

Curriculum Vitae
Erin Cecilia Bradfield
Santa Clara University
Department of Philosophy
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Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, December 2012 – Vanderbilt University
M.A. in Philosophy, December 2008 – Vanderbilt University
B.A. in Philosophy with honors, May 2002 – Colgate University

Areas of Specialization

Aesthetics; Philosophy of Film; Social and Political Philosophy

Areas of Concentration

Ethics; Modern Philosophy; Ancient Philosophy

Academic Positions Held

Santa Clara University, Teaching Professor in Philosophy, 2024-present.
Santa Clara University, Senior Lecturer of Philosophy, 2022-2024.
Santa Clara University, Lecturer of Philosophy, 2018-2022.
Santa Clara University, Academic Year Lecturer of Philosophy, 2014-2018.
Sewanee: The University of the South, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, 2012-2014.
Sewanee: The University of the South, Instructor of Philosophy, 2011-2012.
Vanderbilt University, Graduate Instructor of Philosophy, 2003-2011.

Publications

- “‘Is it Future or Is it Past?’: Trauma, Repetition, and Tragic Heroes in *Vertigo* and *Twin Peaks*.” (Invited article) (forthcoming chapter in a yet to be titled book on *Vertigo*, Sticking Place Books, late 2026).
- “Generative Disgust, Aesthetic Engagement, and Community.” In *Cultural Approaches to Disgust and the Visceral*, ed., Max Rynänen, Susanne Ylönen, and Heidi Kosonen. Taylor & Francis online publication; Routledge hardback publication, September 2022.
- Review of Thierry de Duve’s *Aesthetics at Large: Art, Ethics, and Politics*. (University of Chicago Press, 2019). In *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 78 (2) (Spring 2020): 251-253.
- “Kant’s Sublime and Ingenious Insights into Judgments of the Ugly.” (Invited chapter) In *On the Ugly: Aesthetic Exchanges*, ed. Lars Mogensen and Jane Forsey. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019.
- “On Christodoulou’s ‘Ugliness Abject Disgust...As an Allergy to the (Feminine) Other.’” (Invited article) *Wassard Elea Rivista* III (3) (18) (June 2016): 142-149.

“Kant’s Sublime and Ingenious Insights into Judgments of the Ugly.” *Wassard Elea Rivista* III (1) (May 2016): 31-49.

“Silence.” (Invited article) *The Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*, 2nd Edition, ed. Michael Kelly. Oxford University Press, 2014.

“Productive Excess: Aesthetic Ideas, Silence, and Community.” *The Journal of Aesthetic Education* 48 (2) (2014): 1-15.

Review of Alessandro Giovanelli, ed. *Aesthetics: The Key Thinkers*. (Bloomsbury, 2012.) In *Philosophy in Review*. 34 (5) (2014): 227-230.

Review of Katalin Makkai, ed. *Vertigo: Philosophers on Film*. (Routledge, 2013). In *Philosophy in Review*. 33 (5) (2013): 384-387.

Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (Applied Ethics Competition – APPE)

- ❖ I coached the SCU team to a top four finish at the Nationals (Portland 2023).
 - ❖ I coached the SCU team to finish top eight at the Nationals (Atlanta 2020).
 - ❖ I coached the SCU team to win the California Regional Championship (Tempe 2019).
 - ❖ I coached the SCU team to win the National Championship (Chicago 2018).
- This is the first time a California team has won the National Championship.

Conferences and Talks

Presentations

- ❖ “Laura Palmer Is the One.” Reconsidering the Cinematic Hero: Faith, Film, and Philosophy Conference. Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA. October 2026.
- ❖ “Only The Lonely: Meditations on David Lynch’s *Twin Peaks*.” LynchCon (online). June 2026. (Cancelled due to issues with the Lynch Estate.)
- ❖ Commentary on Emine Hande Tuna and Jakob Norberg’s “Aesthetic Pre-Judgment.” American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Meeting, Berkeley, CA. March 2026.
- ❖ ““Is it Future or Is it Past?”: Trauma, Repetition, and Tragic Heroes in *Vertigo* and *Twin Peaks*.” HitchCon ’25 – International Alfred Hitchcock Conference (online). October 2025. (Invited talk)
- ❖ “A Tale of Two Cults: The Popular and Isolationist Aesthetic Communities of *Twin Peaks*.” Association for Philosophy and Literature Conference, Frankfurt, Germany. August 2025.
- ❖ ““Is it Future or Is it Past?”: Trauma, Repetition, and Tragic Heroes in *Vertigo* and *Twin Peaks*.” *Vertigo* 67 Conference, Dublin, Ireland. August 2025. (Invited talk)
- ❖ “A Tale of Two Cults: The Popular and Isolationist Aesthetic Communities of *Twin Peaks*.” American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Meeting, Berkeley, CA. March 2025.

