

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- **Full Name:** Yichao Li
- **Birth:** 19.02.1987, Shandong, PR. China
- **Nationality:** PR. China
- **Address:** Döllstädtstraße 16, 99423 Weimar, Germany
- **Phone:** +49 15773720036
- **Email:** yichao.li.cogito@gmail.com



RESEARCH AREA

My research focuses on German Idealism and intercultural philosophy, with particular emphasis on the relation between Being, Nothingness, and Freedom across Western and East Asian traditions. My work combines historical-philological analysis with systematic reconstruction to develop a rigorous dialogue between Hegelian thought, Buddhist-Daoist philosophy, and Modern Confucianism. In doing so, it contributes to contemporary debates in metaphysics, political philosophy, and intercultural philosophy.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 17/03/2026 –** : Independent researcher
- 22/05/2024 – 31/07/2025:** Institute of Philosophy, Heidelberg University, Germany, visiting scholar.
- 14/01/2024 – 21/05/2024:** No position, non-academic, Guangzhou, China, interim period prior to visiting scholar.
- 14/01/2023 – 13/01/2024:** Department of Philosophy, Sun Yat-sen University, China, associate research fellow.
- 14/01/2020 – 13/01/2023:** Department of Philosophy, Sun Yat-sen University, China, postdoctoral researcher.
- 01/09/2019 – 13/01/2020:** No position, non-academic, Binzhou, China, interim period prior to postdoctoral research.
- 08/06/2019 – 31/08/2019:** No position, non-academic, Berlin, Germany, interim period prior to postdoctoral research.

EDUCATION

- 15/10/2013 – 07/06/2019:** Institute of Philosophy, Jena University, Germany, Dr. Phil (07/06/2019).
- 20/08/2010 – 01/06/2013:** Department of Philosophy, Wuhan University, China, M. Phil.
- 25/08/2006 – 01/06/2010:** Department of Philosophy, Heilongjiang University, China, B. Phil.

PUBLICATIONS

▪ **Monograph**

1. Li, Yichao (2019): *Teleologie der Hegelschen Anerkennungstheorie. Zur teleologischen bzw. weltgeschichtlichen Dimension des Anerkennens*. Würzburg. Königshausen & Neumann Verlag. 235 pp.

This work delineates the formal, material, and teleological determinations of self-consciousness and explores the logical, historical, and teleological dimensions inherent in Hegel's theory of recognition. Focusing on Hegel's discourse on the movement of recognition in the *Phenomenology of Spirit*, it also examines relevant discussions in the *Science of Logic*, *Philosophy of Right*, as well as the *Lectures on the Philosophy of History*, etc. By drawing on evidence constructed from multiple mutually corroborating texts, this work offers persuasive arguments in support of its teleological perspectives.

▪ **Publications with peer review process**

1. Li, Yichao (2026): "Self-Dialectic of Mediation in Hegel's Logical Beginning." Forthcoming in *Idealistic Studies: an Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy* 56(2), 195-228.

This article develops a systematic reinterpretation of Hegel's logical beginning by arguing that the self-dialectic of mediation constitutes its underlying metalogical structure. It critically engages with Dieter Henrich's *via negationis* reading and demonstrates the internal necessity by which Being and Nothing generate Becoming. By analyzing their dynamic as im-mediate poles and introducing a thought experiment on the law of excluded middle, the paper offers a new ontological account of mediation as both a logical and empirical process.

2. Li, Yichao (2024): "Die verkehrte Welt." *Tijdschrift voor Filosofie: Louvain Journal of Philosophy* 86(2), 261-290.

Unlike Gadamer's external comparative approaches, this article delves into the original isomorphic context within Hegel's systematic philosophy. It meticulously traces the concept of the inverted world back to its precise logical foundation and explores its connection to relevant elements within the history of knowledge. The article begins by elucidating the phases and norms that lead to the emergence of the inverted world. It then draws parallels between the inverted world and the concept of logical reciprocity, as well as the laws of electromagnetic and chemical reciprocity found in Hegel's *Philosophy of Nature*. Based on this, it demonstrates the ontological mechanism by which the necessary laws and the natural world transition to the realm of free spirit.

3. Li, Yichao (2021): "Master-Slave-Dialectic or Soul-Body-Dialectic? On the Weak Antinomy in Hegel's Asymmetric Recognition and Its Teleological Provisions" (Published in Chinese). In: *Philosophical Research. Issue 6*. (Beijing: Social Sciences Literature Publishing House). 103-115.

This article critically examines the so-called Master-Slave-Dialectic through meticulous and detailed textual analysis. It challenges interpretations that lack internal consistency, such as those proposed by scholars like Xiaomang Deng and Gadamer, highlighting inherent hermeneutic paradoxes. Drawing on the perspectives of scholars like Hatta and van der Meulen, the article further analyzes various related texts and proposes a new interpretative framework, termed the Soul-Body Dialectic.

