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Research and Teaching Interests

Areas of Specialization Ancient Philosophy (Chinese, Greek and Roman), Ethics, Action

Areas of Competence Medieval Ethics, Neo-Confucianism, Kant's Ethics, Bioethics, Social-Political Philosophy, Chinese Buddhism, Literature and Philosophy

Albeit themselves temporally finite (and fit for scientific study) our attitudes seemingly can register the timeless significance of things. Focusing on either the finite or the timelessly significant can inspire radically different norms and explanations for our attitudes. To determine the normative implications, I investigate if or how our pursuits with a view to the timeless should be tempered by concerns about our finitude. To examine how one set of our attitudes can be open to both scientific and rational explanations, I engage in the philosophy of action and free will. To better understand explanation in general, another branch of my work investigates the notion of causality as that by knowing which we have an explanation. Taking a transcultural approach, I draw upon whatever sources or traditions I find most inspiring for my philosophical problems. Some sources important to my research are Mengzi, Zhuangzi, Aristotle, Anselm, G.E.M. Anscombe, and Susan Wolf.

Academic Appointments

<i>Harper-Schmidt Fellow & Collegiate Assistant Professor</i> , University of Chicago	since 2021
<i>Visiting Assistant Professor</i> , Vassar College	2020-21
<i>Adjunct Assistant Professor</i> , Vassar College	2019-20
<i>Visiting Lecturer</i> , University of Pittsburgh	2018-19

Education

Degrees and Certificate

- Ph.D. in Philosophy (Graduate Program in Classics, Philosophy, and Ancient Science), University of Pittsburgh
2018
- Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Classics, UCLA
2010
- B.A. in Philosophy (minor in Greek Studies), UC Berkeley
2008

Other

- Visiting Doctoral Fellow, Universität Leipzig
summer 2016
- Visiting Student Researcher, UC Berkeley
spring 2016
- Visiting Doctoral Student, Universität Potsdam
summer 2015
- Visiting Postgraduate Student, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
summer 2011
- Undergraduate Student to Transfer, Mt. San Antonio College
2003-05

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- “Mengzi’s reception of two all-out externality statements on yi 義.” *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* forthcoming
- “Ethical advance and ethical risk – a Mengzian reflection.” *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 19: 535-558. (<https://rdcu.be/b74FC>) 2020
- “Is human virtue a civic virtue? A reading of Aristotle’s *Politics* 3.4.” In *Aristotle’s Practical Philosophy*, edited by E. Cohen de Lara and R. Brouwer, 93-118. Springer. 2017

In Revision-and-Resubmission

- “[Redacted to facilitate anonymous review.]” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. present

Book Review and Book Note

- Book Review of *Naturalism, Human Flourishing, and Asian Philosophy: Owen Flanagan and Beyond*, edited by B. Seok. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2021
- Book Note of *The Many Moral Rationalisms*, edited by K. Jones and F. Schroeter. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Volume 98 Issue 2, 417. 2020

Refereed Presentations

- “*Flying by Not Having Wings*” – *In and beyond the Zhuangzi*
- Twelfth East-West Philosophers’ Conference, University of Hawai‘I, Honolulu, HI May 2024
 - APA Central Division Meeting, New Orleans, LA Feb 2024
 - Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Toronto May-Jun 2023
 - The 6th Rutgers Workshop on Chinese Philosophy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ Apr 2023
 - APA Eastern Division Meeting, Montreal Jan 2023
- Mengzi’s Reception of Meng Jizi’s All-Out Externality Claim on Jing*
- 18th Annual Midwest Conference on Chinese Thought, Indiana University Bloomington, IN Apr 2024
- What Makes Causes Causes in Aristotle?*
- Marquette Summer Seminar on Aristotle and the Aristotelian Tradition, Marquette University, Milwaukee, MI Jun 2021
 - Society of Ancient Greek Philosophy Annual Meeting, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA Nov 2019
- Is Yi “External” or “Internal”? Mengzi’s Resistance and Reticence*
- APA Eastern Division Meeting, New York City, NY Jan 2021
- Gaozi’s Maxim as a Recipe for the Unwavering Heart*
- APA Eastern Division Meeting, Savannah, GA Jan 2018

Ethical Advance and Ethical Risk – a Mengzian Reflection

- The Bay Area Conference on Chinese Thought, UC Davis, Davis Oct 2017
- Northeast Conference on Chinese Thought
University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT Nov 2016
- APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, IL Mar 2016
- International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
Fordham University, New York City, NY Oct 2015
- Australasian Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy
Conference, University of New South Wales, Sydney Jul 2012

What About Causal Determinism Can Explain Privation of Responsibility?

