

WILLIAM DAY

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Academic Positions

- **Le Moyne College** (Syracuse, NY)
2018- Professor of Philosophy
2004-2017 Associate Professor of Philosophy
1997-2003 Assistant Professor of Philosophy
- **Lafayette College** (Easton, PA)
1996-97 Visiting Instructor in Philosophy
1995-96 Adjunct Instructor
- **Columbia University**
1991-93 Preceptor
1987-88 Teaching Assistant II
- **Harvard University**
1990-91 Teaching Assistant
1989-90 Teaching Assistant
- **Colby-Sawyer College** (New London, NH)
1990-91 Instructor

Education

- **Columbia University**, Department of Philosophy. M.A., 1988; M.Phil., Ph.D., 1999.
Dissertation: *Philosophy and 'The Literary Question': Wittgenstein, Emerson, and Strauss on the Community of Knowing*.
Committee: Arthur Danto, Stanley Cavell, Lydia Goehr.
- **Harvard University**, Department of Philosophy. Exchange Scholar, 1988-89.
Studied with Stanley Cavell.
- **St. John's College** (Santa Fe, NM). B.A., 1982.

Areas of Specialization

- Wittgenstein, Cavell, Topics in Aesthetics (Improvisation, Music, Film).

Areas of Competence

- American Philosophy, Chinese Philosophy, Ancient Philosophy, Political Philosophy.

Foreign Languages

- Reading knowledge of Ancient Greek, French, and German; rudimentary knowledge of Chinese.

Honors, Grants, Fellowships

- **National Endowment for the Humanities**
 - NEH Summer Seminar, "Traditions Into Dialogue: Confucianism and Contemporary Virtue Ethics." Co-Directors: Stephen Angle (Wesleyan University), Michael Slote (University of Miami). Summer 2008.
 - NEH Summer Institute, "Ralph Waldo Emerson at 200: Literature, Philosophy, Democracy." Director: Russell Goodman (University of New Mexico). Summer 2003.
- **Le Moyne College**
 - O'Leary International Travel Grant (2025, 2024, 2022, 2019, 2018, 2014)
 - Research and Development Committee (R&D) Summer Stipend (2014, 2000)
 - R&D Nancy C. Ring Summer Curricular Development Stipend (2012)
 - R&D Grant (2010, 2008, 2003)
 - Study and travel in China through Title VI Grant awarded to Le Moyne College, "Exploring Justice in an Interdependent World" (2007)
 - R&D Course Load Reduction (2004, 2002)
- **Columbia University**
 - President's Fellow (1992-93, 1987-88, 1986-87)
 - Fellow of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (1985-86)
- **Harvard University**
 - Exchange Scholar (1988-89)
- **St. John's College**
 - National register of outstanding college graduates (1982) (St. John's does not award degrees *cum laude*)
 - Senior Essay Examination Honors (1982)
 - Senior Enabling Examination Honors (1981)
 - Sophomore Essay Prize (1980)

Publications

Book

- *Seeing Wittgenstein Anew*, co-editor (with Victor J. Krebs) and contributor. Cambridge University Press, 2010, 412 pages. A collection of sixteen invited articles on Ludwig Wittgenstein's remarks on aspect-seeing.

Book chapters

- "Woman at War's Passionate Utterance."
In *Stanley Cavell and World Cinema: Beyond Hollywood*. Edited by Paul Deb. Edinburgh University Press. Forthcoming.
- "The Time of Their Lives: *Before Midnight* and the Conversation of Marriage."
In *Happiness and Tears, After Cavell: New Readings in Hollywood's Comedy of Remarriage and Melodrama of the Unknown Woman*. Edited by Paul Deb. SUNY Press, 2025, 149-74.
- "Impressions of Meaning in Cavell's Life out of Music."
In *Music with Stanley Cavell in Mind*. Edited by David LaRocca. Bloomsbury, 2024, 53-81.
- "Words Fail Me. (Stanley Cavell's Life out of Music)."
In *Inheriting Stanley Cavell: Memories, Dreams, Reflections*. Edited by David LaRocca. Bloomsbury, 2020, 187-97.

