

# David Brax, PhD

Heleneborgsgatan 13 A  
117 31 Stockholm  
0705-483672

david@brax.nu  
<http://david.brax.nu>

## PROFILE

David Brax, PhD in practical philosophy (Lund University, 2009) specialized in the theory of pleasure and value theory/meta-ethics. Writer, lecturer, reviewer.

## EDUCATION

Ph-D in practical philosophy 2009, Lund University  
Master program in cognitive science 2003, Lund University  
Master level in practical philosophy 2002, Lund University  
Bachelor level in theoretical philosophy, 2001, Lund University

One semester of literary studies, fall 1998, Halmstad University

## POSITIONS, AFFILIATIONS

Ph.D. student, practical philosophy, the Department of Philosophy, Lund University 2003-2009

Recognised student, the Department of Philosophy, Oxford 2007

Affiliated with the Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet 2010

## PUBLICATIONS

*Hedonism as the Explanation of Value*, Doctoral Thesis, Lund University 2009

*Eстетiskt värde, värderande responser* in "Litteraturens Värden", (ed. Anders Mortensen), Brutus Östlings Förlag Symposium, 2009 (*Aesthetic Value, Evaluating Responses*, in "The Values of Literature")

*Pleasure in the motivational system - Towards an Empirically Responsible Theory of Value*, in "Proceedings of the Lund-Rutgers conference" (ed. Martin Jönsson), Lund Philosophy Reports 2008:1

*Pleasure and the Phenomenology of Value* in "Patterns of Value - Essays on Formal Axiology and Value Analysis vol. 2" (eds. Rabinowicz and Rönnow-Rasmussen), Lund Philosophy Reports 2004:1 (as David Bengtsson)

*The Nature of Explanation in a Theory of Consciousness*, Lund University Cognitive Studies 106, 2003 (as David Bengtsson)

*The Intrinsic Value of Pleasure Experiences*, in "Patterns of Value - Essays on Formal Axiology and Value Analysis" (eds. Rabinowicz and Rönnow-Rasmussen), Lund Philosophy Reports 2003:1 (as David Bengtsson)

In Press:

*To know or not to know: Ethical issues related to early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease*, the International Journal of Alzheimer's Disease (With Niklas Mattson and Henrik Zetterberg)

## TEACHING MERITS

Course director, lecturer, Hedonism, autumn 2007-08

Lecturer, Advanced Course in Value Theory, autumn 2007  
Lecturer/Discussion-leader, Value Theory autumn 2006  
Course director, lecturer, Hedonism, spring 2004  
Mentor (Supplementary Instructions Program) for undergraduate students in practical philosophy 2002-2003  
All at the Department of Philosophy, Lund University

“Examinator” of bachelor theses at Örebro University (Campus Grythyttan), march, 2010

The dissertation “Hedonism as the Explanation of Value” was the subject of a series of seminars at the department of Philosophy, Umeå University, during the spring 2010.

Took a course in University pedagogy at Stockholm University spring 2010

## TALKS AND POSTERS

2010

Talk at the Philosophical Society, Umeå, March: “Lyckoforskning, motivation och empirisk orienterad filosofi” (“Happiness research, motivation and empirically oriented philosophy”)

Talk at the Higher Seminar in Philosophy, Umeå University, March: “Neurometaethics”

Talk at SIK The Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology, March: Njutningens värde och funktion (“The value and function of pleasure”)

“Filosofiska Rummet” (Swedish Radio), january “värde är lika med njutning” (“Value is identical to pleasure”)

“Filosofiska Rummet” (Swedish Radio), january “Empiri och filosofi” (Philosophy and empirical science)

2009

Seminar at the Philosophy Department, Uppsala University, March. Talk: *Neurometaethics*

Seminar at the Philosophy Department, Stockholm University, March. Talk: *Neurometaethics*, commentator Björn Eriksson

Book Symposium on “Litteraturens Värden” (“The Values of Literature”) SOL centrum, Lund University, March. Talk: *Estetiskt Värde, Värderande Responser* (Aesthetic Value, Evaluation Responses)

Defense of Ph.D thesis, Lund, September: *Hedonism as the Explanation of Value*, Commentator: Professor Roger Crisp

