

Joey Savoie, Eric Chisholm, and myself, Evan Gaensbauer, were all friends with each other before any of us began participating in either the rationality and effective altruism (EA) communities. Our mutual friendship in fact predates the founding of either community. We were part of a group of friends. There were a few other friends who got involved in one or both of those communities at the same time we did. Most of them are no longer involved in either community.

Eric and I were some of the earliest members of the Vancouver LessWrong/rationality (VanLW) meetup group. Eric attended the first VanLW meetup in 2011. I started attending meetups later that year. Joey attended some VanLW meetups but was not as interested as Eric and me. Max Carpendale was also an original member of the VanLW meetup group.

Kat Woods began dating Joey in 2011. That is how she became introduced to the Van LW/EA groups. Cornelis Haupt and I met each other in a class at a local university, the University of British Columbia (UBC), in 2011. We had some mutual friends but Cornelis and I didn't interact much again until he became interested in EA and rationality in 2014. He and I are co-founders of the EA student club at a university in Vancouver, the University of British Columbia (UBC).

In late 2011, I first discovered the nascent community that would become "effective altruism" through LessWrong (LW) and 80,000 Hours (80k). I introduced all of our friends to it. A few of us joined Giving What We Can (GWWC) later that year. Joey started a local GWWC member meetup group later in late 2011/early 2012. By 2013, it had become the Vancouver EA (VanEA) meetup group.

For the first few years after it was founded, Charity Science was based out of Vancouver. During this time, Joey and Kat would still periodically work and stay among the EA community in the UK, particularly in London and Oxford. Joey and Kat met Tom Ash in the UK. Richenda Herzig and David Moss later met Joey and Kat when they moved to Canada to work at EA-affiliated organizations with their offices in Vancouver, either at Charity Science, or one of the organizations under the "Rethink" brand. David and Richenda moved back to the UK several years ago.

Baxter Bullock, Tee Barnett, and Kieran Grieg all worked for Charity Science for a period of time, a year and a few months each, some time between 2012 and 2016. During that time, each of them moved to Vancouver. After each of them stopped working for Charity Science, they went on to work for other EA-affiliated organizations.

I founded the Vancouver AI Safety group (VanAIS) in 2022. Cornelis Haupt was also a founding group organizer. Evan R. Murphy is an AI safety researcher who lives in Vancouver. He is currently the main VanAIS group organizer.