.

September 2013 – Conference Presentation, ‘Rights, citizenship and political struggle’, *Graduate Conference in Political Philosophy*, University of Pavia.

June 2013 – Conference Presentation, ‘The limits of political constitutionalism’, *Graduate Political Theory Conference*, University of Warwick.

September 2012 – Conference Presentation, ‘The agonistic dimension of rights’, University of Braga, Portugal, *International Conference on Ethics and Political Philosophy*.

September 2012 – Conference Presentation, ‘Rights, politics and social movements’ at *Graduate Conference in Political Philosophy* University of Pavia, Italy.

Conference Organisation:

June 2023 – ‘Protest and the Body’, IRPH Loughborough University.

November 2018 – International Conference, *Human Rights, poverty and social justice*, Centre for Human Rights, University College Dublin.

August 2018 – Conference Panel, *New Perspectives on Republicanism and Democracy: Political, Economic and Social*, European Consortium for Political Research, Hamburg.

May 2017 – International Conference, *Migration and Refugees: Law, Ethics and Institutional Responses*, Centre for Human Rights, University College Dublin.

May 2016 – International Conference, *The Rise of International Courts: Normative and Sociological Perspectives*, Max Weber conference, European University Institute, Florence.

May 2016 – International Conference, *Data Privacy Advocacy*, Max Weber conference, European University Institute, Florence.

April 2016 – International Conference, *Challenging Injustice: The Ethics and Modalities of Political Engagement*, Max Weber conference, European University Institute, Florence.

September 2014 – Conference Panel, *Bringing the People back into Republican Democracy*, Manchester University, Manchester Centre for Political Theory annual conference.

RESEARCH, MEDIA AND POLICY POSITIONS

The Convention on Brexit and the Political Crash, Research Adviser, May 2017.

Power Inquiry, Power 2010, Research and Communications Manager, May 2009 - August 2010.

openDemocracyUK, Managing Editor, Jan 2008 - August 2010.

The Convention on Modern Liberty, Deputy Director, September 2008 - April 2009.

The Constitution Unit, UCL, Intern, Jan 2007 - May 2007.

LANGUAGES

English (native speaker), French (fluent).