

Timothy Shanahan, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Loyola Marymount University

Los Angeles, CA, US

Bellarmino College of Liberal Arts

Biography

My main scholarly interest is in the history and philosophy of science. My curiosity about how science really works was piqued as an undergraduate Biology and Philosophy major at the State University of New York at Cortland, and continued through a master's degree in the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Notre Dame, where I also completed a Ph.D. I was also fortunate to be awarded a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Science Studies Program at the University of California, San Diego (1994-1995), which helped to broaden my perspective on science. In addition, for many years I've used films to introduce students to Philosophy. A few years ago I was struck by the great number of deep philosophical issues that arise in Ridley Scott's brilliant sci-fi film, Blade Runner (1982) that had apparently gone unnoticed by most viewers and even by most philosophers. I decided to explore these issues in depth. The result is Philosophy and Blade Runner (Houndmills, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) - released on June 25 - thirty-two years to the day after Blade Runner first hit US theaters. Since then, I've done similar work on the sequel, Blade Runner 2049. Check out my LMU webpage for more details!

Areas of Expertise

History & Philosophy of Science, Philosophy & Film

Affiliations

Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB), Alpha Sigma Nu: The Jesuit Honor Society

Education

University of Notre Dame

Ph.D. Philosophy

University of Notre Dame

M.A. History and Philosophy of Science

State University of New York at Cortland

B.Sc. Biology

State University of New York at Cortland

B.A. Philosophy

Accomplishments

Professor of Philosophy

Loyola Marymount University, 2000-present

Bellarmino College of Liberal Arts Daum Professorship

Loyola Marymount University, 2009-2010

Chair of the Department of Philosophy

Loyola Marymount University, 2002-2006

Robert H. Taylor, S.J. Chair in Philosophy

Loyola Marymount University, 2002-2004

Associate Professor of Philosophy

Loyola Marymount University, 1995-2000

Postdoctoral Fellow, Science Studies Program

University of California, San Diego, 1994-1995

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Loyola Marymount University, 1988-1995

Senior Teaching Fellow

University of Notre Dame, 1987-1988

Instructor in Philosophy

University of Notre Dame, 1984-1987

Testimonials

From Course Evaluation

"T-Shan is the boss of all bosses. His lectures are engaging and easy to understand, and he goes out of his way to make sure that you and he are on the same page in terms of expectations/grading. On top of that, he's just a chill instructor in general - he takes dry, abstract philosophy and makes it pretty easy to click with."

From Course Evaluation

"Shanahan is the man! He has an amazing ability to not let you know what he thinks, and as soon as a premature band wagon towards a particular position gets going you can expect Shanahan to bring it to a grinding halt. Meticulous in methodology. Transparent about expectations. Totally accommodating if you are having trouble. Clear and honest."

From Course Evaluation

"One of the most interesting classes i have ever taken. Shanahan makes you consider philosophical positions you never would have considered. It is an essential class for anyone going into the field of science. Attendance is mandatory, however, you will find yourself not wanting to miss class."

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