Publications

Book chapters (continued)

- "The Aesthetic Dimension of Wittgenstein's Later Writings."
In *Wittgenstein on Aesthetic Understanding*. Edited by Garry L. Hagberg. Philosophers in Depth. Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, 3-29.
- "The Ecstasy of Time Travel in Werner Herzog's *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*."
In *The Philosophy of Documentary Film: Image, Sound, Fiction, Truth*. Edited by David LaRocca. Philosophy of Popular Culture. Lexington Books of Rowman & Littlefield, 2017, 209-24.
- "To Not Understand, but Not Misunderstand: Wittgenstein on Shakespeare."
In *Wittgenstein Reading*. Edited by Sascha Bru, Wolfgang Huemer, and Daniel Steuer. On Wittgenstein. De Gruyter, 2013, 39-53.
- "Zhenzhi and Acknowledgment in Wang Yangming and Stanley Cavell."
In *European and Chinese Philosophy: Origins and Intersections*, Edited by Chung-ying Cheng, Eric Nelson, and Linyu Gu. Book Supplement Series to the *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2013, 51-68.
- "A Soteriology of Reading: Cavell's Excerpts from Memory."
In *Stanley Cavell: Philosophy, Literature and Criticism*. Edited by James Loxley and Andrew Taylor. Manchester University Press, 2011, 76-91.
- "I Don't Know, Just Wait: Remembering Remarriage in *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*."
In *The Philosophy of Charlie Kaufman*. Edited by David LaRocca. Philosophy of Popular Culture. University Press of Kentucky, 2011, 132-54.
- "Wanting to Say Something: Aspect-Blindness and Language."
In *Seeing Wittgenstein Anew*, 204-24.
- "A Page Concordance for Unnumbered Remarks in *Philosophical Investigations*."
In *Seeing Wittgenstein Anew*, 357-72.
- "Seeing Aspects in Wittgenstein" (with Victor J. Krebs).
In *Seeing Wittgenstein Anew*, 1-20.
- "Moonstruck, or How to Ruin Everything."
In *Ordinary Language Criticism: Literary Thinking after Cavell after Wittgenstein*. Edited by Kenneth Dauber and Walter Jost. Northwestern University Press, 2003, 315-28.

Refereed journal articles

- "Aspect-Seeing, Facts of Nature, and Jazz Improvisation."
Philosophies 11, no. 4 (19 August 2026): DOI: 10.3390/philosophies11040148
Special Issue: *The Dawn of Aspects: Wittgenstein and the Life of Meaning*.
- "Hearing Between the Lines: Impressions of Meaning and Jazz's Democratic Esotericism."
Conversations: The Journal of Cavellian Studies 11.1 (December 2023): 75-88. Issue devoted to essays in Stanley Cavell's posthumous *Here and There*.
- "Zhenzhi and Acknowledgment in Wang Yangming and Stanley Cavell."
Journal of Chinese Philosophy 39 (June 2012), 174-91.
- "The Ends of Improvisation."
The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism 68 (Summer 2010): 291-96.
- "Jazz Improvisation, the Body, and the Ordinary."
Tidskrift för kulturstudier / Journal of Cultural Studies (Uppsala) 5 (2002): 80-94.

Publications

Refereed journal articles (continued)

- "Knowing as Instancing: Jazz Improvisation and Moral Perfectionism."
The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism 58 (Spring 2000): 99-111.
- "A Conversation with Lydia Goehr."
Conference: A Journal of Philosophy and Theory 7 (Autumn 1996): 11-20.
- "Moonstruck, or How to Ruin Everything."
Philosophy and Literature 19 (October 1995): 292-307.

