

# CARL HILDEBRAND

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Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, School of Clinical Medicine, LKS Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong  
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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

Kant, Moral Psychology, Bioethics

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE:

AI Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Political Philosophy, Modern Philosophy,  
Ancient Philosophy, 20<sup>th</sup> 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

### **University of Ottawa**

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

### **Trinity Western University**

BA great distinction, Philosophy, 2009

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

### **Center for Bioethics, Harvard Medical School, Harvard University**

Online Fellowship Certificate Program, Jan-Jun 2026

## 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

ACADEMIC ARTICLES:

**Physician Restoration After Medical Error: A Philosophical Account of Atonement in Professional Life**, *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, with Ashley Moyse (forthcoming)

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

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

**Thinking Outside the Space Between: On the Purpose and Limits of Empathy (Commentary)**, *Journal of Philosophy of Emotion* 8: 1 (2026): 32-38

**The Problem of Loneliness and the Place of Teleological Action in Friendship**, *Inquiry* 69: 4 (2026): 2576-2595

**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* 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: 2 (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:

**Epstein, ICE, Anger, and Education**, *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 2026, editorial with Liz Jackson, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00131857.2026.2654692>

**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](http://www.dlccoxford.org), 2016

#### PRESENTATIONS:

**Atonement in Professional Life: Conceptualizing Physician Restoration After Medical Error**, Conference on Medicine and Religion, Center for Ethics at Baylor University and Institute for Spirituality and Health at the Texas Medical Center, Mar 2026, with Ashley Moyse

**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 Boéré'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**, Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics annual conference, York  
University, May 2023, with Liz Jackson

**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

**1<sup>st</sup> 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: Kantian Review, Synthese, Journal of Medicine and Philosophy, Inquiry, Philosophia, Laws, Medical Teacher, 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