

# Xingding Liu 劉星鼎

Email: [xingding.liu@unsw.edu.au](mailto:xingding.liu@unsw.edu.au) | Web: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/hdr/xingding-liu> | ORCID: 0009-0007-3722-3215

## Profile

Philosopher specialising in **Daoist philosophy**, the history of philosophy, and the philosophy of language. **PhD programme fully funded** by a University International Postgraduate Award. **Three publications** across a **Q1 Anglophone journal** (AHCI) and two prestigious Sinophone journals, one Q1 publication forthcoming, one paper under review, and multiple papers in final preparation. Two **solicited book reviews** for leading journals in comparative and Chinese philosophy (one published). Active **peer reviewer** for Q1 journals (AHCI & SSCI). Teaching experience across two UNSW courses: introductory philosophy and Chinese philosophy, with two **invited lectures** at China University of Political Science and Law (2024, forthcoming 2026). Selected as **British Society for the History of Philosophy Ambassador** (2026–2027), working on an international forum on cross-cultural methodology.

## Research Interests

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| Areas of specialization | Daoist philosophy; History of philosophy; Philosophy of language in early Medieval China |
| Areas of competence     | Philosophical methodology; Confucian ethics; Philosophy of historiography                |

## Education

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| From Jan. 2024 | <p><b>Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy, University of New South Wales, Sydney</b></p> <p><i>Dissertation topic:</i> Applies philosophy-of-language methodology to the analysis of key philosophical terms in Xuanxue (玄學), the most philosophically systematic reception and development of Daoist thought in early medieval China, demonstrating how early medieval Chinese thought can offer productive resources for philosophical questions on naming and meaning in ways accessible to the wider, non-Sinophone history of philosophy.</p> <p><i>Supervisors:</i> Professor Karyn Lai (Primary, UNSW), Professor Yi Zheng (UNSW), and Doctor Qin Liu (Wuhan University)</p> <p><i>Full funding:</i> University International Postgraduate Awards (UIPA) by UNSW</p> <p><i>Awards:</i> HDR Research Output Award (Q1 tier, Faculty ADA, UNSW, 2026)</p> |
| 2020–2023      | <p><b>Master of Philosophy, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing</b></p> <p><i>Academic record:</i> Average score: 93 (Ranking 1<sup>st</sup>)</p> <p><i>Dissertation title:</i> Sagely virtues and sageliness (<i>sheng</i> 聖): Revisiting the relationship between the <i>Five Conducts</i> and the <i>Mencius</i> (“Exceptional Dissertation” by the International Confucian Academy at CUPL)</p> <p><i>Thesis advisor:</i> Professor Xuezhi Zhang (Peking University)</p> <p><i>Awards:</i> President’s Scholarship of CUPL (~0.06%); National Scholarship for Postgraduates (~1.25%); 1<sup>st</sup> Class Academic Scholarship (~10%)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2016–2020      | <p><b>Bachelor of Philosophy, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## Publications

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| Research articles     | 2026        | “Xuanxue's 玄學 Ongoing Evolution: Thinking with Wang Bi's Name-Actuality Dialectic.” <i>Asian Philosophy</i> ahead-of-print: 1–19.<br><a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/09552367.2025.2610932">https://doi.org/10.1080/09552367.2025.2610932</a> <b>AHCI; SJR Q1.</b>                                                                                                              |
|                       | 2025        | “Good Governance and Good Teaching: An Interpretative Model of Mencius' Sage Stories and Ideal Political Paragons 「善政」與「善教」:《孟子》聖人故事與理想政治的一種闡釋模式.” <i>Legein Monthly 鵲湖月刊</i> 600: 36–49.<br><a href="https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.16209879">https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.16209879</a>                                                                                       |
|                       | 2024        | (Co-authored as first author with the late Professor <b>Chung-ying Cheng</b> , University of Hawaii at Manoa) “An Onto-hermeneutic Analysis of ‘Jinsheng Yuzhen’ in the Warring States Period 對戰國儒家金聲玉振概念的本體詮釋.” <i>Philosophical Analysis 哲學分析</i> 15(4): 43–56. <b>Chinese Social Sciences Citation Index</b> (CSSCI, the premier index for high-impact scholarship in China). |
|                       | Forthcoming | “How to Name the Nameless: A Typological Analysis of Signifiers in Wang Bi's Philosophy of Language.” <i>Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy</i> . <b>AHCI; SJR Q1. Forthcoming.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Critical Book reviews | 2026        | Review of Zhang Xuezhi 張學智, <i>Wang Fuzhi's Study on the Classics 王夫之的經學世界</i> . <i>Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy</i> . ahead-of-print.<br><a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s11712-026-10067-6">https://doi.org/10.1007/s11712-026-10067-6</a> <b>AHCI; SJR Q1.</b>                                                                                                   |

## Selected Conference Presentations

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| 2026 | • “Poetries of Nature between Italy and China Workshop: Towards a Symbiocenic Humanism,” “Xuanxue, Buddhism, and Nature in the Poetry of Zhi Daolin and Xie Lingyun” (collaborated with Dr. Yu Sang, a lecturer at the University of Sydney), University of Sydney, Sydney.              |
|      | • “Doing Philosophy Historically” Workshop, “Words that are not representational media: A usage-based view of language and meaning in the Xuanxue 玄學 corpus,” UNSW, Sydney.                                                                                                              |
|      | • British Society for the History of Philosophy Annual Conference, “How to name the nameless: A typological analysis of signifiers in Wang Bi's philosophy of language,” King's College London, London.                                                                                  |
| 2025 | • Australasian Philosophy Postgraduate Conference (APPC), “How to Name the Nameless Dao: A Linguistic Analysis of Wang Bi's Idea on Names,” University of Tasmania, Hobart.                                                                                                              |
|      | • Philosophy HDR Workshop (Wuhan-USyd-UNSW), “Wandering Between Illusion and Reality: ‘Jingjie 境界-Based’ Interpretation of the Real and the Illusory in Black Myth: Wukong” (collaborated with Kai Wang 王開, PhD candidate, University of Sydney), University of New South Wales, Sydney. |
|      | • ECNU International Graduate Conference of Philosophy, “Treating Xuanxue 玄學 as an Evolving Project: Methodological Reflections,” East China Normal University, Shanghai.                                                                                                                |

