

Kimberly Dill, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Philosophy
Santa Clara University (2019-present)
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Curriculum Vitae

(Updated August 2024)

Education

2013-2019 — **PhD in Philosophy**, The University of Texas at Austin
2012-2013 — **Master of Arts (MLitt) in Philosophy**, The University of St Andrews
2008-2012 — **Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy**, The University of Utah (*Magna Cum Laude*)

Research

Areas of Specialization

Environmental Philosophy and Ethics, the Philosophy of Psychology, the Philosophy of Technology

Areas of Concentration

Philosophy of Mind, the Philosophy of Biology, Comparative Philosophy (with a particular emphasis on Buddhist, Jain, and broadly animistic traditions), the Philosophy of Emotion & Aesthetics

Overview

In my philosophical work, I articulate a series of arguments in defense of dark sky, forest, and biodiversity conservation. I contribute to the environmental ethics literature in a distinctive way by critically evaluating research in the empirical sciences and environmental psychology, which altogether demonstrate that the loss of these environmental features constitutes a global threat to human psychophysiological health and more-than-human, ecological flourishing. I situate this practical approach within a broader ethical framework (inspired largely by Indian, ecofeminist, and indigenous philosophies), which conceives of our relationship with the more-than-human-world as descriptively and normatively *reciprocal* in nature. Utilizing these tools, I argue that e.g., we are ethically obligated to mitigate the global overabundance of artificial light at night and to resist the ubiquity of cross-modally replete simulations of biodiverse spaces.

My current work draws upon these general themes, interweaving them more explicitly with discussions pertaining to the eudaemonistic, relational values and virtues that we ought to cultivate through our interactions with the more-than-human world. Included in these discussions, I emphasize the import of cultivating a series of environmental, moral emotions, including (but not limited to): reverence, felt connectedness, awe, and wonder. I am also currently thinking about intelligence and sentience in forested ecosystems (individually and systemically), and whether these attributions specifically ground the expansion of our moral sphere to include e.g., plants and fungi under its purview.

Last but certainly not least, I write and teach about epistemic injustice in colonial and scientific (specifically astronomical and biological) contexts, including (but not limited to): native Hawaiian resistance to the Thirty Meter Telescope's construction on the Big Island's Mauna Kea and the unjust dismissal of Lynn Margulis' endosymbiotic theory in the 1960s. Going forward, I aim to think and write about epistemic vices in scientific community practice more explicitly, focusing (in conjunction with an international, interdisciplinary working group) on responsible telescope siting and the history and philosophy of biology.

Publications

Published, Accepted, & Forthcoming

- “In Defense of Wild Night,” in *Ethics, Policy, & Environment* (2021)
- “Three Criteria for Environmental Authenticity: A Response to the Simulation Problem” in *Environmental Philosophy* (2022).
- Written review of Erin McKenna's *Living with Animals* in *Environmental Values* (2021)
- “Preserving Darkness in the Wildwood” in *Dark Skies: Places, Practices, Communities*, edited by Nick Dunn and Time Edensor (2023).
- “On the Efficacy of Cultivating Environmental Reverence for Forests” (2024) in *The Vegetal Turn*, ed. Marcello Di Paolo
- coauthored with Jeff Sebo, “AI, Plants, and Representing Nature” *forthcoming* in *Edward Elgar Research Handbook on Climate Justice* (expected publication late 2025).

Revised & Resubmitted

- “A Fork on the Road to Knowledge at Mauna Kea: Epistemic Injustice, Perspectivalism, and the Thirty Meter Telescope” (2nd review at [journal name redacted for anonymity])

In Progress

- “Varieties of Darkness: Adjudicating Tensions Between Local and Global Conservation Efforts” (funded by the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics).
- “Framing Forests Relationally: from Wood Wide Webs to Sylvan Neural Networks” (prepared in presentation for the Pacific APA 2023).
- “The Pragmatic Necessity of Processing Climate Grief and Eco-anxiety” (in process)
- *Harmonic Earth: on the Inseparability of Ecological & Human Flourishing* (book manuscript, in progress)

Awards and Fellowships

1. Hackworth Grant for “Preserving Darkness: Adjudicating Tensions Between Local and Global Conservation Efforts”, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics (2023)
2. Graduate Student Professional Development Award, UT Austin, (Spring 2018, Fall 2018 (x2), Fall 2017, Spring 2016)
3. Graduate School Recruitment Fellowship, UT Austin, Fall 2013

Presentations

Conference Presentations

- “Varieties of Darkness: Adjudicating Tensions Between Local and Global Conservation Efforts,” APA Pacific (2024) in conjunction with the International Society of Environmental Ethics
- “Framing Forests Relationally”, APA Pacific (2023) in conjunction with NYU’s Animal Studies Program
- “A Fork on the Road to Knowledge at Mauna Kea: Epistemic Injustice, Two-eyed Seeing, and the Thirty Meter Telescope”, APA Pacific (2023)
- Presentation on public-facing Dark Night Sky Conservation (March 2022, Exeter College, Oxford UK)
- “A Call to Environmental Reverence”, APA Eastern (2020)
- “A Call to Environmental Reverence”, International Society for Environmental Ethics meeting, Zoom (October 2020)
- “Three Criteria for Environmental Authenticity, Revisited” panel with Dr. A. R. Gammon and Dr. Eric Godoy, Meeting of the International Association of Environmental Philosophy, State College (PA) (October 2018)
- “In Defense of Wild Night”, International Society for Environmental Ethics meeting, University of Alaska (Anchorage) (June 2018)
- “Three Criteria for [Environmental] Authenticity”, Bioethics and Applied Philosophy Conference, York University (Toronto) (April 2018)
- “Three Criteria for [Environmental] Authenticity”, Environmental Philosophy Graduate Conference, The University of Kentucky (March 2018)
- “A Care Ethical Interpretation of Guardianship”, 2017 Meeting of the International Association of Environmental Philosophy, Sheraton Memphis (October 2017)
- “A Care Ethical Interpretation of Guardianship”, PGSA Environmental Philosophy Meeting (March 2017)
- “Mindfulness as a Guide to Direct Mental Action”, Phenomenology and Mind: Collaborative Investigations Conference, The New School (February 2016)
- “Mindfulness as a Guide to Direct Mental Action”, Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference, The University of Utah (March 2016)
- “A Defense of No-Self”, Tenth Annual MLK Conference, The University of Texas at Austin (January 2014)

