

CARL HILDEBRAND

Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, School of Clinical Medicine, LKS Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong
www.carlhildebrand.com
carlh@hku.hk

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

Kant, Moral Psychology, Bioethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE:

AI Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Political Philosophy, Modern Philosophy,
Ancient Philosophy, 20th Century Analytic Philosophy, Continental Philosophy

EDUCATION:

University of Oxford

DPhil, Philosophy, 2018 (date awarded)
Title: Kant and Moral Character (no corrections)
Supervisors: Alison Hills and Ralph Walker
Examiners: Angela Breitenbach and Thomas Sinclair

Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics, Harvard University

Online Fellowship Certificate Program, Jan-Jun 2026

University of Ottawa

MA, Philosophy, 2012
Title: Kant and Moral Responsibility
Supervisor: Andrew Brook

Trinity Western University

BA great distinction, Philosophy, 2009

EMPLOYMENT:

University of Hong Kong

Assistant Professor, Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, School of Clinical
Medicine, LKS Faculty of Medicine, 2024-

Research Fellow, Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, 2022-

Senior Tutor, Wei Lun Hall, 2021-24

Research Assistant Professor, Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and
Social Sciences, 2020-24

University of the Fraser Valley

Instructor, Department of Philosophy, 2019-20

University of Oxford

Tutor in Philosophy and Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government, 2018

Tutor, Worcester College, 2018

Postdoctoral Fellowship Award, Philosophical Fellowship Fund, 2017-18

Junior Dean, University College, 2015-18

Tutor, Brasenose College, 2018

Key Concepts in Moral Psychology, lecture course, Faculty of Philosophy, 2018

Seminar Leader, Blavatnik School of Government, 2017

Tutor, Lincoln College, 2015

University of British Columbia

Honorary Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, 2012-13

Trinity Western University

Instructor, Department of Philosophy, 2011-13

University of Ottawa

Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, 2009-11

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS:

Reframing Affective Injustice: On the Right to Anger and the Priority of Moral Reasons, *Res Publica: A Journal of Moral, Legal, and Political Philosophy*, with Liz Jackson (forthcoming)

The Problem of Loneliness and the Place of Teleological Action in Friendship, *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy* (forthcoming)

On the Risks of Depersonalizing Consent and the Safe Implementation of LLMs in Medical Decision-Making, *Journal of Medical Ethics* (forthcoming)

The Role of Divine Grace in Kant's Rational Religion, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 97 (2025): 107-125

Compassionate and Cognitively Diverse: Why Kantian Virtue is More Generous Than You Think, *Think: Philosophy for Everyone* 23: 68 (2024): 37-43

Feeling, Cognition, and the Eighteenth-Century Context of Kantian Sympathy, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 31:5 (2023): 974-1004.

Kant's Character-Based Account of Moral Weakness and Strength, *Philosophia* 51 (2023): 717-741

Kant's Account of Intellectual Habit and Moral Education, in *Habit and the History of Philosophy*, edited by Jeremy Dunham and Komarine Romdenh-Romluc (Abingdon: Routledge, 2022): 105-118

Educating for British Values: Kant's Philosophical Roadmap for Cosmopolitan Character Education, *Policy Futures in Education* 15:1 (2017): 20-37

SELECTED OTHER WRITING:

How Hong Kong Can Lead in Patient-Focused Ethical AI Healthcare, *South China Morning Post*, 2025, with Rebecca Brendel, <https://www.scmp.com/opinion/hong-kong-opinion/article/3319328/how-hong-kong-can-lead-patient-focused-ethical-ai-healthcare>

Putting Trust at the Heart of Higher Education, with Samson Tse, *Times Higher Education*, 2023, <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/putting-trust-heart-higher-education>

Compassion and the Moral Law, Dalai Lama Centre for Compassion, Oxford prize essay, published online at www.dlccoxford.org, 2016

PRESENTATIONS:

Forgiving Amidst Deep Disagreement: Developments and Considerations in Favor of the Christian Model (by invitation), Peace and Conflict: Ethical, Religious, and Geopolitical Perspectives, Hong Kong Baptist University, Jan 2026

