

Effective and Altruistic Career Planning

“It’s big brain time”

Middlebury Effective Altruism

Slides available on [go/EAretreat](https://go.EAretreat)

Fall 2022

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Top three career facts

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- ② You will have a much bigger impact on the world in some career than others
- ③ We live in a time where there are many pressing issues, and one where one person can make a lot of difference.
 - [Link to talk about how this is the most important century.]

How this activity works

- I will first talk about how we think you should approach your own career planning problem. (X minutes)

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- After dinner, we will go around and share our plans.
- I will share what I came up with to give everyone an idea of what's up.

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- ① Identify a cause area
 - ② Find a career role that addresses a problem in your area
 - ③ Make a plan to get to that role
- This is primarily based off of the Career planning program [\[link\]](#) from the Global Challenges Library

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 - ① Become familiar and comfortable with this framework of career planning/thinking
 - ② Have a real plan with actual actionable items that you can draw from in the following weeks and months.
 - ③ Present slides to everyone and share the resources you've found!

Outline of the next 75ish minutes

- 10-20 mins: Find a cause area to focus on
- 10-20 mins: Find some type of role that you're interested in
- 35-50 mins: Examine concrete steps you can take in the coming days and weeks to learn more about this job and how you can be prepared for it.

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- A part of the goal is to introduce people to this type of thinking so practicing a run-through is useful.
- If you feel really unsure, it's OK to have your action plan at the end to include stuff on future research—**It's important that this exercise is useful for you!**

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- Now I'm going to work this hybrid industry-academic job at Walmart, which also gives me plenty of flexibility in terms of where I want to go next.
- Being successful in one area helps you everywhere. Indecision doesn't help at all.

Reminder of the three steps.

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- 35-50 mins: Examine concrete steps you can take in the coming days and weeks to learn more about this job and how you can be prepared for it.
 - More info on this type of activity can be found on the Global Challenges Project Site

Guidelines/Resources on specific stages: Cause area search

- List of 80,000's cause areas [\[link\]](#)

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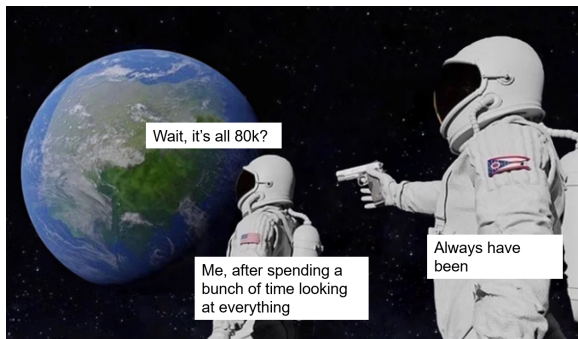
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Guidelines/Resources on specific stages: Cause area search

- List of 80,000's cause areas [link]
- There really is no better resource, this is the place to look things up.
- It is important to consider *personal fit* when it comes to cause areas. You're not going to do a good job at something you don't like.

Searching for the right role/Getting the right skillset

- Again, going into the right 80,000 cause area page will give you the best start.



Stuck? Try these

- Centralized resources page [link]. Feel free to add to it if you find interesting stuff! These are mostly sources that aren't directly linked from the 80k (e.g., more technical stuff on AI alignment, some stuff on alternative proteins, X-risks, and my own page on Econ PhD related resources.)

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- Picking some cause area/role by random and explore it and see where it takes you
- If you're really stuck, head to the 80k job board [link] and see what appeals to you, then work backwards from there.
 - Would prefer you guys to think about careers through this framework of cause areas, but the number one goal of this session is to be useful. So if that's not really working out for you, feel free to try something else!

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 - Why did you end up picking a specific area?
 - What resources did you find along the way that was most helpful?
- Remember: These are as much for your peers as they are for you! Maybe someone will see your presentation and find it useful and adopt their career accordingly.

Cause Area: Existential Risk/Nuclear conflict/Great Power Conflicts/Civilisation resilience

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- Growing up, my favorite movie was 2012, and my favorite book series was the *Threebody Problem*.
- Both dealt with existential risk.
- Both are about having backups in case of catastrophe, and I just find that to be sexy.

Interesting stuff found: ALLFED

- Carl Shulman: And then [X-risk from asteroids] was bolstered by a lot of political attention that Hollywood helped with. So there were several films — Deep Impact and Armageddon were two of the more influential — that helped to draw the thing more into the popular culture. [link]

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- And here are all of the EA forum posts on the org [link]

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- Maybe start learning about alternative protein sources from Global food institute.

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- In the end, I want everyone to send me their slides and then we can make a single google drive with all of your ideas as resources for each other.

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- Eventually found ALLFED and that was really cool and something that I could see myself doing part-time in the future.

Bibilography I