

**David Cunning**  
– curriculum vitae –

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**Education**

2000	PhD in Philosophy	University of California, Irvine
1997	MA in Philosophy	University of California, Irvine
1993	BA in Philosophy	University of California, Berkeley

**Academic Positions**

2017-	Professor of Philosophy	The University of Iowa
2007-2017	Associate Professor of Philosophy	The University of Iowa
2003-2007	Assistant Professor of Philosophy	The University of Iowa
2004	Visiting Scholar	University of California, Los Angeles
2000-2003	Assistant Professor of Philosophy	Northern Illinois University
1997	Visiting Instructor	Pitzer College

**Administrative and Leadership Positions**

2023-2024	Interim Department Chair – UI Religious Studies
2019-2022	Member of CLAS Executive Committee
2020-2021	Co-Chair of CLAS Strategic Planning Committee
2020-2021	Member of UI Presidential Search Committee
2018-2020	Humanities Rep – CLAS Department Chair Advisory Board
2016-2017	Co-Chair of UI Strategic Plan Committee
2014-2022	Department Chair – UI Philosophy
2013-2014	UI Faculty Senate Officer: Secretary
2011-2014	UI Faculty Senator
2007-2013	Director of Graduate Studies – UI Philosophy

**Research**

**Book Monographs**

- *Descartes*, in the series *The Routledge Philosophers*, Routledge (2023), 436 pp.
- *Cavendish*, in the series *The Arguments of the Philosophers*, Routledge (2016), 318 pp.
- *Everyday Examples*, Bloomsbury Academic Publishing, (2015), 312 pp.
  - second edition under contract
- *Argument and Persuasion in Descartes' Meditations*, Oxford University Press (2010), 248 pp.

**Edited Volumes**

- *Margaret Cavendish: Philosophical Writings*, Oxford University Press (2019), 274 pp.
- *The Cambridge Companion to Descartes' Meditations*, Cambridge University Press (2014), 336 pp.

## Articles and Book Chapters

- “Cavendish on Liberty and Freedom,” commissioned for *The Oxford Handbook of Cavendish*, ed. Julie Crawford and Jacqueline Broad, Oxford UP
- “An Additional Route to *Ethics* Ip5,” forthcoming in *HPLA: History of Philosophy and Logical Analysis*
- “*Ethics* Ip11 and the Necessary Existence of God,” forthcoming in *International Philosophical Quarterly*
- “Lascano on Monism and Vitalism in Cavendish and Conway: A Review,” forthcoming in *Mind*.
- “Margaret Cavendish,” forthcoming in *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
- “Simple Natures and Eternal Truths,” forthcoming in *The Cartesian Mind*, ed. Cecilia Wee and Jorge Secada, Routledge Publishing
- “Ways of Knowing,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Women and Early Modern European Philosophy*, ed. Karen Detlefsen and Lisa Shapiro, Routledge Publishing (2023), 140-154
- “Margaret Cavendish and Galen Strawson on Emergence, Mind, and Self,” *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Mind* 4 (2023), 369-398
- [“Margaret Lucas Cavendish,”](#) *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ed. E. Zalta (2022), 92 pp.
- “Cavendish, Philosophical Letters, and the Plenum,” in *Cavendish: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*, ed. Lisa Walters and Brandie Siegfried, Cambridge UP (2022), 98-111
- “The Feminist Worlds of Margaret Cavendish,” in *World-Making Renaissance Women*, ed. Pamela Hammons and Brandie Siegfried, Cambridge UP (2021), 184-198
- “Hyperbolic Doubt, Cognitive Garbage, and the *Regulae*,” *Revue Internationale De Philosophie* 2019 449-467
- “Cavendish on Material Causation and Cognition,” *Causation and Cognition: Perspectives on Early Modern Philosophy*, ed. Dominik Perler and Sebastian Bender, Routledge Publishing (2019), 145-170
- “Cavendish on the Metaphysics of Imagination and the Dramatic Force of the Imaginary World,” *Early Modern Women on Metaphysics*, ed. Emily Thomas, Cambridge UP (2018), 188-210
- “Mind-Body Problems,” *The Routledge Companion to Seventeenth-Century Philosophy*, ed. D. Kaufman, Routledge Publishing (2018), 253-286
- “Descartes and the Force of Skepticism,” *Skepticism: From Antiquity to the Present*, ed. Baron Reed and Diego Machuca, Bloomsbury Academic (2017)
- “True and Immutable Natures,” *The Cambridge Descartes Lexicon*, ed. L. Nolan, Cambridge UP (2016), 727-730
- “Analysis vs. Synthesis,” *The Cambridge Descartes Lexicon*, ed. L. Nolan, Cambridge UP (2016), 7-12
- “Introduction,” *The Cambridge Companion to Descartes' Meditations*, ed. D. Cunniff, Cambridge UP (2014), 1-22
- “The First Meditation: Divine Omnipotence, Necessary Truths, and the Possibility of Radical Deception,” *The Cambridge Companion to Descartes' Meditations*, Cambridge UP (2014), 68-87
- “Descartes on God and the Products of His Will,” *Models of God and Other Ultimate Realities*, ed. J. Diller and A. Kasher, Springer Publishing (2013), 175-193
- “Malebranche and Occasional Causes,” *Philosophy Compass* 3 (2008), 1-20
- “Fifth Meditation TINs Revisited: A Reply to Criticisms of the Epistemic Interpretation,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 16 (2008), 215-227
- “Nicolas Malebranche,” *The Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers*, ed. T. Hockey, Springer Academic Publishers (2007), 731-2
- “*Semel in Vita*: Descartes' Stoic View on the Place of Philosophy in Human Life,” *Faith and Philosophy* 24 (2007), 164-183
- “Descartes on the Dubitability of the Existence of Self,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 74 (2007), 111-131
- “Cavendish on the Intelligibility of the Prospect of Thinking Matter,” *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 23 (2006), 117-136