The Possibility of a Therapeutic Alliance with Artificial Agents (by invitation), Ethics: AI, Data, and Algorithms course, Masters of Arts in AI, Ethics, and Society program, University of Hong Kong, Nov 2025

Developing a Duty to Love: Reflections on Kantian Friendship (by invitation), From a Colonial Past to a Universal Future: Kant in the East Asian Pacific Region, Department of Philosophy, Tsinghua University, Oct 2025

Informed Consent in the Era of AI (by invitation), The Evolving Ethics of AI in Biomedicine, Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, University of Hong Kong, Jun 2025

The Problem of Loneliness and the Nature of Friendly Action: Reflections on Ordinary Friendship (by invitation), Embodied Cognition and Moral Machines: Explorations in Medical Ethics, AI, and Human Flourishing, Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, Jun 2025

On the Risks of Depersonalizing Consent and the Safe Implementation of LLMs in Medical Decision-Making (by invitation), AI & Humanity Lab, University of Hong Kong, May 2025

Philosophy of Friendship for a Lonely World (by invitation), guest of honor speech for college-wide high table dinner, Lap Chee College, University of Hong Kong, Apr 2025

Forgiveness and the Aptness of Atonement in Medical Practice (by invitation), Forgiveness and a Life Worth Living Symposium and Workshop, Faith and Global Engagement, University of Hong Kong, Mar 2025

Making Amends After Medical Error: Is Atonement Too Strong a Word? (by invitation), Science, Technology, and Medicine Seminar, University of Hong Kong, Feb 2025

What Personal Qualities are Necessary to Forgive in Environments of Deep Disagreement? (by invitation), Seminar, Associateship of King's College London, King's College London, 13 Nov 2024; and Workshop, Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, University of Hong Kong, Oct 2024

Discussant, Good Doctors in the Age of AI? Ethics at the Intersection of Medicine, AI, and Christian Theology (by invitation), Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, University of Hong Kong, Aug 2024

Forgiveness in Formation: Kantian Reflections on Anger, Empathy, and the Psychological Conditions for Virtuous Forgiveness, Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics annual conference, McGill University, Jun 2024

Respondent to Robyn de Boer's *Befriending the North Wind: Children, Moral Agency, and the Good Death* (by invitation), Book Launch, Centre for Applied Ethics, Hong Kong Baptist University, Apr 2024

How Philosophical Models of Friendship Help Us to Advance Social Connection and Address the Problem of Loneliness (by invitation), The Intersection of Loneliness, Bioethics, and Religion workshop, Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, University of Hong Kong, Mar 2024

Commentator on Heidi Maibom's *The Space Between: How Empathy Really Works* **Author-Meets-Critics Session**, Society for Philosophy of Emotion group session, American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, New Orleans, Feb 2024

Reflections on AI, Education, and Responsible Citizenship (by invitation), GenAI and Higher Education: Multidisciplinary Explorations symposium, CBS Teaching Excellence Series, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Nov 2023

(i) The Evolution of Desire and Dignity in Virtuous Friendship; (ii) Contrasting Views of Shame, Transcendence, and Self-Identity in the Western Philosophical Tradition (series of two visiting lectures, by invitation), College of Foreign Languages, Nankai University, Jun 2023

Anger Both Apt and Intelligent: Affective Injustice and the Education of Virtuous Anger, co-authored presentation with Liz Jackson, Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics annual conference, York University, May 2023

Virtuous Medicine: Practical Compassion and Forgiveness in Medical Error (by invitation), Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit seminar, University of Hong Kong, scheduled for May 2023

The Rationality of Divine Grace in Character Formation: A Qualified Defense of Kant's Liberal Project, Centre for Philosophy of Religion colloquium, University of Notre Dame, Apr 2023

Adam Smith, Immanuel Kant, and the Prehistory of Cognitive Empathy, International Society for Research on Emotion, University of Southern California, 2022

