# David Billings

Department of Philosophy Language and Thought Department

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**Education**

**Loyola University Chicago**

Ph.D., Philosophy, 2000

*Dissertation:* Reason and Democracy: Kant, Arendt, Rawls, and Habermas on the Public Use

of Reason.

*Director:* David Ingram

**Northern Illinois University**

M.A., Philosophy, 1993

**Wheaton College** (Illinois)

B.A., Philosophy (*Cum Laude*), minors in Mathematics and Theology, 1991

**Areas of Specialization**

Political Philosophy, Modern German Philosophy, Philosophy of Technology

**Areas of Competence**

History of Philosophy, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Critical Theory, Hannah Arendt, Jewish Philosophy, Continental Philosophy, Logic, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

**Teaching Experience**

**Grand Rapids Community College** (2017 – present)

* HU 245, Technology and Humanity
* PL 205, Introduction to Ethics

**Calvin College** (2000 – present)

* PHIL 153, Fundamental Questions in Philosophy
* PHIL 207, Justice and the Common Good
* PHIL 215, Business Ethics
* PHIL 252, History of Philosophy II (17th – 19th centuries)
* PHIL 331, Kant
* PHIL 333, Kierkegaard
* PHIL 334, Marx and Marxism
* PHIL 390, Readings and Research (Independent Study)

*Topics have included*: Arendt; Kierkegaard; Marx and the Frankfurt School; Marx and

Feminism; Marx and Chinese Communism

* PHIL 395, Problems in Systematic Philosophy (Philosophy Seminar)

*Topic*: The Dialectics of Tradition and Enlightenment in Kant, Hegel, Gadamer and

Habermas

* PHIL 396, Figures and Themes in the History of Philosophy (Philosophy Seminar)

*Topic*: Hannah Arendt

* EDUC 590, Independent Study

*Topic*: Violence, Fragility, and Peace: The Cunning or Incompetence of Reason in History for Kant, Hegel, and Benjamin

* PHIL W12, Jewish Thought and Culture (Interim Course)
* IDIS 150, Developing a Christian Mind (Interim Course)

*Focus*: Jewish Thought and Culture

* IDIS W10, Christian Perspectives on Learning (Interim Course)

**Grand Valley State University** (1998 – 2000)

* PHI 101, Introduction to Philosophy
* PHI 102, Ethics
* PHI 103, Logic
* PHI 202, Ethics in the Professions

**Northern Illinois University** (1996 – 1998)

* PHIL 101, Introduction to Philosophy
* PHIL 103, Introduction to Logic
* PHIL 231, Contemporary Moral Issues

**Trinity International University** (1997)

* PH 180, Introduction to Philosophy
* PH 382, History of Western Thought, Part II

**Illinois Valley Community College** (1996 – 1997)

* PHL 101, Introduction to Philosophy
* PHL 102, Ethics

**Waubonsee Community College** (1995 – 1996)

* PL 100, Introduction to Philosophy
* PL 103, Introduction to Logic

**College of DuPage** (1995)

* Philo 100, Introduction to Philosophy

**Ray College of Design** (1995)

* LA 215, Philosophy

**Professional Membership**

American Association of Philosophy Teachers

American Philosophical Association

Association for Political Theory

**Publications**

“Natality or Advent: Hannah Arendt and Jürgen Moltmann on Hope and Politics,” in Miroslav Volf and William Katerberg, eds., *The Future of Hope: Essays on Christian Tradition Amid Modernity and Postmodernity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004), 125-147.

“The World's New Order?” *Dialogue* (Grand Rapids, MI) 35.1 (2002).

“Reason and Democracy: Kant, Arendt, Rawls, and Habermas on the Public Use of Reason” (Ph.D. diss., Loyola University Chicago, 2000).

**Selected Conference Presentations**

“Teaching Logic in Introductory Philosophy Classes,” Regional Conference on Teaching Philosophy. Eastern Michigan University, September 2016.

“Students as Doers,” (panel discussion) Regional Conference on Teaching Philosophy. Eastern Michigan University, September 2016.

“Kant, Reason and Enlightenment: Is There a Place for Community?” The Enlightenment Project, Revisited (Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers). Houghton College (Houghton, New York), May 2006.

“Horkheimer and the Prospect of Post-Secularism,” Secularity and Globalization: What Comes After Modernity? (Lilly Fellows Program National Research Conference). Calvin College, November 2005.

“Grounding Human Rights: Two Christian Models,” Christianity and Human Rights (Lilly Fellows Program National Research Conference). Samford University (Birmingham, Alabama), November 2004.

“Postmetaphysical Justice: A Critical Assessment of Habermas,” Faces of Justice: Defining Justice in a Complex World. Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, Arizona), October 2003.

“Kantian Objections to a World State,” Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Cleveland, April 2003.

Response to Yong Huang, “Confucian Love and Global Ethics,” Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers. Atlanta, December 2001.