- “Descartes on Sensations and Ideas of Sensations,” *An Anthology of Philosophical Studies*, Athens: Atiner Publishing (2006), 17-32
- “Rationalism and Education,” *A Companion to Rationalism*, ed. A. Nelson, Blackwell Publishing (2005), 61-81
- Editor and translator, “[Principii Cartesia](#)” by Robert Percy Smith, *The Philological Museum* (2004), ed. D. Sutton
- “Systematic Divergences in Malebranche and Cudworth,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 41 (2003), 343-363
- “True and Immutable Natures and Epistemic Progress in Descartes' *Meditations*,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 11 (2003), 235-248
- “Descartes on the Immutability of the Divine Will,” *Religious Studies* 39 (2003), 79-92
- “[Descartes' Modal Metaphysics](#),” *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2002), ed. E. Zalta, 37 pp.
- “Agency and Consciousness,” *Synthese* 120 (1999), 271-294
- “Modality and Cognition in Descartes” (co-authored), *Acta Philosophica Fennica* 64 (1999), 137-153

### Substantive Book Reviews

- Review of J. Broad, Women Philosophers of Seventeenth-Century England: Selected Correspondence, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2020)
- Review of *The Well-Ordered Universe: The Philosophy of Margaret Cavendish* by Deborah Boyle, *Locke Studies* 18 (2018), 1-9
- Review of C.P. Ragland, The Will to Reason: Theodicy and Freedom in Descartes, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2016)
- Review of D. Skrbina, Panpsychism in the West, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2005)

### Book Reviews – short

- Review of K. Smith, Matter Matters, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 19 (2011), 997-1001
- Review (co-authored) of M. Moriarty, Fallen Nature, Fallen Selves: Early Modern French Thought II, *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 46 (2008), 644-5

### Published Reviews of Scholarship

*Margaret Cavendish: Essential Writings*, Oxford University Press (2017)

- reviewed in *Hobbes Studies*, *Teaching Philosophy*, *Tijdschrift voor Filosofie*, *Mind Cavendish*, in the series *The Arguments of the Philosophers*, Routledge (2016)
  - reviewed in *International Studies in Philosophy of Science*, *Early Modern Literary Studies*, *Everyday Examples: An Introduction to Philosophy*, Bloomsbury Publishing (2015)
  - reviewed in *Teaching Philosophy*
- The Cambridge Companion to Descartes' Mediations*, Cambridge University Press (2014)
- reviewed in *Tijdschrift voor Filosofie*, *Dialogue*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
- Argument and Persuasion in Descartes' Meditations*, Oxford University Press (2010)
- reviewed in *Mind*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *Philosophy in Review*, *Choice*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*