- ❖ “A Tale of Two Cults: The Popular and Isolationist Aesthetic Communities of *Twin Peaks*.” International Society for Philosophy in Film, London, UK. August 2024.
- ❖ “‘Maybe I’m Sick, But I Want to See That Again’: David Lynch, Negative Aesthetics, and Community.” Cal State Northridge Philosophy Lecture Series, Northridge, CA. May 2024. (Invited talk)
- ❖ Commentary on Sean T. Murphy’s “Individualizing Appreciation: Inarticulacy, Resonance, and Aesthetic Self-Definition.” American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Meeting, Berkeley, CA. March 2024.
- ❖ “A Wager of the Heart: Memory Erasure, Humiliation, and a Leap of Faith in *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.” International Society for Philosophy in Film, London, UK. August 2023.
- ❖ “The David Lynch Weather Report as a Work of Conceptual Art.” Gregg Horowitz Festschrift, New York, NY. October 2022.
- ❖ “The Reception of David Lynch: The Evolution of an Aesthetic Community.” American Society for Aesthetics, Rocky Mountain Division Meeting, Santa Fe, NM. July 2022.
- ❖ “Virtue, Appreciation, and Community.” Ansgar University College, Kristiansand, Norway. June 2022.
- ❖ Commentary on Chelsea Qu’s, “The Grammatical Gist in Allison’s Reading of Kant’s Aesthetics.” American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Meeting, Berkeley, CA. March 2022.
- ❖ “A Wager of the Heart: A Pascalian Reading of *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.” American Society for Aesthetics, Rocky Mountain Division Meeting, Santa Fe, NM. July 2021.
- ❖ Commentary on Morganna Lambeth’s, “Resisting Tiny Heroes: Kant on the Mechanism and Scope of Imaginative Resistance.” American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Meeting, Berkeley, CA (Zoom). March 2021.
- ❖ “A Wager of the Heart: A Pascalian Reading of *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.” American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, New York City, NY (Zoom). Society for the Philosophic Study of the Contemporary Visual Arts. January 2021.
- ❖ Commentary on Mark Windsor’s, “Negative Emotion and Art Appreciation.” American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Meeting, Berkeley, CA. March 2019.
- ❖ Commentary on Sondra Bacharach and Deb Tollefsen’s, “Fearing *Fearless Girl*.” American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada. October 2018.
- ❖ “The Collapse of Ugliness: Bosanquet’s Difficult Beauty and Invincible Ugliness.” American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Meeting, Pacific Grove, CA. April 2018.
- ❖ Commentary on Brian Irwin’s “Sensual City: The Synesthetic Basis for a Feeling of Urban At Homeness.” American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. November 2017.

