

Paul R. Dixon

PHILOSOPHY OF AI

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Profile

MPhil/PhD researcher in Philosophy at King's College London studying the conditions under which artificial systems could possess moral status. My work draws on moral philosophy, philosophy of mind, metaphysics and AI ethics. Previously I worked for thirty years in investment banking, financial risk, financial technology and asset management. I continue to serve in non-executive and pension trustee roles in financial services.

Research

2025–2029 **MPhil/PhD in Philosophy**, King's College London

Research project on the moral status of artificial systems, supervised by Dr Adrian Alsmith and Professor David Papineau. The project examines capacities that might ground moral status, their possible realisation in non-biological systems, and the evidence, design choices and safeguards relevant under uncertainty.

INTERESTS Philosophy of Technology. Moral Philosophy. AI safety and governance. Human-AI systems. AI moral status and patienthood; sentience and consciousness; embodiment and substrate; agency, autonomy and welfare; identity and persistence in AI systems.

Education

2023–2025 **MA Philosophy of AI**, Northeastern University London

Dissertation: a capacities theory of moral status and its application to advanced AI systems. *Distinction*.

2020–2023 **Continuing Education in Philosophy**, University of Oxford

80 CATS credits across philosophy of mind, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of science, critical reasoning and 2x artificial intelligence.

2022 **Ethics of AI**, London School of Economics

2019–2020 **MSc Philosophy of the Social Sciences**, London School of Economics. *Distinction*.

1984–1987 **BA (Hons), subsequently MA, Economics**, Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge
Second-class honours, upper division (2:1).

Academic distinctions and selected writing

2025 Moral Status in AI Systems. Research on AI moral status.

2022 Are Beliefs in the Head? *First Prize*, Oxford Philosophical Society.

2021 Free Will and Determinism. *Highly Commended*, Oxford Philosophical Society.

2020 Constructive Empiricism. *Second Prize*, Oxford Philosophical Society.

Teaching

2021–2022 **Guest lecturer in Philosophy of Finance, Business and Ethics**. Caterham School and Millfield School

Designed and delivered an interdisciplinary lecture series for Years 12 and 13 covering money, business ethics, autonomous vehicles, profit and purpose.

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PENSIONS INSURANCE AND LDI

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Current appointments

2019-PRESENT Non-executive director, Clara-Pensions Group Limited

Board member and Chair of the Investment Committee in a UK pensions consolidation business.

2011-PRESENT Trustee, Lazard Directors' Pension Scheme

Pension scheme governance and investment oversight.

Executive career

2012-2016 Chief Investment Officer, Guardian Assurance

Led investment strategy and oversight for £17 billion of assets; member of the Executive Management Team from acquisition to sale.

2005-2010 Managing Director and Chief Executive, Pearl Assurance and Axial Investment Management

Led asset-liability management, investment and financial risk across £22 billion of assets; served as Managing Director at Axial and later Ignis, and as Chief Executive of Axial.

1994-2003 Managing Director, Merrill Lynch International, London and New York

Led European equity derivatives trading and later held senior global roles in equities and derivatives risk management, e-commerce and financial technology.

1987-1994 Vice President, Manufacturers Hanover and Chemical Bank, now J.P. Morgan

Traded interest-rate and equity derivatives in London, Sydney and Tokyo.

Advisory and governance

2003-2025 Founder, Halsey Capital Partners and London Investment Office

Advised Cinven, Phoenix Group, Lazard and Pensions First.

2018-2019 Senior adviser, Sixth Street Partners

European and UK insurance and pensions.

2014-2020 Member of the Investment Committee, Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge

Investment governance for the College.

2013-2020 Trustee, Accelerate and Access Foundation

Governance of a social-mobility charity.

Additional information

REGULATORY FCA approved person: CF1 and CF3, 2006-2010; CF29, 2012-2016.

LANGUAGES Conversational German.

INTERESTS Philosophy, artificial intelligence, science, economics and finance; tennis, road cycling, golf, hockey, travel, music and piano.