4. Li, Yichao (2020): "The Logical Generation of Hegel's Static Supersensible World" (Published in Chinese). In: *Philosophical Research. Issue 3*. (Beijing: Social Sciences Literature Publishing House). 108-118.

This paper addresses the research gap concerning Hegel's first supersensible world within the *Phenomenology of Spirit* by conducting a thorough textual examination and analysis. It traces the experiential stages of understanding consciousness leading to this supersensible world and demonstrates that the logical structure of these stages constitutes the "essential relations" of the section on essence in the *Science of Logic*, with the "Absolute" serving as their ultimate logical foundation. By focusing on the microcosmic, inert "supersensible world," this paper contributes to the study of the logical structure within the *Phenomenology of Spirit*.

5. Li, Yichao (2020): "The Connection between Hegel's Force Notion and the Newtonian Mechanics" (Published in Chinese). In: *Philosophical Review. Vol. 25*. (Changsha: Yuelushushe). 113-125.

This paper makes contributions by bridging Hegel's philosophical ideas with Newtonian mechanics, offering a comparative analysis of these two distinct intellectual traditions. It critically examines Newton's reflective approach to the concept of force, shedding light on Hegel's critique of its inherent limitations. Additionally, the paper introduces Hegel's concept of "intelligent intuition," presenting it as a more concrete and comprehensive understanding of force in contrast to Newton's more abstract and reflective interpretation.

▪ Manuscripts under revision (Revise & Resubmit)

1. Li, Yichao: "Hegel's Metaphysics of Recognition (in Chinese)." Submitted to *Universitas: Monthly Review of Philosophy*; positive review received; revised version resubmitted.

▪ Manuscript under peer review

1. Li, Yichao: "The Embodied Unchangeable: Hegel's Neo-Platonic Motif in the Unhappy Consciousness."

▪ Manuscripts in preparation

1. Li, Yichao: "Non-Standard Model of Reflection in Hegel's theory of Self-Consciousness."
2. Li, Yichao: "Self-Relation To Be Achieved: Pippin on Hegel's Account of Self-Consciousness"

▪ Publications without peer review process

1. Siep, L., Li, Yichao.* (2022): Interpreting Hegel in the Perspective of Practical Philosophy: Interview with Ludwig Siep (Published in Chinese). In: *The Review of Practical Philosophy. Vol. 6*. (Guangzhou: Sun Yat-sen University Press). 250-264.
2. Xie, Y-w.*, Li, Yichao., Wang, S-s., Chen M-w. (2020): Advancements in German-French Philosophy Research in 2019 (Published in Chinese). In: *Chinese Philosophical Almanac. Vol. 2020*. (Beijing: China Social Sciences Press). 262-281.

▪ Translated book

1. Li, Q-k.*, Li, Yichao (2017): Martin Heidegger/Elisabeth Blochmann. Briefwechsel. 1918-1969. J. W. Stock (Hg.) (Translated in Chinese). Nanjing: Nanjing University Press. 260 pp.

* = Corresponding author/translator

RESEARCH FUNDING (APPLICATIONS)

1. DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) – Walter Benjamin Programme

Research proposal: *Being or Nothing? An Ontological Debate Between Hegelian Absolute Idealism and Buddhist-Daoist Thought*. Submitted, 2025

Independently developed research project addressing the ontological tension between Being (*Sein*) and Nothingness (無 / *śūnyatā*) in a comparative philosophical framework. The proposal builds on ongoing research on Hegel's *Science of Logic*, including the article "Self-Dialectic of Mediation in Hegel's Logical Beginning" (conditional acceptance after revision), which establishes the systematic basis for the project's theoretical approach.

2. European Commission – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship)

Research proposal: *Modern Confucianism's Reception and Reconstruction of the Theory of Freedom from Classical German Philosophy*. Submitted, 2025

Independently developed research project examining the cross-cultural transformation of the concept of freedom between *Classical German Philosophy* (Kant, Fichte, Schelling, Hegel) and *Modern Confucianism*, with particular focus on the reinterpretations by Mou Zongsan and Tang Junyi. The project analyses how systematic accounts of freedom—as a relation between self, nature, and society—are received, reconstructed, and mobilized in modern Chinese philosophical discourse, especially in relation to questions of democracy, normativity, and social order. By combining textual analysis with systematic philosophical reconstruction, the project contributes to intercultural philosophy and to contemporary debates on political and social challenges, including democracy, authoritarianism, and global issues such as racism and gender equality.