- ❖ “Kant’s Sublime Insights into the Ugly.” Philosophy Club, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA. April 2017. (Invited Talk)
- ❖ “Kant’s Sublime and Ingenious Insights into Judgments of the Ugly.” Wassard Elea Conference, “On Ugliness.” Ascea, Italy. June 2016.
- ❖ “Negative Aesthetics and Community.” American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting. Savannah, GA. November 2015.
- ❖ “Danger at the Limits of Expression: A Re-Reading of Wittgenstein’s New Boroughs.” William J. Prior Conference. Santa Clara, CA. May 2015.
- ❖ “Kant, Genius, and Ugliness.” American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. March 2015.
- ❖ “Kant’s Sublime Insights into the Ugly.” American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting. San Antonio, TX. October 2014.
- ❖ “I’m So Melodramatic!: The Social and Political Reception of Later Almodóvar.” American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. April 2014.
- ❖ Commentary on William Britton’s, “The Role of the Schematism in Kant’s First and Third *Critiques*.” Tennessee Philosophical Association Meeting. Nashville, TN. October 2013.
- ❖ Commentary on Kathleen Kelley’s, “Towards the Very Idea of a Specific Medium: Fried’s Essentialism.” American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. April 2013.
- ❖ “Mature Almodóvar: *Broken Embraces*’ Formal Facility and Reflexivity.” American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, Atlanta, GA. Society for the Philosophic Study of the Contemporary Visual Arts. December 2012.
- ❖ “The Liberatory Potential of Aesthetic Subcultures: The Transformation and Expansion of Expression Through Openness and Engagement.” International Symposium: Contemporary Confrontations Between Art, Morality, and Politics. University of Paris-X, Paris, France. June 2012.
- ❖ “Productive Excess: Aesthetic Ideas, Silence, and Community.” American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. April 2010.
- ❖ “Shaping Identity: Humiliation, Memory, and Narrative,” with Gregg Horowitz. Philosophical Collaborations Conference. Southern Illinois State University, Carbondale, IL. March 2009.
- ❖ “Unlocking Praxis: An Aristotelian Reading of *Do the Right Thing*.” Radical Philosophical Association Meeting. San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA. November 2008.

Gallery Talks

- ❖ “Electronic and Live: A Conversation with Composer Mark Volker.” Indeterminacies Lecture and Performance Series, Zeitgeist Gallery, Nashville, TN. June 2011.

Dissertation

Silence and Silencing: Aesthetic Response as the Impetus for Community Formation

Committee: Gregg Horowitz (director), José Medina, Jonathan Neufeld, Michael Kelly, Boris Groys

Innovations in aesthetic and linguistic expression contribute to the expansion of communication and understanding, yet are often the target of censure. In this dissertation, I explore the risks of marginalization and censorship involved in such restrictions. I examine several forms of innovation in expression: new expressions that do not yet have a meaningful place in discourse; works of genius as defined by Kant; and avant-garde, cult, subcultural, and liminal forms of expression. Following a Kantian line of argument, I show that restrictions on expression constitute restrictions on individual subjects and are therefore all the more hazardous and reprehensible.

Chapter One examines the Wittgensteinian metaphor of language as an expanding city in relation to aesthetic ideas of community building and communication. Chapters Two and Three examine different interpretations of Kant's notion of taste "clipping the wings of genius" for the sake of culture. The remaining chapters examine how expressions on the edge or border of culture are crucial to culture's advancement. Here, I investigate the ethics of expression with respect to avant-garde, cult, and subculture understood as different types of liminal expressions. I deploy this analysis in the work of Andy Warhol, Gordon Matta-Clark, and David Lynch in the final chapter.

Teaching Experience

Santa Clara University

Teaching Professor, Senior Lecturer, Lecturer, and Academic Year Lecturer (2014-present)

PHIL 11A /12A: Cultures and Ideas: Justice and Vengeance: Self, Other, and Community

PHIL 24: Ethics and Gender in Film

PHIL 26: Ethical Issues in Business

PHIL 17: Informal Logic

PHIL 115: Feminism and Ethics

PHIL 143: Kierkegaard and the Meaning of Life

PHIL 145: Existentialism

PHIL 181A: Kant and 19th Century Aesthetics

PHIL 182: Negative Aesthetics

PHIL 183: Philosophy and Film

PHIL 185: Ethics Bowl*

I coached the 2017-2018 team to win the National Championship (Chicago 2018).

This is the first time a California team has won the National Championship.

I coached the 2019-2020 team to win the California Regional Championship (Tempe 2019).

From there, I coached the team to finish top eight at the Nationals (Atlanta 2020).

I coached the 2022-2023 team to a top four finish at the Nationals (Portland 2023).

Sewanee: The University of the South, Visiting Assistant Professor (2011-2014)

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Body, Mind, Heart

PHIL 105: Modes of Expression and the Search for Meaning

PHIL 223: Philosophy of Art

PHIL 224: Philosophy of Film

PHIL 232: Business Ethics