Guest Lectures

- Invited guest lecture in the Department of Philosophy at San Jose State University (October 23rd, 2020)
- Lecture on environmental aesthetics in Kathleen Higgins’ Introduction the Philosophy of the Arts course (Fall 2018)
- Lecture on the philosophical implications of meditation practice in Galen Strawson’s Philosophy of Mind course (Spring 2017)
- Lecture on the Yoga Sutra’s in Stephen Phillip’s Yoga as Philosophy course (Fall 2017)
- Lecture on Peter Singer’s “Famine, Affluence, and Morality” in Sinan Dogramaci’s Introduction to Philosophy (PHL 301), Fall 2013

Comments

- Jeremy Bendik-Keymer’s “The Other Species Capability & the Power of Wonder,” at the International Society of Environmental Ethics meeting (Fall 2020)
- Alison Fritz’s “Understanding the Role of Climate Change Visualizations In Increased Concern,” at the International Society of Environmental Ethics meeting (Summer 2019)
- ... amongst others.

Teaching Experience

Primary Instructor

- Winter 2024 — Philosophy, Society, and Culture 2 (Culture and Ideas II) x 2 — Santa Clara University
- Fall 2023 — Philosophy, Society, and Culture 1 (Culture and Ideas I) x 2 — Santa Clara University
- Spring 2023 — Indian Philosophy (Upper Division) — Santa Clara University
- Spring 2023 — Philosophy, Society, and Culture 2 (C&I II) x 2 — Santa Clara University
- Winter Quarter 2022 — Philosophy, Society, and Culture 1 (C&I 1) x 2 — Santa Clara University
- Fall Quarter 2021 — Ethics and the Environment — Santa Clara University
- Fall Quarter 2021 — Environmental Ethics (UD) — Santa Clara University
- Spring Quarter 2021 — Philosophy, Society, & Culture 2 (C&I 2) x 2 — Santa Clara University
- Winter Quarter 2021 — Philosophy, Society, & Culture 1 (C&I 1) x 2 — Santa Clara University
- Fall Quarter 2020 — Ethics and the Environment — Santa Clara University
- Fall Quarter 2020 — Indian Philosophy (UD) — Santa Clara University
- Spring Quarter 2020 — Environmental Ethics (UD) — Santa Clara University
- Spring Quarter 2020 — Ethics and the Environment — Santa Clara University
- Winter Quarter 2020 — Ethics and the Environment — Santa Clara University
- Winter Quarter 2020 — Culture and Ideas II — Santa Clara University
- Fall Quarter 2019 — Culture and Ideas I — Santa Clara University
- Spring 2019 — Human Nature — The University of Texas at Austin
- Spring 2018 — Introduction to the Philosophy of the Arts — The University of Texas at Austin
- Spring 2017 — Introduction to Philosophy of the Arts — The University of Texas at Austin

Professional Service

- SCU's Department of Philosophy Conflict of Interest Committee (present)
- SCU's Department of Philosophy DEI Committee (present)
- SCU's Department of Philosophy Social Chair
- SCU's Department of Philosophy Library Liaison
- Founder, UT Austin's Meditation and Philosophy Group (Fall 2015-Present)
- Instructor, "Corrupt the Youth" Philosophy in Secondary Schools Program — Eastside Memorial High School, Austin, Texas (Spring 2016-Present)
- Social Chair, UT Austin's MAP Chapter (Spring 2016-2017)
- Policy Advisor, UT Austin's MAP Chapter (Spring 2015-2016)
- Undergraduate Liaison, UT Austin's MAP Chapter (Spring 2014-Fall 2015)
- Organizer, UT Austin's Graduate Philosophy Conference (Spring 2014)

Reviewer

- *Ethics, Policy and Environment & Conservation Science and Practice, Hypatia*

Professional Membership

American Philosophical Association

International Association of Environmental Philosophy
International Society for Environmental Ethics
EJ NorCal (Environmental Justice in Northern California)

List of References

1.) **Prof. Sahotra Sarkar**

- Contact: sarkar@austin.utexas.edu
- Position: Full Professor, the University of Texas at Austin
- Relationship: PhD Advisor (primary)

2.) **Prof. Kyle Powys Whyte**

- Contact: kwhyte@umich.edu
- Position: George Willis Pack Professor; University Diversity & Social Transformation Professor; Professor of Philosophy; U.S. Science Envoy and member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council
- Relationship: PhD Advisor (external)

3.) **Prof. Kathleen Higgins**

- Contact: kmhiggins@austin.utexas.edu
- Position: Full Professor, the University of Texas at Austin
- Relationship: PhD Advisor (secondary)

4.) **Prof. Anand Vaidya**

- Contact: anand.vaidya@sjsu.com
- Position: Associate Professor, Director of The Center for Comparative Philosophy
- Relationship: Informal Mentor and Colleague in the Philosophical Profession