COORDINATED & PARTICIPATED RESEARCH PROJECTS

▪ Coordinated projects

1. Research on Hegel's Recognition Theory and its Historical Impact (2022T150764). *China Postdoctoral Science Grant*. The 15th special funding (station-based). Approved funding of 150,000 CNY.

[This project explores Hegel's theory of recognition, focusing on its metaphysical foundations and diverse modern interpretations by thinkers like Habermas, Honneth, and Taylor. It systematically analyzes differences and connections within these theories and employs Gadamer's "effective history" to bridge gaps between Hegel's original ideas and their later reception. The study aims to assess their contributions to contemporary practical, social, and political philosophy.]

2. Research on the Speculative Logic Foundation of Hegel's Recognition Theory and System of Natural Law (2020M673035). *China Postdoctoral Science Grant*. The 67th General Funding. Approved funding of 50,000 CNY.

[This project explores Hegel's theory of recognition and its essential connection to natural law, based on key texts from his early and later works. It argues that recognition's logical completeness reinforces the integrity of Hegel's natural law system. The study also examines "symmetrical recognition" in ethics and legal philosophy and its significance in shaping modern civic identity and the modernization of state governance.]

3. Research on the Speculative Logic Foundation of Hegel's Recognition Theory and System of Natural Law (20wkpy100). *Sun Yat-sen University's 2020 Annual Basic Scientific Research Grant*. Approved funding of 75,000 CNY.

▪ Participated project

1. Research on Modernity and Contemporary Chinese Philosophy (13AZX012). *China National Social Science Grant*. Responsible for writing the fourth section of the fourth chapter.

This project analyzes contemporary Chinese philosophy's relationship with Chinese Marxism, Western philosophy and traditional thought, exploring the formation of its philosophical community. It highlights key philosophers and compiles a historiography of major debates since 1949, divided into four sections: problem consciousness, community formation, academic development, and the deepening of contemporary Chinese philosophy. The section I was responsible for writing is titled "A Dual Critique of Theory and Reality: An Outline of Deng Xiaomang's Philosophical Thought." It covers topics such as the relationship between emotion and reason, philosophical reflection and critique, Deng Xiaomang's reception of Hegel's philosophy and the rationalist tradition in his monograph *The Tension of Speculation*, the concept of self-negation, and critical comparisons between Chinese and Western cultures.

COURSES & SEMINARS

1. Seminar: *Hegel's Science of Logic within Encyclopaedia*. Target audience: Undergraduate/Master/PhD students; Location: Xichang Hall/Room 727. Duration: April 12-June 28, 2023.
2. Special seminar: *The Beginning of Hegelian Logic*. Target audience: Undergraduate/Master/PhD students; Location: Xichang Hall/Room 215; Duration: March 16-May 30, 2022.
3. *Selected Readings in Phenomenology and Ethics*. In charge of the sections on Hegel's and Kant's ethical theories. Target audience: Master/PhD students; Location: Xichang Hall/Room 213; Date: May 11, 2022.
4. *History of Western Philosophy (Parts II)*. Responsible for teaching sections on Hegel's philosophy. Target audience: Undergraduate/Master students; Location: Xichang Hall/Room 207; Duration: June 23/30, 2021.
5. *History of Western Philosophy (Parts I)*. Responsible for teaching sections on Pre-Socratic philosophy, Greco-Roman philosophy. Target audience: Undergraduate/Master students; Location: Shaw Building/Room 315; Duration: Nov. 19/26, 2020.

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

▪ Lectures & Presentations

1. Self-Relation To Be Achieved: Pippin on Hegel's Account of Self-Consciousness. Institute of Philosophy. Jena University. December 18, 2025. Zwätzengasse 9 – Z9.
2. Self-Dialectic of Mediation in Hegel's Logical Inception. Philosophisches Seminar. Heidelberg University. January 21, 2025. Hegel-Raum.

3. Hegel's Metaphysics of Recognition: Transcendental Determinations of Self-Consciousness as the Entelechia of Recognition. Department of Philosophy. Sun Yat-sen University. July 6, 2022. Xichang Hall/Room 103.
4. Introduction to Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*. Institute of Moral Education. Nanjing Normal University. January 8, 2022. Online via Tencent Meeting & Suiyuan Campus. Tiannan Building/Room 611.
5. The Inverted World: The Emergence of ontological "Concept" in Hegel's Speculative-Positivistic Field. Department of Philosophy. Sun Yat-sen University. October 27, 2021. Xichang Hall/Room 727.

▪ Organized Conferences

1. *Symposium on Hegel's Theory of Recognition and Its Historical Impact*. Department of Philosophy, Sun Yat-sen University. November 12-13, 2022. Online via Tencent Meeting.