Reviews

- "Art and Baseball, Like and Unlike." Review of *Serious Larks: The Philosophy of Ted Cohen*, edited by Daniel Herwitz.
American Book Review 40, no. 5 (July/August 2019), 12-13.
- Review of Richard Shusterman, *Performing Live: Aesthetic Alternatives for the Ends of Art*.
The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism 62 (Summer 2004): 300-302.
- Review of Gustaaf Van Cromphout, *Emerson's Ethics*.
Ethics 111 (July 2001): 830-32.
- Review of Roger Scruton, *A Short History of Modern Philosophy*.
Philosophy in Review / Comptes rendus philosophiques 17 (October 1997): 371-72.

Miscellaneous

- "Shakespeare vs Wittgenstein: The Fight for Meaning."
Invited article for The Institute of Art and Ideas website *IAI News*, 3 February 2025.
<https://iai.tv/articles/shakespeare-vs-wittgenstein-the-fight-for-meaning-auid-3066>.
- Liner notes for JC Sanford Quartet, *Can You Believe It?* (Red Piano Records, 2016).

Invited Talks

- "Impressions of Meaning in Stanley Cavell's Life out of Music."
Stanley Cavell: Constellations of the Ordinary – II International Colloquium
Via Zoom / Facebook Live, Sponsored by Centro de Estudios Filosóficos, Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima (Perú), July 2021.
- "The Ecstasy of Time Travel in Herzog's *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*."
The Thought of Movies: International Colloquium on Film and Philosophy in Honor of Stanley Cavell, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima (Perú), November 2014.
- "Wittgenstein, the Nature of Experience, and the Experience of Jazz."
Departments of English, Philosophy, & American Studies, Williams College, April 2011.
- "Wittgenstein's Exceptionalism: Aspect-Seeing and the Nature of Experience."
A New Form of Seeing: Wittgenstein in the XXIst Century, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima (Perú), December 2010.
- "Wanting to Say Something: Aspect-Blindness and Language."
International Wittgenstein Workshop, Centre for Wittgensteinian Studies, Swansea University, Gregynog (Wales), May 2008.
- "Coming to Speak Jazz, or Wittgenstein in China."
Department of English Literature, University of Redlands, November 2007.

Refereed Conference Presentations

- "Discovering the voice in a pianist's disparate styles: Micah Thomas and Joshua White." Pianists and the piano in 21st-century jazz: legacies and perspectives, University of Tours (France), November 2025.
- "Discriminating or indiscriminate: self-curation in the post jazz age." Ninth Rhythm Changes Conference, "Jazz Futures," Conservatorium van Amsterdam (Netherlands), August 2025.
- "The Crisis of Understanding in 1950s and '60s Free Jazz." Eighth Rhythm Changes Conference, "Jazz Encounters," University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (Austria), April 2024.
- "Intimations of Meaning in *Woman at War's* Passionate Utterance." Philosophy of Film Without Theory 2023 US Conference, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, October 2023.
- "Hearing Between the Lines: Jazz's Democratic Esotericism." American Society for Aesthetics, Rocky Mountain Division, Santa Fe, NM, July 2023.
- "Live Jazz in a Pandemic Club: The Example of Chris Potter." Seventh Rhythm Changes Conference, "Jazz Then & Now," Conservatorium van Amsterdam (Netherlands), August 2022.
- "Hearing Between the Lines: Jazz's Democratic Esotericism." International Society for Jazz Research, 13th International Jazz Research Conference, "Jazz Re:Search in 21st-Century Academia and Beyond," University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (Austria), June 2022.
- "The Improviser's Tuition and the 'Flow' of Time." Space and Time: An Interdisciplinary Approach, 3rd Annual Conference, Institute of Philosophy, Vilnius University, Vilnius (Lithuania), September 2019.
- "That Driving Rhythm Isn't Going Anywhere." Sixth Rhythm Changes Conference, "Jazz Journeys," University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (Austria), April 2019.
- "The Time of Their Lives: *Before Midnight* and Time's Role in Conflict." International Society for Universal Dialogue XII World Congress, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima (Perú), July 2018.
- "Disgusting Freedom." American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, April 2013.
- "Xunzi and Nietzsche on Human Nature and the Desire for Self-Cultivation." Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle, Fudan University, Shanghai (People's Republic of China), March 2013.
- "Aspect-Seeing and the Nature of Experience." In Wittgenstein's Footsteps, University of Iceland, Reykjavik (Iceland), September 2012.
- "Xunzi and Nietzsche on Human Nature and the Desire for Self-Cultivation." American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Washington DC, December 2011.
- "What is it to really know?: *zhenzhi* and acknowledgment in Wang Yangming and Stanley Cavell." American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, New York City, December 2009.
- "The Ends of Improvisation." American Society for Aesthetics, 67th Annual Meeting, Denver, October 2009.