“Public Reason and Christian Scholarship,” Christian Scholarship Conference. Calvin College, September 2001.

“The Birth of Hope: Natality as an Eschatological Concept,” Modernity, Postmodernity, and the Future of Hope (Calvin Summer Seminars Conference). Calvin College, May 2001.

**Other Presentations and Lectures**

“Religious Toleration and Freedom,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, April 2012.

“Hegel’s Triads,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, April 2010.

“How to Teach Hegel,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, April 2010.

“Why Marx?” a presentation to a joint meeting of philosophy and economics student groups. Calvin College, March 2009.

“Rethinking Socialism,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, March 2009.

“Reasoning in Public,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, September 2007.

“Civility and Free Speech in Rawls,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, September 2007.

“Kant’s Essay on Enlightenment: Individual and Community,” Philosophy Department Colloquium, April 2006.

“Habermas on Public Reason: Finding a Middle Way,” Philosophy Department Colloquium, March 2006.

“Marx and the Jewish Question,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, April 2005.

“How to Ground Human Rights,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, October 2004.

“Individualism, Community, and Reason in Kant’s Enlightenment Essay,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, April 2003.

“Kantian Justice and the Ideal of World Government,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, September 2002.

“How We Begin: Hannah Arendt on Natality,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, September 2001.

“Exploring Natality,” Philosophy Department Colloquium. Calvin College, November 2000.

**Reading Groups, Seminars, and Workshops**

Philosophy Department Colloquium (weekly meetings to provide constructive feedback on scholarship in progress). Calvin College, 2000 – 2017.

Philosophy Reading Group (monthly meetings discussing works of modern and contemporary philosophy). 2002 – present.

Workshop on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy, American Association of Philosophy Teachers. University of Michigan, January 2017.

“Political Discourse from the Perspective of Faith,” a year-long reading and research group (cosponsored by the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship and the Calvin Alumni Association). 2011 – 2012.

I facilitated a reading group with three undergraduate students on Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*. Summer 2009.

“Cosmopolitanism,” a year-long reading and research group (sponsored by the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship). 2007 – 2008.

“Phenomenology and Science,” a year-long reading and research group (sponsored by the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship). 2004 – 2005.

“The Role of Communities of Faith in Sustaining a Just Society,” a year-long reading and research group (sponsored by the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship). 2002 – 2003.

“Modernity, Postmodernity, and the Future of Hope,” an eight-week seminar directed by Miroslav Volf (sponsored by Calvin College Seminars in Christian Scholarship). Summer 2000.

**Professional Service**

Society of Christian Philosophers, Treasurer and member of Executive Committee, 2013 – 2017.

Center for Social Research (Calvin College), Governing Board, 2006 – 2011.

Honors Thesis Committee (Outside Reader). “Collective Responsibility and Jürgen Habermas’ Discourse Theory: How Discursive Democracy Implies Collective Responsibility.” Bethel University, 2007.

Referee for *Christian Scholars Review* 2002 – 2003.

Faculty director for a reading retreat of philosophy majors. We read and discussed Franz Rosenzweig’s *Understanding the Sick and the Healthy*. Calvin College, January 2001.

Other service to the philosophy department at Calvin College includes:

* Department Scribe
* Student Advising
* Departmental Committees (Speakers Committee; Assessment and Student Scholarship committee; Graduate School and Alumni Liaison Committee)

Other service to the Calvin College includes:

* Teaching courses paired with the Knight Scholars program (formally called Access).
* Environmental Health and Safety Committee.
* Passport (summer advising for incoming students).

**Community Service**

“Technology and Humanity,” a six-part online adult education series. Trinity Reformed Church, Fall, 2020.

“Mystical Experiences: language, art, and practice,” a six-part adult education series (team-taught). Trinity Reformed Church, Spring 2017.

“Capital Vices: A Look at the Seven Deadly Sins,” a six-part adult education series. Trinity Reformed Church (Grand Rapids), Spring 2016.

Service learning trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Adult participant and chaperone for a group of high school and college students, Re-Member (nonprofit organization), Pine Ridge, South Dakota, July 2015.

“Voices from prison: Boethius, Bonhoeffer, and the Psalms of Lament,” a four-part adult education series. Trinity Reformed Church (Grand Rapids), Fall 2012.

“American Public Religion,” a two-part adult education series. Trinity Reformed Church (Grand Rapids), Spring 2004.

**Awards**

Graduate Research Assistantship. Loyola University Chicago, 1994 – 1995.

Graduate Teaching Assistantship. Loyola University Chicago, 1993 – 1995.

Graduate Tuition Fellowship. Loyola University Chicago, 1993 – 1995.

University Fellowship. Northern Illinois University, 1992 – 1993.

C. Mason and Madeline Myers Graduate Philosophy Fund Award. Northern Illinois University, 1992.

Graduate Teaching Assistantship. Loyola University Chicago, 1991 – 1993.

**References Available on Request**