## Presentations

- “Systematic Interpretation in Early Modern Philosophy,” Conference in Honor of Alan Nelson, UNC Chapel Hill, May 2024
- “What Descartes maybe should have said: Panpsychism in *Ethics* II.1-8,” Cornell University Panpsychism Conference, April 2024
- “Descartes on the Benefits of Confused Thinking,” UI Philosophy Colloquium, November 2023
- “Interdisciplinarity and the Humanities,” U Iowa Faculty Senate Retreat, August 2023
- Invited commentator – Kevin Lower, “Margaret Cavendish's Relational Metaphysics of Action and Passion,” at the conference *Reappearing Ink: Celebrating the Legacy of Eileen O'Neill*, U Mass Amherst, April 2023
- “Cavendish on Self-Motion: what it is and what it isn't,” Pacific APA, San Francisco, April 2023
- Comments on Jan Forsman, “Teresa's Demons: Teresa of Ávila's Influence on the Cartesian Skeptical Scenario of Demonic Deception,” Pacific APA meeting, San Francisco, April 2023
- “Descartes, Rational Distinction, and the Omnibenevolence of God,” Princeton-Bucharest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, November 2022
- “Cavendish on Action at a Distance,” The Cavendish Collective, November 2022
- “Cavendish: Think Like the River,” The Figge Museum, August 2022
- “Publishing in early modern philosophy,” Conference of the International Margaret Cavendish Society, June 2022
- Workshop Commentator, *Method and the History of Philosophy: Extending New Narratives* conference, University of Pennsylvania, April 2022
- Comments on Olivia Branscum, “Cavendish and Conway as Neutral Monists,” Extended New Narratives Seminar series, March 2021
- “Cavendish on Imagination,” a presentation at the *Online Olios* series, Yale University, June 2020
- Comments on three symposium papers at the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association – Marcy Lascano, “Cavendish on Occasional Causation and the Metaphysics of Freedom”; Alison Peterman, “Holism and Causation in Cavendish”; Brandie Siegfried, “Margaret Cavendish's Epictetus: Subtle Matter and the Poverty of Wealth.” The session was held to recognize my new scholarly volume, *Cavendish: Essential Writings* (Oxford UP).
- Scholar Talk at the Figge Museum, Davenport, IA, August 2019
- featured speaker, *Author Meets Critics* session at the 2017 Pacific Division APA meeting – a critical discussion of *Cavendish* (Routledge, 2016) by David Cunniff, in Seattle, WA, April 2017
- “Cavendish in the Philosophical Canon,” *New Narratives in Philosophy* Conference, Columbia University, March 2017
- “Cavendish on Liberty,” Colloquium at the University of Iowa, December 2016
- “Cavendish, Stoicism, and the Recalcitrant plenum,” *New Narratives in Philosophy* Conference, Duke University, October 2016
- “Cavendish, Metaphysics, and God,” *Early Modern Women on Metaphysics, Religion and Science* Conference, University of Groningen, Netherlands, April 2016
- Comments on two papers at the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association – Marcy Lascano, “Conway and the Principle of Sufficient Reason”; Christia Mercer, “Feeling the Way to Truth: Teresa of Ávila as a Source of Descartes's *Meditations*.” March 2016
- “Cavendish on the infinite and eternal plenum,” Eastern Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Washington, DC, January 2016
- “Cavendish, Fancy, and Alternative Possible Worlds,” Symposium at the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, January 2015

