

## CURRICULUM VITAE

University of Pennsylvania  
Department of Philosophy  
Claudia Cohen Hall 433  
Philadelphia, PA 19104, U.S.

**MINGJUN ZHANG**

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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of biology, philosophy of science

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of mind, environmental philosophy

## EDUCATION

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**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, U.S.

Ph.D. in Philosophy Expected in 2020

Dissertation: *Understanding Patterns in Nature: From Processes to Patterns*

Committee: Michael Weisberg (Supervisor), Quayshawn Spencer, Karen Detlefsen,  
Erol Akçay (Department of Biology)

Certificate Program in Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Expected in 2020

**The Australian National University**, Canberra, Australia

July-August 2019

Visiting Student in the School of Philosophy

**Tsinghua University**, Beijing, China

M.A. in Philosophy 2015

B.S. with Major in Chemistry 2013

Minor in Law

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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Zhu, J.\*, **Zhang, M.\*** & Weisberg, M. 2019. "Why does the Chinese public accept evolution?"

Forthcoming in *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A*.

DOI: [10.1016/j.shpsa.2019.07.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.shpsa.2019.07.003) (\* These authors contributed equally to this work)

Wang, W., **Zhang, M.** 2015. "How-possible and why-necessary: a criticism of Rosenberg's

Darwinian reductionism." *Studies in Dialectics of Nature* (in Chinese) 8: 20-24.

### Chemistry

Liu, X., **Zhang, M.**, Dong, G., Zhang, X., Wang, Y., Duan, L., Wang, L. & Qiu, Y. 2014. "The effect of oxygen content on the performance of low-voltage organic phototransistor memory." *Organic Electronics* 15: 1664–1671. DOI: [10.1016/j.orgel.2014.03.017](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.orgel.2014.03.017)

**WORK IN PROGRESS**

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- Zhang, M. “The possible use and limitations of null-model-based hypothesis testing.”  
(revise and resubmit at *Biology & Philosophy*)
- Zhang, M. “Is methodological adaptationism really so dangerous?” (manuscript)
- Zhang, M. “Assessing Templeton’s denial of biological races in humans.” (manuscript)
- Zhang, M. “Say goodbye to empirical adaptationism.” (in preparation)

**FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS**

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- 2015-2020            **Benjamin Franklin Fellowship** (University of Pennsylvania)  
*Full support for graduate research from the Philosophy Department*
- Expected in 2019    **Teaching Certificate** (Penn Center for Teaching and Learning)
- 2017, 2018 & 2019   **School of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Travel Subvention**  
(University of Pennsylvania)
- 2016, 2017 & 2019   **Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Travel Grant**  
(University of Pennsylvania)
- 2016 & 2018           **National Science Foundation Travel Grant**
- 2009-2013           **Tsinghua and Cyrus Tang Foundation Scholarship**  
(Tsinghua University, *One in each grade in the Chemistry Department*)
- 2010-2011           **Tsinghua Xuetang Talents Program Scholarship**  
(Tsinghua University)
- 2009-2010           **Tsinghua Academic Merit Scholarship** (Tsinghua University)

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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**Oral presentations**

- July 2019            “Two senses of relative importance and the testability of empirical adaptationism”  
ISHPSSB 2019 (International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social  
Studies of Biology, Oslo)
- July 2017            “Is methodological adaptationism really so dangerous?”  
ISHPSSB 2017 (International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social  
Studies of Biology, São Paulo)

**Poster presentations**

- November 2018 “Adaptationism revisited: three senses of relative importance.”  
PSA 2018 (Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Seattle)
- November 2016 “Is methodological adaptationism really so dangerous?”  
PSA 2016 (Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Atlanta)

**INVITED TALKS**

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- August 2019 “The use and limitations of null-model-based hypothesis testing.”  
PBDB 13 (Philosophy of Biology at Dolphin Beach, Australia)
- June 2019 “The possible use and limitations of null-model-based hypothesis testing.”  
(Commented by Yili Lu), Tsinghua University, Beijing
- May 2019 “Neutral models and null models: how and why to distinguish between them?”  
Fudan University, Shanghai
- June 2018 “Relative causal importance.”  
(Commented by Renjie Yang), Tsinghua University, Beijing
- June 2018 “The relative importance of causal factors.”  
(Commented by Zhu Xu & Wei Fang), East China Normal University, Shanghai
- May 2016 “Why would robots need emotions? A functionalist reading.”  
(Commented by Jianhui Li), Tsinghua University, Beijing

**DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS**

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- December 2017 “Why does the Chinese public accept evolution?”  
Penn Philosophy Graduate Colloquium
- November 2015 “A reconsideration of idealization in the light of de-idealization.”  
Penn Philosophy Graduate Colloquium

**TEACHING**

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**As Sole Instructor**

- Fall 2019 Environmental Ethics, University of Pennsylvania  
(seminar, introductory undergraduate level)

**As Teaching Assistant**

Spring 2018 Introduction to Philosophy (instructor: Professor Michael Weisberg)  
 Fall 2017 What Is Meaning? (instructor: Professor Lisa Miracchi)  
 Spring 2017 Philosophy of Social Science (instructor: Dr. Harold Parker)

**As Grader**

Fall 2016 Philosophy of Space and Time (instructor: Prof. Zoltan Domotor)

**Guest Lectures**

Spring 2019 “Observation and Experiment” (for the course “Philosophy of Science”)  
 Spring 2018 “Other Minds” (for the course “Introduction to Philosophy”)  
 Fall 2017 “Chalmers: Phenomenal Concepts and the Explanatory Gap” (for the course  
 “What Is Meaning? Introduction to Mind and Language”)  
 Fall 2017 “Explanation and Reality” (for the course “Introduction to the Philosophy of  
 Science”)

**ACADEMIC ACTIVITY**

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Spring 2019-present Member of Erol Akçay’s Ecology, Evolution, and Social Dynamics  
 Laboratory (Department of Biology at the University of Pennsylvania)

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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Chinese (native)  
 English (fluent)

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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2019 Session Co-Chair for “Evidence in Context,” ISHPSSB 2019  
 (International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology)  
 Spring 2019 Member of Penn Philosophy Graduate Committee for Prospective Students  
 Spring 2019 Coordinator, Penn Philosophy of Science Reading Group  
 2018 Session Co-Chair for “Philosophy of the Biomedical Sciences,” PSA 2018  
 (Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting)  
 2015-2017 Graduate Representative of Penn Philosophy Colloquium Committee

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Philosophical Association (APA)  
 Philosophy of Science Association (PSA)  
 International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB)

**GRADUATE COURSEWORK**

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\* = Audit

**Philosophy of Science**

Philosophy of Biology (Michael Weisberg)

Philosophy of Science (Michael Weisberg)

Race and Biology (Quayshawn Spencer)

Independent Study: Nature of Scientific Explanation (Michael Weisberg)

**Biology and Neuroscience**

Theoretical Population Biology\* (Erol Akçay)

Theoretical Neuroscience (Vijay Balasubramanian)

Foundations of Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (Martha Farah &amp; Hilary Gerstein)

Contemporary Research Issues in Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (Martha Farah)

**Philosophy of Mind**

Philosophy of Mind: Emotion, Motivation, and Control (Lisa Miracchi)

Philosophy of Mind: Artificial Intelligence\* (Lisa Miracchi)

**History of Philosophy**Kant: *Prolegomena* and *Critique of Pure Reason* (Gary Hatfield & Rolf Horstmann)

Kant's Philosophy of Religion (Andrew Chignell)

Aristotle's Psychology (Andree Hahmann)

**Political Philosophy**

Modern Political Philosophy: Hobbes, Locke, Mill, Marx, and Rawls (Samuel Freeman)

Expertise: Its Nature and Uses (Alexander Guerrero)

**Others**

Proseminar (Daniel Singer and Errol Lord)

Formal Logic (Scott Weinstein)

Research Paper Writing (John Cotton)

**REFERENCES**

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**Michael Weisberg (Supervisor)**

Professor and Chair of Philosophy

University of Pennsylvania

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[weisberg@phil.upenn.edu](mailto:weisberg@phil.upenn.edu)**Karen Detlefsen**

Professor of Philosophy and Education

University of Pennsylvania

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[detlefse@phil.upenn.edu](mailto:detlefse@phil.upenn.edu)**Quayshawn Spencer**

Associate Professor of Philosophy

University of Pennsylvania

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[qspencer@upenn.edu](mailto:qspencer@upenn.edu)**Erol Akçay**

Assistant Professor of Biology

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