- Oxford Graduate Student Conference, Oxford Nov 2016
- Florida State University Free Will, Agency, and Moral
Responsibility Graduate Conference, Tallahassee, FL Oct 2016

What is Shown through the Middle Term? – a Reading of Posterior Analytics II.11

- International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy,
Fordham University, New York City, NY Oct 2016
- Marquette Summer Seminar on Aristotle and the Aristotelian
Tradition, Marquette University, Milwaukee, MI Jun 2014

The Stoic Response in de Finibus to the Epicureans’ “Cradle Argument”

- Ancient Philosophy Society 16th Annual Independent Meeting,
Colby College, Portland, ME Apr-May 2016
- International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy,
Fordham University, New York City, NY Oct 2015

Is Human Virtue a Civic Virtue? – a Reading of Aristotle’s Politics III.4

- Expert Meeting on the Relationship between Aristotle’s
Nicomachean Ethics and *Politics*, Amsterdam U. College, Amsterdam Jun 2015

Autonomy in Instrumental Reasoning

- Amsterdam Grad. Phil. Conference, Institute for Logic, Language,
and Computation, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Amsterdam Dec 2011

Invited Presentations*Comments on J. Baird Callicott, “The Topos of Mu and the Predicative Self”*

- Weissbourd Spring Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL May 2023

Comments on Sungwoo Um, “The Boundaries of Honesty and Dishonesty”

- APA Eastern Division Meeting, Montreal Jan 2023

The Mirror-Like Mind and Action as Reflection of Reality in the Zhuangzi

- Workshop: Centrality of Truth
The Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL May 2022
- History of Philosophy Roundtable, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL Mar 2022
- University of Washington, Seattle, WA Feb 2022

The Word huparchein in Aristotle’s Syllogistic

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Philosophy Society 21st Annual Independent Meeting, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA 	Apr 2022
<i>Ways of Being: A Research Overview</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weissbourd Fall Symposium, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 	Oct 2021
<i>Is Yi “External” or “Internal”? Mengzi’s Resistance and Reticence</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics & Value Symposia, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL 	Sep 2021
<i>Ethical Advance and Ethical Risk – A Mengzian Reflection</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL 	Feb 2020
<i>What Makes Causes Causes in Aristotle?</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siena College, Troy, NY 	Nov 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 	Jan 2019
<i>Comments on Michael Szlachta, “The First Movements of the Will and the Intellect: A Puzzle in Thomas Aquinas’ Moral Psychology”</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APA Central Division Meeting, Kansas City, MO 	Mar 2017
<i>Gaozi’s Maxim as a Recipe for the Unwavering Heart</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Conference on Ancient & Medieval Philosophy Fordham University, New York City, NY 	Oct 2016
<i>The Stoic Response in de Finibus to the Epicureans’ “Cradle Argument”</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Lecture Series, Philosophy Club, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 	Apr 2016

Honors and Awards

Dean’s Tuition Scholarship, Dietrich School of A&S, University of Pittsburgh	2018
Rescher Dissertation Fellowship	2018
Nominee for Elizabeth Baranger Excellence in Teaching Award	2017, 18
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Fellowship	2012-13, 15-16
1st Prize, Graduate Essay Competition, Australasian Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy	2012
Chinese Nationality Room Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh	2011
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation First-year Doctoral Fellowship	2010-11
Phi Beta Kappa	2008

Teaching (S = spring; M = summer; F = fall; W = winter)

Instructor of Record at University of Chicago	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, and Transformations III: Comedies</i> 	S 2022, 23, 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, and Transformations II: Tragedies</i> 	W 2022, 23, 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, and Transformations I: Epic Poetry</i> 	F 2021, 2022
Instructor of Record at Hyde Park Institute	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mini Seminar on the Zhuangzi</i> 	S 2023

Instructor of Record at Vassar College

- *Early Chinese Philosophy* F 2019, S 2021
- *Biomedical Ethics in the Pandemic* F 2020, S 2021
- *Medieval Ethics* F 2020
- *Neo-Confucianism and Chinese Buddhism* S 2020
- *Philosophical Questions* S 2020
- *Introduction to Chinese and Japanese Literature* F 2019