- “Hume, Spinoza, and Smith: Early Modern Philosophy and Sentiment,” Guest lecture for UI ENG:6075, spring 2014
- “Cavendish as Mysterian,” Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy, Iowa Philosophical Society, October 2013
- “Cavendish, Hume, and Spinoza,” Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, January 2013
- “Margaret Cavendish on the Wonders of Matter,” Colloquium at Grinnell College, October 2011
- “Spinoza on the Infinity of Mind-Body Union,” Colloquium at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, March 2011
- “The Historical Influence of the Historical Descartes,” Guest Lecture at the University of Iowa, ENGL 160:325 Rhetorics of the Body, University of Iowa, October 2010
- “Spinoza's Beef with Non-Actual Reality,” Colloquium at the University of Iowa, April 2010
- “Descartes on the Necessity of Every Last Truth,” Colloquium at University of Nebraska, Omaha, March 2009
- Comments on Marcy Lascano, “The Genesis of Emilie du Chatelet's Cosmological Argument,” Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, March 2008
- Comments on “Two New Cartesian Circles” by Glenn Hartz and Patrick Lewtas, Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 2008
- “Descartes on the Genealogy of Ideas of Sensation,” International Conference on Philosophy, Athens Institute for Teaching and Research, Athens, June 2006
- Comments on Matthew Kisner, “Against a Psychologistic Reading of Descartes,” Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, San Francisco, March 2005
- “Spinoza, Descartes, and the Problem of Language for Philosophy,” Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Chicago, April 2005
- “A Variety of Minds in the Third and Fifth Meditations,” Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Pasadena, March 2004
- “Descartes and the Equilibrium of the Will,” Cartesian Circle meeting, UC Irvine, June 2004
- “Descartes' Anti-Intellectualism,” Ninth Annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas, University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain, May 2004
- Comments on Joel Schickel, “Cartesian Generosity and Freedom of the Will,” Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 2004
- “An Early Modern Conception of Body, and a Problem for Property Dualism,” Twenty-Ninth European Studies Conference, University of Nebraska, Omaha, March 2004
- Comments on Justin Skirry, “Descartes on Composite Natures,” Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 2003
- “The Analytic Method and the Second Meditation,” Colloquium U Iowa, February 2003
- Comments on David Clemenson, “Descartes on Material Falsity: A non-issue?,” Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 2002
- Comments on Geoffrey Gorham, “Descartes' Dilemma: Pantheism, or Something from Nothing,” Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 2001
- “Epistemic Position and the Second Meditation,” Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, San Francisco, March 2001
- “Epistemic Progress in Descartes' *Meditations*,” Colloquium at Lewis and Clark College, Feb 2021
- “Resolving Cartesian Confusions,” Colloquium at University of Utah, March 2000
- Comments on Patricia Easton, “A Cartesian Argument Against Innate Ideas,” Sixth Annual California Early Modern Conference, CSU Long Beach April 1999

## Honors and Awards

2024-29	Collegiate Fellow, UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2017-18	Collegiate Scholar, UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2017-18	Fellow of the Big Ten Academic Leadership Program
2010	Faculty Fellowship Award, University of Iowa, \$6K
2004-2005	Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities, \$40K
2004	Research Fellowship, UCLA Clark Library/Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies
2004	NEH Summer Institute – The Intersection of Philosophy, Science and Theology in the Seventeenth Century, Madison, WI
1999	Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring and TA Development, UCI Instructional Resources
1999	Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award in Humanities, UCI School of Humanities, granted annually to one graduate student
1999	Outstanding Teaching Assistant Fellowship Award, granted annually to two UCI graduate students

## TEACHING – recent

Term	Course#	Title	Enrollment
Spring 2024	PHIL 4260	Spinoza and Leibniz	17
Fall 2022	PHIL 6200	Seminar: Modern Philosophy	5
Spring 2022	PHIL 1033:0EXA	The Meaning of Life	210
	PHIL 1033:0EXB	The Meaning of Life	220
Fall 2021	PHIL 1033:0AAA	The Meaning of Life	237
	PHIL 1033:0BBB	The Meaning of Life	230
Spring 2021	PHIL 1033:0AAA	The Meaning of Life	203
	PHIL 1033:0BBB	The Meaning of Life	186
Fall 2020	PHIL 1033:0AAA	The Meaning of Life	318
	PHIL 1033:0BBB	The Meaning of Life	206
Spring 2020	PHIL 1033:0AAA	The Meaning of Life	221
	PHIL 1033:0BBB	The Meaning of Life	254
	PHIL 1902	Philosophy Lab	9
Fall 2019	PHIL 1033:0AAA	The Meaning of Life	311
	PHIL 1033:0CCC	The Meaning of Life	240
	PHIL 1902	Philosophy Lab	14
	PHIL 3143	Existentialism	29
Spring 2019	PHIL 1033:0AAA	The Meaning of Life	242
	PHIL 1033:0BBB	The Meaning of Life	230
	PHIL 1902	Philosophy Lab	11
	PHIL 2214	Seventeenth-Century Philosophy	27
Fall 2018	PHIL 1033:0AAA	The Meaning of Life	379
	PHIL 1033:0BBB	The Meaning of Life	124
	PHIL 1902	Philosophy Lab	14
	PHIL 2214	Seventeenth-Century Philosophy	31

## Instructional Videos

- “Cavendish Introduction,” *Extending New Narratives in the History of Philosophy* YouTube channel

## Dissertations Directed

Peter Bezanson, PhD 2004 – founder and CEO of the charter school, Basis Ed

Pete Legrant, PhD 2010 – currently Associate Professor of Philosophy at Bakersfield College