Refereed Conference Presentations (continued)

- "What is it to really know?: *zhenzhi* and acknowledgment in Wang Yangming and Stanley Cavell."
Association of Chinese Philosophers in North America, 2009 Shanghai Workshop, East China Normal University, Shanghai (People's Republic of China), June 2009.
- "What Emerson is Not: Teaching Emerson Against his Popular Inheritors."
American Literature Association, 20th Annual Meeting, Boston, May 2009.
- "Coming to Speak Jazz, or Wittgenstein in China."
Text, Media and Improvisation, McGill University (Canada), June 2008.
- "A Soteriology of Reading: Cavell's Excerpts from Memory."
Stanley Cavell and Literary Criticism, Edinburgh University (Scotland), May 2008.
- "Coming to Speak Jazz, or Wittgenstein in China."
American Society for Aesthetics, 65th Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, November 2007.
- "Why Is It So Hard to Detail Our Lives? Cavell, Emerson and Hollywood Film."
7th USC Comparative Literature Conference, Columbia, SC, February 2005.
- "To not understand, but not misunderstand: Wittgenstein on Shakespeare."
Shakespeare and Philosophy in a Multicultural World, Budapest (Hungary), March 2004.
- "Why Is It So Hard to Detail Our Lives? Cavell, Emerson and Hollywood Film."
29th FSU Conference on Literature & Film, Tallahassee, FL, January 2004.
- "A Double Take on Wittgenstein's Aspect-Seeing Remarks: Introductory Remarks."
American Society for Aesthetics, 59th Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, October 2001.
- "The Aesthetic Dimension of Wittgenstein's Later Writings."
American Society for Aesthetics, 58th Annual Meeting, Reno, NV, October 2000.
- "Leo Strauss's 'Exoteric Teaching.'"
17th International Social Philosophy Conference, Waterloo (Canada), July 2000.
- "Jazz Improvisation, the Body, and the Ordinary."
International Institute of Applied Aesthetics, Sättra Brunn (Sweden), August 1999.
- Panel Discussion: "The Aesthetics of Jazz Improvisation."
American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division, Iona College, April 1998.
- "Jazz Improvisation and Emerson's 'Art.'"
American Society for Aesthetics, 55th Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM, November 1997.
- "Wittgenstein on Seeing Versus Merely Knowing."
American Society for Aesthetics, Rocky Mountain Division, Santa Fe, NM, July 1995.
- "*Moonstruck*, Emerson, and Self-Abandon."
American Society for Aesthetics, Rocky Mountain Division, Santa Fe, NM, July 1993.
- "On Even Terms With Time: Jazz Improvisation and Moral Perfectionism."
Resonant Intervals: Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Music, University of Calgary (Canada), May 1991.

Invited Responses

- "A Reply to Jessica Adkins' 'Postmodern Jazz and the Ontology of Improvisation'."
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, San Diego, CA, March 2018.
- "A Reply to David Clowney and Bob Rawlins's 'Pushing the limits: accomplishment and risk in musical performance'."
American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, April 2012.
- "Response to Paul Grimstad and Elisa New."
Stanley Cavell and Literary Studies, Harvard University, October 2010.

