

Wenjin Liu

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization: Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy, Ethics, Ancient Medicine, Comparative Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Classical Chinese Philosophy, Political Philosophy, Epistemology

EMPLOYMENT

Duke University

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Philosophy, July 2023 to Present
of Asian/Pacific Studies Institute, September 2023 to Present
Research Assistant Professor of Philosophy, July 2022 to June 2023
Co-Director of Center for Comparative Philosophy, October 2022 to Present
Faculty Affiliate of Transformative Ideas Initiative, October 2023 to Present
Co-Director of The Harmony Lab in Franklin Hope Humanities Center, July 2024 to Present

EDUCATION

Princeton University

Ph.D. in Philosophy (Interdepartmental Program in Classical Philosophy), 2023
Dissertation: *Plato's Theories of Vice*
Committee: Hendrik Lorenz (Chair), Benjamin Morison, Melissa Lane

M.A. in Philosophy, 2019

University of Pennsylvania

B.A. & M.A. in Philosophy &
B.A. in Classical Studies (Track 1, Classical Languages and Literature), 2015
Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Plato's Medicinal Politics and Its Hippocratic Entwinement: Paideia, Illness, and the Decline of the Ideal City (forthcoming, Cambridge University Press).

Charting Imperfection: Plato on Ignorance, Vice, and Illness (full draft 95,000 words completed, under revision).

Peer Reviewed Journal Article

- 2026 The Virtue of Living Together in a City: Civic Moderation in Plato's *Republic*. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 113: 59–73.
- 2026 The Anatomy of Ignorance in Plato's *Republic*. *Phronesis*, 71: 263–292.
- 2022 Ignorance in Plato's *Protagoras*: An Inquiry into Humanity's Dark Side. *Phronesis*, 67: 309–337.
- 2016 *Phantasia* as Perception-Based Belief and the Epistemic Worry of Plato. *Southwest Philosophy Review*, 32: 175–187.

Under Review and In Progress

- A paper on what is it to be philosophical in the *Republic* (under review)
- A paper on self-care in *Alcibiades I* (under review)
- A paper on experience (*empeiria*) in the *Republic* (in progress)
- A paper on civic friendship in Aristotle (in progress)
- A paper on ignorance in Plato's *Sophist* and *Statesman* (in progress)
- A paper on nourishing what one doesn't know in Zhuangzi (in progress)
- A chapter on whether having more knowledge is necessarily better in early Chinese philosophy, commissioned for an OUP volume on Chinese philosophy, edited by Karyn Lai and David Machek (submitted)
- A chapter on moral (mis)education in Plato's *Protagoras*, commissioned for the Keeling Colloquium and the ensuing OUP anthology (completed)

Book Reviews

- 2025 Plato's Moral Realism, *Philosophical Review*

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2026–2027 Loeb Classical Library Fellowship (\$20000)
- 2026–2027 Faculty Research Grants, The Arts and Sciences Council Committee on Faculty Research Duke University (\$5000)
- 2025 Winner: Manuscript Workshop, Franklin Hope Humanities Center, Duke University (\$10000)

2024–2026	Co-Director of the Harmony Lab, Franklin Hope Humanities Center, Duke University (\$15000*2 years, awarded competitively)
2023-2024	Faculty Research Grants, The Arts and Sciences Council Committee on Faculty Research Duke University (\$5000)
2020-2022	Graduate Travel Award (\$300), American Philosophical Association
2017-2019	Stanley J. Seeger Fellowship, Princeton University
2016-2022	Conference Travel & Research Fellowship, Princeton University
2016-2022	Dean’s Grant, Princeton University
2016-2022	University Fellowship, Princeton University
2016	Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania
2011-2015	Benjamin Franklin Scholar, University of Pennsylvania
2011-2015	Penn World Scholar, University of Pennsylvania

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Conferences Organized

2023–Present Duke Annual Workshop on Comparative Philosophy.

2026	Workshop on Varieties Harmony in Ancient Greek and Chinese Philosophy, Apr 16–17.
2025	Northeast Conference on Chinese Thought, Nov 14–15.
2025	Workshop on Interpersonal Harmony in Ancient Greek and Chinese Philosophy, Apr 10–11.
2023	Duke+UNC Ancient Greek Philosophy Workshop, Nov 16–17.
2022–Present	Duke+UNC Ancient Greek Philosophy WIP
2020	Princeton-Penn Plato Workshop, Princeton, Dec 16.
2017-2021	Princeton Classical Philosophy Work-in-progress Series

Papers Presented (Selected)