Seth Jones, PhD 2012 – currently Assistant Professor of Philosophy at U Alaska, Fairbanks

Kris Phillips, PhD 2014 – currently Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Eastern Michigan University

Hannibal Jackson, 2016 PhD – currently Instructor of Philosophy at Temple College

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- *BUILD* Certification, February 2024
  - “BUILD: Beyond the Numbers – Foundations for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion,” February 2022
  - “BUILD: Shifting the Monoracial Campus Conversations,” April 2022
  - “BUILD: Interfaith Studies and Interreligious Dialogue – Toward a Better University,” December 2023
  - “BUILD: Size Diversity – Every Body Counts,” February 2024
  - “BUILD: Tips for Leading DEI-Related Discussions,” February 2024
  - “BUILD: A Closer Look at Race in the U.S.,” February 2024
- Discussion Group Organizer and Facilitator, UI Philosophy Department
  - discussion – paper by Jennifer Saul, “Scepticism and Implicit Bias,” March 2024
  - discussion – paper by T.O. Patton, “In the Guise of Civility: The Complicitous Maintenance of Inferential Forms of Sexism and Racism in Higher Education,” November 2022
  - part II of discussion – *The No Asshole Rule* by Robert Sutton, March 2022
  - part I of discussion – *The No Asshole Rule* by Robert Sutton, October 2021

## Professional Development Courses

- ECON 3625: Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
- MATH 1850: Calculus I
- SOC 3851: Economy and Society

## Service

### Department

2023-2024	Alumni liaison, Philosophy Department
2014-2022	Chair, Philosophy Department
2007-2013	Director of Graduate Studies, Philosophy Department
2004-2007	Graduate Studies Committee, Member

### College

2023-2024	Interim Chair, Religious Studies Department
2019-2022	Member of CLAS Executive Committee

2020-2022 Executive Committee liaison to Faculty Assembly  
 2018-2020 Humanities Rep, CLAS DEO Advisory Board  
 2020-2021 Co-Chair of CLAS Strategic Planning Committee  
 2019-2020 Co-Chair of CLAS 20/20 Committee  
 2015-2018 Member of Tier Advisory Committee  
 2015 Marshal – CLAS commencement  
 2014-2015 CLAS Open House, Volunteer  
 2003-2007 Faculty Assembly Representative

### University

2022 Member of Review Committee – Dean of the College of Law  
 2022 Chair of P&T and DCG Committee for Iulian Vamanu, College of Library and Information Science  
 2021-2022 DEO mentor through the Office of the Associate Provost for Faculty  
 2020-2021 Member of UI Presidential Search Committee  
 2019-2022 Member of the Iowa Committee of the Newberry Library Renaissance Consortium  
 2019-present Member of the Obermann Center - Humanities for the Public Good Advisory Board  
 2019-2020 Member of Committee to Review the UI College of Medicine  
 2016-2017 Co-Chair of UI Strategic Plan Committee  
 2015-2016 Member of UI Research Council  
 2015-2016 Task Force on Graduate Education, Member  
 2014 Graduate College Commencement – Hooding Assistant  
 2014 Search Committee Member - Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education  
 2013-2014 Faculty Senate Officer – Secretary  
 2013-2014 Member of Governmental Relations Committee  
 2013-2014 Member of Faculty Policy and Compensation Committee  
 2013-2014 Faculty-Staff Budget Committee  
 2012-2014 Member of Committee on Committees  
 2011-2014 UI Faculty Senator  
 2011-2014 Member, UI Council on Teaching  
 2011-2014 Member UI Elections Committee  
 2008-2011 Member of UI Parking and Transportation Committee  
 2007-2010 Member of Classroom Advisory Committee

### Profession

2024-present Editorial Board, *Margaret Cavendish: A Multidisciplinary Journal*  
 2024 Grant reviewer, Austrian Science Fund  
 2023 Outside dissertation reviewer, Julia Rose, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
 2023 Grant reviewer, European Research Council  
 2022 Outside dissertation reviewer, Olivia Branscum, Columbia University  
 2020 Outside dissertation reviewer, Jan Forsman, Tampere University, Finland  
 2019-2022 Development Officer, Association for *Feminist Ethics and Social Theory (FEAST)*  
 2015 Grant reviewer, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada  
 2003 - present referee of 150+ articles at scholarly journals  
 2010 – present External reviewer for promotion cases, 1-2 per year  
 2010 American Philosophical Association (Central Division), Program Committee