Invited Responses (continued)

- "A Reply to Ludger Viefhues-Bailey's 'Bearing the Beyond: Women and the Limits of Language in Stanley Cavell'."
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, December 2008.
- "The Musicality of the Political: A Reply to Jonathan Neufeld's 'Critical Performance'."
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Pasadena, CA, March 2008.
- "Wittgenstein in Context: A Reply to Whitney Davis and Garry Hagberg."
American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, April 2002.
- "Stanley Cavell and the Problem of Reading: A Reply to Hodge's 'Skeptical Recitations'."
Midsouth Philosophy Conference, 24th Annual Meeting, Memphis, TN, February 2000.

Other Talks

- "Jazz's Philosophy: The Improviser's Tuition and the 'Flow' of Time."
Le Moyne College, September 2019.
- "Love and Conversation in Film."
Cinema Department, Binghamton University, September 2017.
- "Remembering Remarriage in *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*."
Thinking at the Movies: Charlie Kaufman, Screenwriter (and Director), Le Moyne College, May 2012.
- "Cavell and Redemptive Reading."
Cavelleria Siracusa, Le Moyne College, January 2010.
- "Can We Know What Someone Else is Feeling?"
Department of Philosophy, Le Moyne College, February 1997.
- "Leo Strauss's 'Exoteric Teaching.'"
Lehigh Valley Philosophy Consortium, Lafayette College, January 1997.
- "Representing Emerson."
Department of Philosophy, University of South Carolina, February 1996.
- "Emerson's Mastering of Hegel: Reading 'Uses of Great Men' and 'History.'"
Graduate Student Forum, Columbia University, October 1991.

Teaching Experience

- **Le Moyne College** (Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor)
 - *Philosophy of Art*
 - *Philosophy in the United States*
 - *Theory of Knowledge*
 - *Analytic Philosophy*
 - *The Experience of Time*
 - *Great Living Philosophers: Stanley Cavell*
 - *Research in Philosophy: Wittgenstein's Philosophy of Mathematics*
 - *Research in Philosophy: The Work of William James*
 - *Research in Philosophy: The Formation of Character in Roll-playing Games*
 - *Humanities I: The Ancient World*
 - *Humanities I: The Ancient and Medieval World*
 - *Humanities II: The Rise of Modernity*
 - *Philosophical Foundations of Western Thought*
 - *Philosophical Perspectives on the Human Situation*

Teaching Experience

- **Le Moyne College** (continued)
 - *Introduction to Philosophy*
 - *Moral Philosophy*
 - *Time, the Universe, and You*
 - *Movies, Remarriage, and Unknownness*
 - *Philosophy and Politics, East and West*
 - *Why Politics is Messy*
- **Lafayette College** (Adjunct and Visiting Instructor)
 - *Aesthetics*
 - *Philosophy and Film*
 - *Epistemology*
 - *Business Ethics*
 - *Introduction to Philosophy*
- **Columbia University** (Teaching Assistant II and Preceptor)
 - *Literature Humanities*
 - *Philosophy Writing Workshop*
- **Harvard University** (Teaching Assistant)
 - *Jazz, An American Music*
 - *Reason and Evaluation*
- **Colby-Sawyer College** (Instructor)
 - *Professional Ethics*
- **APA/AAPT Teaching Seminar for Advanced Graduate Students**
 - 11th International Workshop and Conference on Teaching Philosophy, Old Dominion University, Summer 1996.