Does Kant Have a Deduction of Sympathy?, scheduled for the American Philosophical Association as session of the Hong Kong Kant Society, cancelled due to travel restrictions and presented in Hong Kong, 2022

Cosmopolitan Sympathies: Smith, Kant, and the Prehistory of Cognitive Empathy, Sympatheia / Einfühlung / Empathy: Understanding and Feeling Otherness Conference, University of Lisbon, 2021

'Reason's Sympathy': Kant's Novel Account of Sympathy and Its 18th Century Precedents (by invitation), Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Hong Kong, Research Seminar, 2021

Weaknesses of Will: Philosophical Reflections on St Paul's Body of Death (by invitation), Philosophy of Religion Study Group, Tyndale Fellowship Conference, Tyndale House, Cambridge, 2019

Kant's Neglected Account of Habit and Moral Character, British Society for the History of Philosophy Annual Conference, Durham University, 2018

Change of Heart, Character, and Weakness of Will: Resolving a Puzzle in Kant's Moral Psychology, Canadian Philosophical Association, Ryerson University, 2017

Education as Character Formation in Kant's Pedagogy and Anthropology, Kant and Moral Psychology conference, Boğaziçi University, 2016

Situationism and Kantian Moral Character, Leuven Kant Conference, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, 2015

Kantian Ethics and Rational Faith (by invitation), Sts Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, MK, 2015

Kant on the Foundations of Moral Character (by invitation), Ivanov School of Leaders Alumni Association, Skopje, MK, 2015

Kantian Metaethics and the Problem of Value, Understanding Value Grad Conference, University of Sheffield, 2014

Kant on the Education of Emotion in the *Lectures on Pedagogy*, Critical Pedagogies and Philosophies of Education, Liverpool Hope University, 2014

Moral Worth, Emotion, and Practical Wisdom: Kant's Aristotelian Dispositions, Conference of the Affections and Ethics Network, University of Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, 2014

Kant on Moral Worth and Emotion, North Carolina Philosophical Society, UNC Chapel Hill, 2014

Active and Passive Euthanasia: Defining the Doctor's Role, Philopolis Graduate Conference, McGill University, 2011

Massive Modularity and Theory of Mind, Dominican University College Graduate Conference 2010, University of Ottawa Graduate Conference, 2010

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS:

Enhanced New Staff Start-up Package, LKS Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong, HKD\$530,000, Principal Investigator, "The Moral Foundations of Human Relationships", 36-month grant, 2025-27

GRF Grant (General Research Fund), University Grants Committee of Hong Kong, HKD\$112,000, Principal Investigator, "Toward a Virtue-Based Theory of Forgiveness Amidst Deep Disagreement", 24-month research grant, 2023-4

GRF Grant (General Research Fund), University Grants Committee of Hong Kong, HKD\$991,384, Co-Investigator then Principal Investigator, "When Political Differences Become of Moral Differences: Big Data and Self-Report Studies on the Familial Consequences of Differences in Political Views and Moral Foundations", 24-month research grant, 2023-24

TDG (Teaching Development Grant), University Grants Committee of Hong Kong, HKD\$300,932, Co-Investigator, "Empowering Medical Students: MH Couture Atelier Brings Peer-Led Self-Directed Learning to MBBS Medical Humanities Curriculum", 24-month research grant, 2023-24

SSHRC* Doctoral Fellowship, CAD\$80,000, years 2014-18

*Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of the Government of Canada

SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Doctoral), CAD\$105,000, declined for international university

1st Place, Dalai Lama Centre for Compassion Oxford Essay Competition, Compassion and the Moral Law, 2016

SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Masters), CAD\$17,000, years 2009-10

University of Ottawa Excellence Scholarship, CAD\$32,476, years 2009-11

President's Award, Trinity Western University, CAD\$30,000, years 2004-8

COURSES TAUGHT:

University of Hong Kong

Love, Morality, and the Meaning of Human Relationships
Medical Humanities: Forgiveness and Clinical Life
Medical Ethics and Law: Research Ethics
Medical Ethics and Law: AI, Big Data, and Precision Medicine
Medical Ethics and Law: Informed Consent and Confidentiality
Medical Ethics and Law: Ethical Frameworks and Decision Making
A Life Worth Living (primary teacher)

