Stanford



Leif Wenar

Olive H. Palmer Professor of the Humanities, Professor of Philosophy, Senior Fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment and Professor, by courtesy, of Political Science

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Leif Wenar is a political philosopher. After receiving his AB at Stanford, he earned his PhD at Harvard, worked in Britain, and returned to Stanford in 2020.

He is the author of Blood Oil: Tyrants, Violence, and the Rules that Run the World and the author-meets-critics volume Beyond Blood Oil: Philosophy, Policy, and the Future. He is also the author of the entries for ‘John Rawls’ and ‘Rights’ in The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. His articles have appeared in Mind, Analysis, Philosophy & Public Affairs, Ethics, The Journal of Political Philosophy, The Columbia Law Review, and The Philosopher’s Annual. He co-edited Giving Well: The Ethics of Philanthropy, as well as an autobiographical volume by the economist FA Hayek.

He has been a Visiting Professor at the Stanford Center on Ethics and Society, a fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, the William H. Bonsall Visiting Professor in the Stanford Philosophy Department, a Laurance S. Rockefeller Fellow and a Visiting Professor at Princeton’s University Center for Human Values, a Visiting Professor at the Princeton Department of Politics, a Fellow of the Program on Justice and the World Economy at the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, a Faculty Fellow at the Center for Ethics and Public Affairs at The Murphy Institute of Political Economy, and a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University School of Philosophy.

His public writing has been featured in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, Foreign Affairs, and the playbill for the White Light Festival at Lincoln Center. In London, he served for several years on the Mayor’s Policing Ethics Panel, which advises the Mayor and the Metropolitan Police on issues such as digital surveillance and the use of force.

He is currently developing unity theory, a foundational account of what makes for more valuable lives, relationships, and societies. His published work can be found at wenar.info.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Philosophy
- Senior Fellow, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment
- Professor (By courtesy), Political Science

LINKS

- My Website: http://www.wenar.info/

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Justice Across Borders: ETHICSOC 174L, PHIL 174L (Spr)
- Value and Consequences: PHIL 370W (Win)

2024-25

- Justice Across Borders: ETHICSOC 174L, PHIL 174L (Win)
- Race, System, and Structure: CSRE 372W, ETHICSOC 372W, PHIL 372W (Spr)

2023-24

- Justice across Borders: PHIL 13N (Win)
- Values and Consequences: PHIL 377W (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Sydney Jordan, Shayan Koeksal

Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Jovy Chan, Jennifer Chien, Henry Krahn, Milan Mosse, Alexander Mussgnug, Anshul Shah

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Pat Hope, William Ray

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

César Valenzuela

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Beyond Blood Oil: Philosophy, Policy, and the Future**
  Wenar, L., Blake, M., James, A., Kutz, C., Mehdiyeva, N., Stilz, A.
  Rowman & Littlefield.2018
- **Blood Oil: Tyrants, Violence, and the Rules that Run the World**
  Wenar, L.
  Oxford University Press.2016