Institutional Service

- **Le Moyne College**
 - Director of the Core Program (2021-24)
 - Successful submission of concept paper to and invitation from The Teagle Foundation/NEH to submit implementation proposal for \$200,000 grant from the *Cornerstone: Learning for Living* initiative (2023)
 - Chair, Department of Philosophy (2006-09)
 - Associate Chair, Department of Philosophy (2005-06)
 - Associate McDevitt Chair in Religious Philosophy (2016-17)
 - Faculty Search Committees (McDevitt Center, 2016; Philosophy, 2007; Music, 2006)
 - Faculty Senate Executive Board (2020-21, 2016-18, 2008-09, 2002-04, 2000-01)
 - Rank and Tenure Committee (2021-23)
 - Committee on Academic Relations, Policies, and Procedures (2019-21)
 - Chair (2020-21)
 - Curriculum Committee (2012-13, 2005-07)
 - Research and Development Committee (1999-2002)
 - Chair (Summer 2001)
 - Co-chair (2000-01)
 - Chair Compensation Committee (2006)
 - Core Committee (2013-16)

Institutional Service

- **Le Moyne College** (continued)
 - Core Task Force (2007-09)
 - Core Program Advisory Committee (2004)
 - Ignatian Faculty Forum (2012-13)
 - African-American History Month Committee (2000-05)
 - Assistant to the Chair (2002-03)
 - Cultural Performances / Lively Arts Committee (1999-2010)
 - Chair (2001-05)
 - Art Gallery Committee (1999-2005)
 - Eric Dolphy Project Committee (2009-10)
 - Pianist, Le Moyne College Jazz Ensemble (2009-10, 2007)
 - Pianist, Le Moyne College Jazz Combo (2010, 2008)
 - Advisor and jazz disc jockey, WLMU Radio (1999-2001)
 - Co-organizer, Undergraduate Research Symposium (1999)
 - Symposium (student philosophy club) (1997-2000)
 - Faculty Sponsor (1999-2000)
 - Faculty Co-sponsor (1997-98)
 - Organizer and Host, Philosophy Seminar Discussion Group (1997-2002)
 - Organizer, *Cavelleria Siracusa*, a year-long series of events on the work of Stanley Cavell (2009-10)
 - Organizer, *Thinking at the Movies: Coen, Coen, and Noir*, a weekend mini-fest co-sponsored by the Syracuse International Film Festival (2010)
 - Organizer, *Thinking at the Movies: Charlie Kaufman, Screenwriter (and Director)*, a weekend mini-fest co-sponsored by the Syracuse International Film Festival (2012)
- **Lafayette College**
 - Advisor and jazz disc jockey, WJRH Radio (1996-97)
- **Columbia University**
 - Graduate Student Representative to Philosophy Department faculty (1992-93)
 - Literature Humanities Curriculum Review Committee (1992-93)

Professional Service

- **The McDevitt Center at Le Moyne College**
 - Research proposal referee (2015, 2014)
- **Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek / Research Foundation Flanders (Belgium)**
 - Research proposal referee (2011)
- **Swarthmore College**
 - Honors examiner (2010-11)
- **Reader**
 - Cambridge UP (2022)
 - Harvard UP (2018)
 - Bloomsbury (Continuum) (2014)
 - Routledge (2013)
 - Blackwell (2007)
 - Fordham UP (2006)

Professional Service

- **Referee**
 - *Mind* (2026, 2023, 2023)
 - *Rivista Italiana di Filosofia del Linguaggio* (2026)
 - *European Journal of Philosophy* (2026, 2025, 2018, 2017)
 - *Music Research Annual* (2025)
 - *Minds and Machines* (2024, 2024, 2024)
 - *Open Philosophy* (2023)
 - *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* (2020)
 - *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* (2019, 2017, 2015, 2013, 2010)
 - *British Journal of Aesthetics* (2018)
 - *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* (2016)
 - *Film and Philosophy* (2016)
 - *Nordic Wittgenstein Review* (2015)
 - *Philosophy East and West* (2015)
 - *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* (2014)
 - *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* (2012)
 - *Estetika: The Central European Journal of Aesthetics* (2011)
 - *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy* (2007)
 - *Techné: Journal of the Society for Philosophy and Technology* (2000)

Memberships

- American Philosophical Association
- American Society for Aesthetics
- British Wittgenstein Society
- Society for the Philosophic Study of the Contemporary Visual Arts
- International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese and Western Philosophy