Seminar at the Department of clinical neurophysiology, Sahlgrenska, Göteborg, October. Talk: *Value-theory meets affective neuroscience – and then what happens*

Talk for the Department of clinical epidemiology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm. November: *Njutningen, värdena, forskningen* (The Pleasure, The Values, The Research)

Talk at the meeting for the Homosexual Physicians of Sweden, November: *Njutningen, Värdena, Forskningen* (The pleasure, The Values, The Research)

2008

Joint Workshop Lund-Rutgers, Lund, January. Talk: *Pleasure in the motivational system*, Commentator: Stephen Stich

2007

OFMH 2007, Symposium: Neuroethics, may 2007, Oxford University, participation only

Neuroethics workshop, the Uehiro centre for practical ethics, Oxford March, participation only

Seminar at the Philosophy Department, Oxford University, May. Talk: *Naturalist Hedonism and the explanation of value*

2006

Seminar at SOL, Lund University, January. Talk: *on Literary Value-theory and David Hume's "On the standard of taste"* (with Anders Mortensen)

Seminar at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, March. Talk: *Pleasure, Desire and the explanation of value*

Lecture at the Philosophy Café, Lund, May. Talk: *Sex och Filosofi* (Sex and Philosophy)

Joint Workshop Lund-Reading, Lund, May: Talk: *Pleasure, Desire and the explanation of value*

Joint Session, the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, Southampton, July. Talk: *The Hedonic Connection*

Seminar at the Department of Philosophy of Stockholm University, November, Talk: *Pleasure and Desire: the hedonic connection*

2005

Filosofidagarna, Uppsala, June. Talk: *Hedonism, Förklaring och Värde (Hedonism, Explanation and Value)*

Imagining the Work of the Brain Neuroethics, June, Sandhamn, Sweden, participation only

Towards a Science of Consciousness, Copenhagen, August. Talk: *Value Theory meets Affective Neuroscience. And then what happens?*

ECAP5, Lissabon, August. Talk: *Hedonism, Explanation and Value*

2004

Towards a Science of Consciousness 2004, Tucson, USA, April. Poster: *Experiencing valuably – a Value-theoretical view on consciousness*

Workshop, value-theory, SCASS Uppsala, Sweden, April. Talk: *Pleasure and the phenomenology of value*

Mini-workshop about hedonism, with Fred Feldman, Lund, Sweden, December. Talk: *Internally Liked Experiences – A reply to Feldman*

## **POSITIONS AS AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE**

Graduate student representative, Faculty of humanities graduate student assembly, 2005-present

Graduate student representative, the equal treatment group, Department of philosophy 2004-2006

Substitute graduate student representative, the Board of the Philosophy Department at Lund University, 2005-2006

## **OTHER ASSIGNMENTS:**

Secretary of the Philosophical Society, Lund 2005-2006

Treasurer, the Philosophical Society, Lund 2006-2007

The Philosophical Society organizes public lectures by well-known domestic and foreign philosophers. One of my responsibilities was to invite lecturers and organize their stay in Lund, and to organize dinners in connection to their talks.

Fact checking translations of philosophical literature from english to swedish for the publisher “Fri tanke”

Reviewer for the journal “Modern Psykologi”

Runs the blog “Brax on philosophy” (<http://david.brax.nu/blog>) about philosophy, books and the cognitive and affective sciences.

Contributes to the blog “Lyckobloggen” (the happiness blog) (<http://www.lyckobloggen.se>) about happiness research.

## **DOCTORIAL THESIS**

*Short summary:* I develop and defend a naturalist version of hedonism, in which naturalist theories of meaning and reference and findings in the affective sciences (psychology, emotion theory, affective neuroscience), i.e. the role of pleasure in the human motivational and evaluative system, is taken as support of a version of hedonism.

My doctoral thesis was written within the project “Philosophical theories about value”, led by professor Wlodek Rabinowicz and financed by the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation,

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Erik och Gurli Hultengrens fond för filosofi

Stiftelsen Fil dr. Uno Otterstedts fond for främjande av vetenskaplig undervisning och forskning

STINT, 2006, for a 4 month stay as a recognised student at the University of Oxford