University of the Fraser Valley

Moral Psychology
History of Analytic Philosophy
Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy
Knowledge and Reality
Critical Thinking

University of Oxford

Key Concepts in Moral Psychology
Values and Public Policy: Political Philosophy in Practice (tutor)
Ethics paper (tutor)
Aristotle paper (tutor)
Kant paper (tutor)

University of British Columbia

Doctor, Patient, and Society (tutor)

Trinity Western University

Kant
Contemporary Ethical Issues
Introduction to Logic
Introduction to Philosophy
Critical Thinking

University of Ottawa

Philosophical Issues in Healthcare (teaching assistant)
Bioethics (teaching assistant)
Business Ethics (teaching assistant)

COMMITTEES, OUTREACH, AND OTHER EXPERIENCE:

Served as referee for the following journals:

Synthese
Kantian Review
Journal of Medicine and Philosophy

Inquiry
Philosophia
Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review
Toronto Journal of Theology
Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy
Journal of Character Education

Co-President, Hong Kong Kant Society, 2025-

Members Correspondent, UK Kant Society, 2024-

Speaker and Panelist on Innovations in Health Professions Education, Institute of Philanthropy Medical and Health Scholarship-cum-Fellowship for Top Talent in the Mainland, Interdisciplinary and Composite Talents in Medicine, Disease Prevention and Control, and Management Training Program, School of Public Health, LKS Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong, Jul 2025

Principal Convener, Forgiveness and a Life Worth Living workshop (keynote speakers: Glen Pettigrove and Andrew Kwok), funded by a sub-grant of the Life Worth Living Network Hub, John Templeton Foundation, 2025

Speaker on ethics and leadership for student service learning projects, “How to Be an Everyday Leader? Some Lighthearted Principles for Leading and Living Well”, CEDARS, University of Hong Kong, 2025

Main Speaker and Facilitator of Goal Setting Session, “Who You Become at University”, CEDARS Peer Connect and High Table (annual induction program for newly admitted students), University of Hong Kong, 2024

Panel member, Educating Citizen-Leaders for a Digital Age, seminar by CEDARS and Oxford Character Project, The University of Hong Kong, 2023

Curator, Forgiveness and the Life of Leadership modular course, HKU Lead for Life, University of Hong Kong, 2022

Speaker on friendship and virtue, HKU Lead for Life taster session, University of Hong Kong, 2022

Interview guest on compassion and Kantian ethics, Voice of Islam Radio (London), 2022

Associate, Oxford Character Project, 2020-24

Research Associate and Consultant, Ian Ramsey Centre, University of Oxford, 2019-

Arts of Leading Research Group member, Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities and Oxford Character Project, 2016-18

Workshop Leader and Facilitator, The Character of Leadership Forum, University of Hong Kong; collaboration between University of Hong Kong Social Sciences Faculty and Oxford Character Project, 2018

Facilitator, Learning to Lead Forum, London School of Economics; collaboration between Oxford Character Project and LSE Life, 2018

Summer School Administrator, University College and City University of Hong Kong summer program in law, 2016 and 2017

Student Host (casual) to students from across China Summit Education Enterprise, 2017

Panelist and Facilitator, Character of Leadership Forum, University of Hong Kong, 2017

Content Consultant, Oxford Character Project, 2014-15

Co-Convener, Faculty of Philosophy DPhil Seminar, University of Oxford 2014-15

Committee Member, Oxford Philosophy Graduate Conference, 2015

Reviewer, Oxford Philosophy Graduate Conference, 2015 and 2014

B1 Certificate, German Language Course, Freie Universität Berlin, 2014

Ethicist, Behavioral Research Ethics Board, University of British Columbia, 2012-13

Ethicist, Research Ethics Board, Trinity Western University, 2012-13

Community member, L'Arche Ottawa, 2009-11

REFERENCES:

Available on request