Waldemar Brys

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
University of Notre Dame Australia
hmbrys@ust.hk

Employment

2025 – present **Research Assistant Professor, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**
At the Division of Humanities

2025 – present **Research Fellow, University of Notre Dame Australia**
In History of Chinese Philosophy at the Centre for the History of Philosophy

Education

2019 – 2024 **PhD in Philosophy, University of New South Wales, Australia**
Thesis title: "Epistemology Enlarged: Knowledge as Practice in Chinese and Western Philosophy"
Funding: Scientia PhD Scholarship

2016 – 2018 **MPhil in Chinese Philosophy, Fudan University, China**
Thesis title: "Zhu Xi's Ontology of Concrete Particulars"
Funding: Chinese Government Scholarship

2014 – 2017 **MA in Philosophy, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany**
Thesis title: "The Affirmative Ideal"

2011 – 2014 **BA in History and Philosophy, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany**
Thesis title: "The Failure of Spartan Foreign Policy"

Publications

Books

2026 *Knowledge-To in Classical Confucianism*, Cambridge University Press.
(Elements in Epistemology Series)
https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009649643

Peer-reviewed journal articles

2026 "Confucian Moral Intuitions without Moral Intuitionism."
Philosophy East & West (Early View)
https://doi.org/10.1353/pew.2025.a982215

2025 "Action-based Benevolence."
European Journal of Philosophy 33 (3): 1154-1169
https://doi.org/10.1111/ejop.13058

"Target-Centred Virtue Ethics: Aristotelian or Confucian?"
Inquiry 68 (10): 4061-4082 (co-authored with Philippe Brunozzi)
https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2023.2220125

"The Difference Between *Ren* and *Yi*: Mengzi's Anti-Guodianism at 6A4-5."
Sophia 64: 345-360
https://doi.org/10.1007/s11841-022-00926-z

"Mengzian Knowledge Practicalism."
British Journal for the History of Philosophy 33 (6): 1430-1447
https://doi.org/10.1080/09608788.2024.2407033

2023 "Virtuous Actions in the Mengzi."
British Journal for the History of Philosophy 31 (1): 2-22
https://doi.org/10.1080/09608788.2022.2101431

"Extending Kindness: A Confucian Account."
Pacific Philosophical Quarterly 104 (3): 511-528
https://doi.org/10.1111/papq.12429

Book chapters (peer-reviewed)

forth. "Moral Intuitions in the *Mencius*." In *The Handbook of Intuitions: Perspectives from Global Philosophy*, edited by D. Bordonaba-Plou, A. Q. Ahmed, A. Arana, M. Gorisse, G. Heinzmann, L. Indraccolo, and J. Kaukua. Cham: Springer.
(accepted and in-print)

2025 "Knowing-to in Wang Yangming." In *Oxford Handbook of Chinese Philosophy*, edited by Justin Tiwald, pp. 415-431. New York: Oxford University Press.
https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199945498.013.0031

2024 "Zhuangzi's "Difference Stories" and Patient Moral Relativism." In *Ethics in the Zhuangzi: Dialogues on the State of the Field*, edited by Huang Yong and Hu Xiangnong, pp. 65-76. Cham: Springer.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-69804-0_4

2023 "Epistemology in the *Mencius*." In *Dao Companion to the Philosophy of Mencius*, edited by Yang Xiao and Kim-chong Chong, pp. 491-514. Cham: Springer.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-27620-0_25

2022 "The Epistemology of Mengzian Extension." In *Knowers and Knowledge in East-West Philosophy*, edited by Karyn L. Lai, 43-62. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-79349-4_3

Book reviews

2023 "Doing What You Really Want: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Mengzi." *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 31 (1): 137-140. https://doi.org/10.1080/09608788.2022.2121263

Other

2026 "孟子与后果主义: 孟子伦理思想的理论形态之争." *Journal of Guangxi Normal University* 62 (5): 195-210 https://doi.org/10.16088/j.issn.1001-6597.2026.05.016 (co-authored with Hu Xiangnong, Huang Yong, Zang Yong, Fang Xudong, Bryan Van Norden, Li Yong, Fan Ruiping, and Bai Tongdong)

2025 "Mengzi on Knowledge and Epistemic Virtue." In *The Blackwell Companion to Epistemology*, 3rd ed., edited by Ernest Sosa, Jonathan Dancy, Matthias Steup, and Kurt Sylvan, pp. 477-479. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell. https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119757832.ch70

Grants

2026 Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, University Grants Committee
General Research Fund (GRF)
Project Title: Confucian Intellectual Virtue and Exemplary Rulership
Fund Approved: 102,000 $HKD

Scholarships and Awards

2023 UNSW HDR Research Output Award 2023
$650 award for having published research in a Q1 journal

2022 UNSW HDR Research Output Award 2022
$650 award for having published research in a Q1 journal

2021 UNSW HDR Research Output Award 2021
$500 award for having published research as a book chapter

2019 UNSW Scientia PhD Scholarship
Prestigious and competitive scholarship that provides selected candidates with full doctoral funding, additional Career Development Funds, and a high level of support by inculcating them with skills in research excellence and academic leadership

Travel Grant of the Freie Universität Berlin
Awarded for conference travel

2016 Chinese Government Scholarship
Full Mphil funding (2016-2018)

Event Organization

2026 Book Symposium on Michael Beaney's "The Joy of Chinese Philosophy"
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HKSAR

Book Symposium on Jenny Hung's "Between Buddha-nature and Emptiness"
University of Notre Dame Australia, Australia