2026	Moral (Mis) Education in Plato’s <i>Protagoras</i> , Keeling Colloquium, University College London, Sept 9.
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- 2026 *Empeiria* in Plato's *Republic*. West Coast Plato Workshop. May 29.
- 2026 Self Care in Early Plato. Harmony Workshop. Apr 15.
- 2026 Uncovering Self-Care in Plato's *Alcibiades I*, APA Central, Feb 24.
- 2025 The Virtue of Living Together in a City: Civic Moderation in Plato's *Republic*, New York University Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, Oct 10.
- 2025 Uncovering Self-Care in Plato's *Alcibiades I*, West Coast Plato Workshop, May 17.
- 2025 Civic Friendship in Plato's *Republic*, Harmony Workshop, Apr 10.
- 2025 Platonic Curiosity, Duke+UNC Ancient Greek Philosophy Workshop, Mar3.
- 2024 The Root of Political Degeneration, Oxford Workshop on Ancient Philosophy, May 2.
- 2023 Why We Go Wrong Politically: Plato on the Nature and the Root of Political Vice, Duke+UNC Ancient Greek Philosophy Workshop, Nov 16
- 2023 Why We Go Wrong Politically: Plato on the Nature and the Root of Political Vice, Duke Workshop on Comparative Philosophy, May 19.
- 2023 Plato on Political Vice, John Hope Franklin Center, Duke University, Feb 10.
- 2022 The Functional Model of Ignorance, Duke + UNC Ancient Philosophy WIP, Nov 1
- 2022 Ignorance in Plato's *Republic*, Duke University Faculty Colloquium, Sept 29.
- 2022 Ideal Agents in Mozi and Plato, Workshop on Ancient Wisdom and Modern Challenges, Jul 7.
- 2022 Plato on Becoming Vicious, Athena in Action, Jun 28.
- 2020 Self-Knowledge in Aristotle, Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Jan 6.
- 2020 The Fabric of Akrasia: A New Interpretation of the *Protagoras* 351-360, Eastern Division Meeting of American Philosophical Association, Jan 4-6.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Duke University, Sole Instructor (2022–Present)

Chinese Philosophy (Fall 2023)

Comparative Ethics (Graduate seminar, co-taught with Prof. David Wong) (Fall 2023, Spring 2025, Spring 2026)

Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025)

Comparative Ethics and Politics (Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2025)

Graduate Professional Development Seminar (Fall 2025)

Graduate Teaching Seminar (Spring 2026)

Undergraduate Advising

Elle Christensen
Kristofer Arnason
Louisa Elizabeth Pauline Bound
Nina Julie Scheyer

Graduate Advising

Shih-Han Huang (dissertation committee member; thesis defended April 2026)
Botian Liu (dissertation committee member; thesis defended April 2026)
Emily Kluge (dissertation committee member)

Princeton University, Preceptor, 2018-2019

- Introduction to Moral Philosophy (Fall 2019)
- Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology (Spring 2019)
- Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (Spring 2018)

Princeton University, Guest Lecturer, 2018-2019

- Moral Knowledge, Introduction to Moral Philosophy (Fall 2019)
- Plato's Protagoras, Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (Spring 2018)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Service to Profession

Co-director, Duke Center for Comparative Philosophy, 2022–Present

Co-Organizer, Duke + UNC Ancient Greek Philosophy Work in Progress, 2022–Present

Co-Organizer, Princeton-Penn Plato Workshop, 2019

Abstract Reviewer, Ancient Philosophy in Early Modern Europe Conference, Princeton University, 2017

Organizer, Princeton Classical Philosophy Work-in Progress Series, 2017-2022

Referee, Journal of Ancient Philosophy, Ancient Philosophy Today: Dialogoi, Erkenntnis, British Journal of History of Philosophy, Classical Quarterly.

Departmental/University Service

Co-director, The Harmony Lab, 2024–Present

Co-Director, Center for Comparative Philosophy, Duke University, 2022–Present

Chinese/Comparative Philosophy Post-doc Search Committee, Duke University, 2024–2025

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Duke University, 2022–Present

Organizer, Faculty Research Talk, Princeton University, 2017-2018

Classical Philosophy Representative, Princeton University, 2016-2017

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association, 2016-present

Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, 2016-present

International Plato Society, 2019-present

International Society of Socratic Studies, 2020-present

LANGUAGES

Ancient Greek: Advanced reading knowledge

Latin: Advanced reading knowledge

Mandarin Chinese: Native

Classical Chinese: Advanced reading knowledge

French: Intermediate reading and conversational knowledge

Japanese: Intermediate reading and conversational knowledge

REFERENCES

Benjamin Morison
Professor of Philosophy
Princeton University
bmorison@princeton.edu

Mariska Leunissen
Professor of Philosophy
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
mleunissen@unc.edu

David Wong
Susan Fox Beischer and George D. Beischer
Trinity College Arts and Sciences Distinguished
Professor of Philosophy
Duke University
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Cinzia Arruzza
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Professor of Classical Studies
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Melissa Lane
Class of 1943 Professor of Politics
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Hendrik Lorenz
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