Stanford



David Hills

Associate Professor (Teaching) of Philosophy

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

I did my undergraduate work at Amherst and went on to graduate school at Princeton. Since then I've taught at Harvard, UCLA, The University of Pennsylvania, The University of Michigan, Berkeley, and Stanford. I resumed my graduate career a little while back -- from a distance, as it were -- receiving the PhD in 2005.

I'm married to another philosopher, Krista Lawlor.

My interests continue to center in aesthetics, but they have spilled over into pretty much every branch of philosophy at one time or another.

Wittgenstein, Culture and Value, 34: Im Rennen der Philosophie gewinnt, wer am langsamsten laufen kann. Oder: der, der das Ziel zuletzt erreicht. (In philosophy the race is to the one who can run slowest — the one who crosses the finish line last.) I'm not sure I believe this, but it's a comforting thing to read.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor-Teaching, Philosophy

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Acting Assistant Professor, Harvard University, (1974-1976)
- Instructor, University of California, Los Angeles, (1976-1979)
- Acting Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania, (1979-1981)
- Visiting Instructor, Princeton University, (1981-1982)
- Visiting Instructor, University of Michigan, (1982-1984)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, (1984-1994)
- Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, (1994-1999)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Ohio State University, (1997-1997)
- Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, (1999-2000)
- Lecturer, University of California, Berkeley, (2002-2002)
- Adjunct Associate Professor, Stanford University, (2001-2002)
- Lecturer, Stanford University, (2002-2005)

- Adjunct Assistant Professor, Stanford University, (2005-2008)
- Associate Professor of Philosophy, Stanford University, (2008- present)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, American Philosophical Association
- Member, American Society for Aesthetics
- Member, North American Kant Society
- Editorial Board Member, The Philosophers' Imprint (2001 - present)
- Member, Program Committee, Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association (2009 - 2012)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Modern Thought and Literature
- Philosophy and Literature

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Princeton University (2005)
- M.A., Princeton University (1973)
- B.A., Amherst College (1969)

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Capstone seminar: Imagination in Fiction and Philosophy: PHIL 194A (Spr)
- Kant's Value Theory: PHIL 127A, PHIL 227A (Spr)
- Political Philosophy: The Social Contract Tradition: PHIL 176, PHIL 276 (Aut)
- Proseminar: PHIL 300 (Win)
- Truth: PHIL 182H, PHIL 282H (Win)

2025-26

- Capstone seminar: Beauty and Other Forms of Value: PHIL 194F (Aut)
- Kant's Third Critique: PHIL 325 (Aut)
- Philosophy, Literature, and the Arts Core Seminar: PHIL 333 (Spr)
- Wittgenstein: PHIL 137, PHIL 237 (Win)

2024-25

- History of Modern Moral Philosophy: PHIL 172, PHIL 272 (Spr)
- Metaphor: PHIL 370B (Win)
- Postwar Oxford Philosophy: OSPOXFRD 46 (Aut)
- Truth: PHIL 182H, PHIL 282H (Spr)

2023-24

- History of Modern Moral Philosophy: ETHICSOC 172, PHIL 172, PHIL 272 (Win)
- Kant's Third Critique: PHIL 325 (Spr)
- Political Philosophy: The Social Contract Tradition: ETHICSOC 176, PHIL 176, PHIL 276, POLISCI 137A, POLISCI 337A (Spr)

- Wittgenstein: PHIL 137, PHIL 237 (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Jonathan Amaral, Lis Benossi, Ali Hazel, PM Irvin, Seyoung Kang, Penn Lawrence, Aileen Luo, William Ray

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Yufeng Lin

Master's Program Advisor

Joshua Doland

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Tom Ladendorf

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **On Getting to Know a State or Process Better: Wittgenstein and the Philosophy of Mind** *Wittgenstein and the Philosophy of Mind*
  Hills, D.
  edited by Ellis, J., Guevara, D.
  Oxford University Press.2012: vii - xxxviii
- **Metaphor** *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
  Hills, D.
  edited by Zalta, E.
  2011
- **Objects of Metaphor (Book Review)** *PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW*
  Book Review Authored by: Hills, D.
  2009; 118 (1): 134-138
- **Drawing distinctions: The varieties of graphic expression. (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF AESTHETICS AND ART CRITICISM*
  Book Review Authored by: Hills, D.
  2007; 65 (2): 235-238
- **Problems of Paraphrase: Bottom's Dream** *Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic, and Communication*
  Hills, D.
  2007
- **Metaphor** *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
  Beardsley, M.
  edited by Borchert, D. M.
  Detroit Macmillan Reference.2005; 2
- **Entry on 'Art Representation'** *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
  Hills, D.
  edited by Borchert, D. M.
  Detroit Macmillan Reference.2005; 2
- **Review of Metaphor in Context** *Philosophical Review*
  HIlls, D.
  2002; 3: 473 - 478
- **Review of Richard Wollheim on the Art of Painting: Art as Representation and Expression** *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*
  Hills, D.

2002

- **Aptness and Truth in Verbal Metaphor** *Philosophical Topics*
  Hills, D.
  1997; 25 (1): 117-153

- **Mental Representations and Languages of Thought** *Readings in the Philosophy of Psychology*
  Hills, D.
  edited by Block, N. J.
  Cambridge: Harvard University Press.1981: 11–20

- **SIMPLICITY - SOBER,E (Book Review)** *PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW*
  Book Review Authored by: Hills, D.
  1977; 86 (4): 595-603