Conference Presentations

2026 UNSW Philosophy Seminar, UNSW, Australia
"Mencian Benevolence and Affective Dispositions"

Doing Philosophy Historically Workshop, UNSW, Australia
"Reconstructing Arguments from Compilations of Texts"

Ethics in Chinese Philosophy Conference, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HKSAR
"Mencius and the Capacity for Becoming Good"

2025 Mengzi and Consequentialism Workshop, Fudan University, China
"Consequentialism in the *Mengzi*"

University of Sydney Philosophy Seminar Series, University of Sydney, Australia
"Early Confucianism and Knowledge-to"

2024 Wuhan-UNSW Postgraduate Workshop, UNSW, Australia
"Mengzian Knowledge Practicalism"

2023 Annual Conference of the British Society for the History of Philosophy, University of Aberdeen, UK
"Mengzian Knowledge Practicalism"

Dialogues on the States of the Field: Ethics in the Zhuangzi, Chinese University of Hong Kong, China
"Zhuangzi is not a Moralist"

2022 22. International Conference of the ISCP, East China Normal University, China
"The Practicality of Mengzian Intellectual Virtue"

Annual Conference of the British Society for the History of Philosophy, University of Edinburgh, UK
"Translating Epistemic Terms in Zhu Xi"

2022 APA Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
"Benevolent Agency in the *Mengzi* and the Problem of 2A5"

2021 International Society of East Asian Philosophy Conference, Meiji University, Japan
"Virtuous Actions in the Mengzi"

2020 HAL Postgraduate Conference, UNSW, Australia
"Dealing with Ancient Texts: Historical vs Rational Reconstruction"

2019 International Conference on Justice and Progress, Fudan University, China
"Is Confucianism Globally Viable? Mengzi and Gaozi on Impartiality and Differentiated Care"

2018 12. International Conference on Daoist Studies, Beijing Normal University, China
"Zhuangzi is not a Skeptic"

2017 3. International Symposium of the Yearbook for Eastern and Western Philosophy, Southwest Minzu University, Chengdu, China
"Mengzi and Innate Moral Dispositions"

2016 3. Forum Junger Nietzscheforschung, Kolleg Friedrich Nietzsche, Weimar, Germany
"Lebensbejahung als Gegenideal"

2015 21. International Conference of the Friedrich Nietzsche Society, University of Hull, UK
"Eternal Recurrence as a Nietzschean Ideal"

Zagreb Applied Ethics Conference 2015, Zagreb, Croatia
"Global Ethics: In Search of Alternatives"

52. Ethics Conference of the Societas Ethica, University of Linköping, Sweden
"Virtue Ethics as a Global Ethics"

KCL Graduate Philosophy Workshop, King's College London, UK
"The Eternal Recurrence and Life Affirmation"

Courses Taught

2026 Spring Introduction to Moral Philosophy, HKUST

Misc. Teaching

2025 Guest Lecture on Confucian Ethics, University of Sydney

2021 Teaching Assistant (Casual Academic) for Chinese Philosophy (ARTS2363), UNSW
Role: Primary responsibilities related to assessment

2019 Teaching Assistant (Casual Academic) for Chinese Philosophy (ARTS2363), UNSW
Role: Primary responsibilities related to assessment

2017 Teaching Support for a class on Mengzi, Fudan University, China
Role: Designed the syllabus for a postgraduate course on Mengzi, taught by Prof. Xu Bo

Peer-review

2026 Referee for: *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*
Humanities & Social Sciences Communications
NCN, National Science Centre, Poland (Grant review)
Australasian Journal of Philosophy
Ergo
Philosophy East & West x2
Dao
Philosophy
Religions
Journal of Contemporary Chinese Philosophy

2025 Referee for: *Dao*
The Journal of Value Inquiry
Philosophy Compass
Philosophy East & West x2
British Journal for the History of Philosophy
Philosophy x2
Asian Journal of Philosophy
Comparative Political Theory Metaphysics

2024 Referee for: *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* x2
Australasian Journal of Philosophy
HTS Theological Studies
Dao
Acta Analytica
Journal of Confucian Philosophy and Culture

2023 Referee for: *Dao*
British Journal for the History of Philosophy
Humanities & Social Sciences Communications
Australasian Journal of Philosophy

2022 Referee for: *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*
Philosophers' imprint

2020 Referee for: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
Sophia

Misc. Academic Employment

2025 Research Assistant (Causal Academic) to Prof. Markos Valaris, UNSW
Task: Writing the index for Prof. Valaris's book manuscript

2024 Event Assistant (Casual Academic) under Prof. Markos Valaris, UNSW
Task: Assist in organizing the conference 'Knowledge and Action'

2021 Research Officer (Casual Academic) to Prof. David Bronstein, UNSW
Task: Work through medieval Aristotle commentaries written in Latin

2020 Research Assistant (Casual Academic) to Prof. David Bronstein, UNSW
Task: Work through secondary literature in German on Aristotle's Posterior Analytics

Languages

Modern: **German** and **Polish** (native)
English (8.5 IELTS)
Mandarin Chinese (intermediate)

Ancient: **Ancient Greek** (Awarded "Graecum" for passing the German state exams in 2016)
Latin (Awarded "Latinum" for passing the German state exams in 2013)
Classical Chinese

Referees

Prof. Karyn Lai
University of New South Wales
Department of Humanities and Languages
326 Morven Brown
k.lai@unsw.edu.au

Prof. Stephen Hetherington
University of New South Wales
Department of Humanities and Languages
337 Morven Brown
s.hetherington@unsw.edu.au

Prof. Huang Yong
Fudan University
School of Philosophy
220 Handan Road
Yangpu District, 200433 Shanghai, China
yonghuang@fudan.edu.cn

Updated: 14/11/2026