The conference was the first academic symposium in China dedicated to Hegel's theory of recognition. It attracted experts and scholars from over ten universities in China, with around 20 academic presentations on the conference theme. It garnered widespread attention in academic circles and promoted research and influence in Hegelian philosophy, particularly on Hegel's theory of recognition and freedom.

2. *Symposium Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of Hegel's Birth*. November 7-8, 2020. Department of Philosophy. Sun Yat-sen University. Lingnan Hall: Wing-tsit Chan Lecture room.

The Department of Philosophy at Sun Yat-sen University hosted the 2020 Annual Conference of the National Society for the History of Foreign Philosophy and the Chinese Society for Modern Foreign Philosophy. I led a symposium commemorating Hegel's 250th anniversary, featuring over 40 experts from across China. This event gained widespread attention in Chinese Hegel research and contributed significantly to its advancement.

▪ Supervising & Mentoring activities

1. Undergraduate Students - Philosophy Summer Camp. Location: Xichang Hall/727; Date: Juli 10, 2023.
2. PhD Students - Dissertation Proposal Defense. Location: Xichang Hall/515; Date: Juli 4, 2023.
3. Graduate Students - Thesis Proposal Defense. Location: Xichang Hall/203; Date: April 18, 2023.
4. Graduate/PhD Students - Pre-Defense of Theses. Location: Xichang Hall/203; Date: March 5, 2023.
5. PhD Students - Dissertation Proposal Defense. Online via Tencent Meeting. Date: January 12, 2023.

▪ Commented on Academic Lectures & Papers

1. Paul Kottman: The Place of Art in Human Life. 10-11. April, 2025, Hegelsaal, Schulgasse 6, 69117 Heidelberg.
2. Lu, Wang: "Is" and "Is Not"—How to Understand Hegel's Logic? (March 15, 2023). Online via Tencent Meeting. Institute of Philosophy, China Social Sciences Academy. Room 920.
3. An'qing, Deng: Hegel and Neo-Platonism (March 7, 2023). Online via Tencent Meeting. Department of Philosophy, Sun Yat-sen University.
4. Sean Sayers: Marx's critique of Hegel's dialectic (Nov. 16, 2022). Online via Zoom-Meeting. Department of Philosophy, Sun Yat-sen University.
5. *Symposium on Phenomenology and the Pittsburgh School* (May 15, 2022). Xichang Hall/Room

101. Reviewed paper: Why Celebrate Subjectivity: On the McDowell-Pippin Debate?

6. 14th *Philosophy PhD Forum of the Five Northern and Southern Universities* (December 29, 2021). Online via Tencent Meeting. Reviewed papers: The Substratum of Time and the Time of the Substratum: Brentano's Metaphysical Foundation of Time Centered on "Real Entities"; On the Foundational Role of the Synthesis of Grasping in Knowledge.

7. 4th *Chinese Forum on Practical Philosophy* (March 28, 2021). Xichang Hall/Room 101. Reviewed paper: On Hegel's "Handlung" and Marx's "Praxis".

▪ Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. Reviewed Paper: The Second Launch of German Idealism: The Theory of Representation and Its Role in the Shift within German Idealism. Review Period: 07/11/2023 - 16/08/2024. Journal: *Philosophical Research*.

2. Reviewed Paper: The Dilemma of Communicative Power: A Critique of Habermas's Proceduralist Legitimacy Proposal. Review Period: 16/07/2023 - 30/07/2023. Journal: *Modern Philosophy*.

3. Reviewed Paper: "One Self-Consciousness or Two? McDowell and Pippin on the Master-Slave Dialectic. Review Period: 15/07/2023. Journal: *Modern Philosophy*.

4. Reviewed Paper: Reconstruction on Negativity—Rethinking the Evolution from World History to Art. Review Period: 12/02/2023. Journal: *Modern Philosophy*.

5. Reviewed Paper: The Dialectic of Desire in Hegel's *System of Morality*. Review Period: 17/06/2021 - 22/06/2021. Journal: *Philosophical Research*.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

1. *Government-Sponsored High-Level Graduate/PhD Scholarship* ([2013]3009). Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC).

2. *First-Class Graduate Fellowship* (2012). Wuhan University.

3. *First-Class Graduate Fellowship* (2011). Wuhan University.

LANGUAGUE PROFICIENCY

English / Germany: C1 in Reading / Writing / Listening / Speaking

Latinum / Graecum

Mandarin (native)

OTHER SKILLS

Microsoft Word / Excel / PowerPoint

Adobe Photoshop / Lightroom / Premier / LrT / Capture One / Final Cut Pro

I hereby declare that the information provided above is accurate to the best of my knowledge and I take full responsibility for its correctness.

Weimar, May 27, 2026 / Signature:  _____