



**The Exeter College Summer Programme
at Exeter College in the University of Oxford**

Individual Research Tutorial Proposal Form

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Home University: National University of Singapore

Home Degree Major: Law

Expected Graduation Date: 2028

ECSP course you would like to substitute for the IRT: Why Be Good? An Introduction to Ethics

Title of your Proposal: Sufficiency of Promissory Morality in Contract Theory

Subject Area of this Proposal: Law – Jurisprudence – Rights – Contract Philosophy

Briefly describe your proposal in no more than 250 words.

I wish to explore the rights theory of promising in the promissory theory of contract law, and in particular building upon the DPhil work of Crescente Molina (2020, supervised by Prof. Sandy Steel) “The Morality of Contracts and Promises.” In particular, the various rights theories giving rise to a promise; the enforceability of a promise; and the interplay between promissory rights and promissory obligations. Lastly, on how the institution of promising affects modern contractual doctrine notwithstanding moral eliminativism.

Briefly describe any relevant study you have already completed in the area.

I have written a manuscript (~10000 words) which was advised for changes in peer review, for which I am very grateful for. The sources I list below are the ones I perused in my initial draft, which provided a solid foundation to *understand* Molina’s work, but did not build upon it expansively enough to constitute original research worthy of publication. I hope to improve in this regard by seeking an original formulation of rights theory (and claim-rights), alongside imposing critique on rights *viz.* equality of bargaining positions and premising rights over equality (a la Westen).

List any books or other resources which may be relevant and/or necessary to your proposed research. Please limit your answer to no more than 10 entries.

Rights Theory

1. T.M. Scanlon, *What We Owe to Each Other* (Cambridge: HUP, 1998)
2. D. Owens, *Shaping the Normative Landscape* (London: OUP, 2012)
3. G. Sreenivasan, “A Hybrid Theory of Claim-Rights” (2005) 25:2 *OJLS* 257

Legal and Normative Authority

4. J. Raz, *The Authority of Law* (London: OUP, 1979)
5. – *The Roots of Normativity* (London: OUP, 2022)
6. – *The Morality of Freedom* (London: OUP, 1998)

Philosophy of Contract Law

7. C. Molina, *The Morality of Contracts and Promises* (University of Oxford, 2021), cited in place of more traditional authors like C. Fried, D. Kimel, or S.V. Shiffrin.
8. G. Klass et al., *Philosophical Foundations of Contract Law* (London: OUP, 2014)
9. M. Chen et al., *Research Handbook on the Philosophy of Contract Law* (Cheltenham: EE, 2025)
10. C. Molina, “Contracting Without Promising” (University of Toronto Law Journal, forthcoming 2025)

Important: *The IRT is subject absolutely to the Academic Director’s approval and the availability of an expert in Oxford to guide your research. Submission of an IRT proposal and payment of the supplementary fee does not guarantee acceptance.*