Instructor of Record at University of Pittsburgh

- *Introduction to Chinese Philosophy* S 2019
- *Philosophy and Public Issues* F 2018
- *Introduction to Biomedical Ethics* S 2018

Writing Practicum Instructor at University of Pittsburgh

- *Philosophy and Public Issues* (Michael Kessler; Gus Law) F 2013, F 2018
- *Introduction to Political Philosophy* (Japa Pallikkathayil; Greg Strom) S 2014, F 2017

Discussion Section Instructor at University of Pittsburgh

- *Introduction to Existentialism* (Greg Strom; Greg Strom) S 2015, S 2017
- *History of Ancient Philosophy* (Kristen Inglis; Jessica Gelber) F 2011, F 2016
- *Introduction to Ethics* (Michael Thompson) F 2014
- *History of Modern Philosophy* (Anja Jauernig) S 2012

Mentorship

Philosophy Undergraduate Mentoring Program, University of Pittsburgh

- Directed study on free will, agency, and causation 2018-19
- Directed study on early Ruism (i.e. early Confucianism) F 2016

Pedagogy Development

- Workshop: Eli Review, for a Writing-Intensive Hybrid Class, Vassar College Jul 2020
- Workshop: Responsive Curriculum in Times of Crisis, Vassar College Jun 2020
- Achievement in Pedagogy, U. of Pittsburgh's Center for Teaching and Learning Sep 2018
See credential here: <https://credly.com/credit/15717487>
- Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop, American Association of Philosophy Teachers Feb 2017

Professional Service

- Co-Chair, Bernard Weissbourd Symposium Series, University of Chicago 2022-2023
- Editorial Panelist, Special Issue of *Australasian Philosophical Review* 2021-2023
- Reviewer, *Synthese* since 2021
- Reviewer, *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* since 2019

Vice President, Philosophy Graduate Student Body, University of Pittsburgh	2013-14
Organizer, Greek Reading Group, CPAS Program, University of Pittsburgh	2013-15

Dissertation

<i>Free Will as Etiological Self-Sufficiency</i>	John McDowell, Michael Thompson (co-chairs), Stephen Engstrom, Kieran Setiya, Karl Schafer
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Graduate Coursework (*audited)

Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy

- *Hellenistic Ethics*, Gisela Striker*
- *Presocratics*, Christina Hoenig*
- *Aristotle on Norms of Inquiry*, James Lennox
- *Aristotle's Moral Psychology*, Kristen Inglis
- *Understanding Aristotle's Teleology*, Allan Gotthelf and James Lennox
- *Hellenistic Ethics*, James Allen
- *Plato's Parmenides, Phaedrus, & Timaeus*, Ronald Polansky

Action and Ethics

- *Action (independent study)*, Matthias Haase
- *Action (independent study)*, Logi Gunnarsson
- *Action (directed study)*, John McDowell
- *Action, Ethics, and Practical Knowledge*, Michael Thompson*
- *Love and Ethics*, Kieran Setiya
- *Ethics (core)*, Kieran Setiya

Classical Chinese Philosophy, Kant, and Other Areas

- *Xunzi and Research Methodology for Early Chinese Philosophy (directed study)*, Kwong-loi Shun
- *Mengzi (directed study)*, Kwong-loi Shun
- *Kant's Ethics*, Stephen Engstrom
- *Critique of the Power of Judgment*, Andrew Chignell*
- *Kant on Judgment*, Stephen Engstrom*
- *Critique of Pure Reason*, Stephen Engstrom*
- *Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations*, Thomas Ricketts*
- *Logic (core)*, Mark Wilson
- *Metaphysics and Epistemology (core)*, Thomas Ricketts
- *Philosophy of Science (core)*, Edouard Machery

Language Proficiency

Cantonese and Modern Written Chinese (fluent)	Mandarin (proficient)
Classical Chinese (reading)	German (reading; some speaking)
Classical Greek (reading)	Classical Latin (reading)

Professional Affiliations

Action Network (formerly, *Praktisches Denken und gutes Handeln*)
American Association of Philosophy Teachers American Philosophical Association
Association of Chinese Philosophers in America
Chicago Early-Career Research Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy
International Society for Chinese Philosophy
Society of Ancient Greek Philosophy
NY Corridor Ancient Philosophy Reading Group

References

Bryan Van Norden
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John McDowell
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