



**Alan Brian Carter** (born 1952, Lincolnshire, England) is the [Professor of Moral Philosophy](#) at the [University of Glasgow](#).

He earned a BA at the [University of Kent at Canterbury](#) , an MA at the [University of Sussex](#) and a DPhil at [St Cross College](#)

at the [University of Oxford](#)

. Carter's first academic position was Lecturer in Political Theory at [University College Dublin](#)

. He then became Head of the Philosophy Department at [Heythrop College](#)

, [University of London](#)

. Subsequently, he was Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies at the [University of Colorado at Boulder](#)

. He has been a Visiting Professor at the [University of British Columbia](#)

and at the [University of Bucharest](#)

. Carter is currently joint editor of the [Journal of Applied Philosophy](#)

He works principally in [political philosophy](#) , moral philosophy, and [environmental philosophy](#) . Carter has published on a wide range of topics: within political philosophy he has written on political obligation, equality, and property rights; within environmental philosophy he has written on the moral status of both nonhuman animals and ecosystems; within

[applied ethics](#)

he has written on problems regarding future persons and world hunger; within political theory he has written on theories of the state and

[Third World](#)

underdevelopment; and within

[Marxism and Anarchism](#)

Carter has written on their respective theories of history. He is currently developing an environmentalist moral theory that is,

[normatively](#)

,  
[value pluralist](#)

and, metaethically,

[projectivist](#)

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topics he has previously written about in moral theory.

Some of Carter's work in environmental philosophy is discussed critically by [Robin Attfield](#) .<sup>[ 2</sup>  
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Carter's state-primacy theory has been discussed by

[Robyn Eckersley](#)

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and criticized by

[John Barry](#)

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and, most fully, by Simon Hailwood.

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Carter was one of the founder members of the London-based Anarchist Research Group.

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[Colin Ward](#)

has described Carter, with

[Murray Bookchin](#)

, as one of the leading eco-anarchist thinkers.

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Outside of academia, Carter is Chair of the [World Development Movement Scotland](#) and is on the Board of Directors of

[Friends of the Earth Scotland](#)

. He is a former Board Member and a former Trustee of

[Friends of the Earth](#)

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## Publications

Carter's publications include over 50 articles in academic journals and he is the author of 3 books:

- *A Radical Green Political Theory*. New York: Routledge. ISBN [978-0-415-20309-8](#) . (1999)
- *The Philosophical Foundations of Property Rights*. Hemel Hempstead: Harvester, Wheatsheaf. ISBN [978-0-7450-0518-8](#) . (1988)
- *Marx: a Radical Critique*. Prentice Hall / Harvester Wheatsheaf. ISBN [978-0-7450-0488-4](#) . (1987)

## Selected articles

- "The problem of political compliance in Rawls's theories of justice: Parts I and II," *The Journal of Moral Philosophy* 3, 1 (2006): 7–21 and 3, 2 (2006): 135–157
- "A defense of egalitarianism," *Philosophical Studies* 131, 2 (2006): 269–302
- "Saving nature and feeding people," *Environmental Ethics* 26, 4 (2004): 339–60

- "Value-pluralist egalitarianism," *Journal of Philosophy* 99, 11 (2002): 577–99
- "Can we harm future people?" *Environmental Values* 10, 4 (2001): 429–454
- "Humean nature," *Environmental Values* 9, 1 (2000): 3–37
- "Analytical anarchism: some conceptual foundations," *Political Theory* 28, 2 (2000): 230–53
- "In defense of radical disobedience," *The Journal of Applied Philosophy* 15, 1 (1998): 29–47
- "Towards a green political theory" in Andrew Dobson and Paul Lucardie (edd.), *The Politics of Nature: Explorations in Green Political Theory* (London: Routledge, 1993), pp. 39–62

## Citations

1. [^ "University of Glasgow :: Philosophy :: Our staff"](http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/philosophy/ourstaff/) . <http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/philosophy/ourstaff/> . Retrieved 2007-11-06
2. [^](#) See for example Attfield, R., *Environmental Ethics: An Overview for the Twenty-First Century* . Polity-Blackwell (2003).
3. [^](#) Eckersley, R. *The Green State: Rethinking Democracy and Sovereignty*. MIT Press (2004).
4. [^](#) Barry, J. *Rethinking Green Politics: Nature, Virtue and Progress*. Sage (1999)
5. [^](#) Hailwood, S. *How to be a Green Liberal: Nature, Value and Liberal Philosophy*. Acumen (2004).
6. [^](#) Goodway, D. (ed.), *For Anarchism: History, Theory, and Practice*. Routledge (1989).
7. [^](#) Ward, C. *Anarchism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press (2004).

## External links

- [Alan Carter's homepage](#) at the [University of Glasgow](#)
- [Alan Carter's webpage](#) at [Academia.edu](#)
- [Alan Carter's department page](#) at the [University of Glasgow](#)