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| 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sixth Workshop of the “Jigu” (稽古) Series on Chinese Philosophy, “A New Interpretation of the Warring States Concept of ‘Jinsheng Yuzhen’ 金聲玉振: Integrating Virtue, Presenting <i>Benti</i> 本體,” Peking University, Beijing.</li> <li>• Wuhan-UNSW Graduate Student Philosophy Workshop, “How is Neo-Daoist ‘Sageliness Within and Kingliness Without’ Possible: Ouyang Jian's 歐陽建 Practical Insights on the Words-Meaning Debate,” University of New South Wales, Sydney.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zhejiang University National Doctoral Forum on Future Philosophy, “‘Good Governance’ (善政) and ‘Good Teaching’ (善教): An Interpretative Model of Mencius’ Sage Stories and Ideal Political Paragons” (Revised), Zhejiang University, Hangzhou.</li> <li>• International Philosophy Summer School at Fudan, Shanghai, Fudan University, Shanghai.</li> <li>• ATI Summer Seminar in Asian Philosophy and Scholasticism, “What roles could practical reasoning specifically have in self-transformation and the cultivation of virtues/vices? Is there a connection?” Thomistic Institute at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome.</li> <li>• International Confucian Association’s 2023 “Youth Academic Salon,” “‘Good Governance’ (善政) and ‘Good Teaching’ (善教): Examining the Sequence of Sages in the Mencius from a Political Context,” China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing.</li> <li>• The Second “Qing Bei Ren Shi” Joint Philosophy Graduate Student Academic Forum, “The Changing Meaning and <i>Jingjie</i> 境界 Spheres of the Concept of Sheng in the <i>Wu Xing</i> 五行” (Revised), Tsinghua University, Beijing.</li> </ul> |

### University Teaching

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| <b>Tutor of <i>Mind, Ethics, and Freedom: Introduction to Philosophy</i> (ARTS1361)</b><br>Feb. 2026–May 2026<br>School of Humanities & Languages, UNSW, Sydney | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Designed</b> tutorial content and supplementary handouts.</li> <li>- Engaged a <b>culturally and educationally diverse first-year cohort</b> of 90+ students across multiple tutorial groups in a large class with 200+ enrolments.</li> <li>- Led <b>3 one-hour tutorials</b> each week for an entire term.</li> <li>- Marked <b>88 critical analysis essays</b>, and handled special considerations and academic integrity cases.</li> <li>- Collaborated with three fellow tutors under the direction of Course Convenor Associate Professor Markos Valaris.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Grading Tutor of <i>Chinese Philosophy</i> (ARTS2363)</b><br>Sep. 2025–Dec. 2025<br>School of Humanities & Languages, UNSW, Sydney                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluated and graded essays.</li> <li>- Provided detailed, constructive feedback.</li> <li>- Applied rigorous academic standards to ensure consistent and equitable assessment.</li> <li>- Collaborated with the Course Convenor, Professor Karyn Lai, to uphold the pedagogical goals of the course.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

### Academic Leadership and Professional Service

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### British Society for the History of Philosophy Ambassador

2026–2027

British Society for the History of Philosophy, London

- Selected as one of **five** BSHP Ambassadors (2026–2027) through a competitive selection process.
- Working closely with the **BSHP Management Committee**.
- Fostering engagement between the BSHP and research communities across Australasia and East Asia, with particular emphasis on **cross-cultural philosophical methodology**.

### Organiser & Chair of BSHP Workshop: Generalisation and De-reification: Cross-Cultural History of Philosophy in East Asia and Beyond

November 2026

(Forthcoming, online)

BSHP, London

- Organising an international BSHP workshop on cross-cultural methodology in the history of philosophy.
- Developing the workshop programme in consultation with members of the BSHP Management Committee.
- Coordinating invited speakers and commentators working in Chinese, Japanese, Buddhist, and comparative philosophy.
- Managing event logistics, scheduling, publicity, and participant communication.
- Chairing workshop sessions and facilitating scholarly discussion across philosophical traditions.

### Conference Chair of ADA Higher Degree Research Conference

2025

Faculty of Arts, Design, and Architecture, UNSW, Sydney

- Chaired the organising committee of the 2025 ADA HDR Conference.
- Organised a faculty-wide event showcasing original research from **50 HDR students** to over **100 attendees** across the humanities, social sciences, built environment, and environmental humanities.
- Managed a budget of **~A\$5,000**.
- Served as primary liaison to internal and external stakeholders.

### Co-Founder & Chair of Jigu Workshop Series on Chinese Philosophy

2021–2024

International Confucian Academy, CUPL, Beijing

- **Co-founded and chaired** the Jigu (稽古) Workshop Series on Chinese and comparative philosophy (Workshops 1–6).
- Engaged institutional partners including the **International Confucian Association** and the Department of Philosophy at **Peking University**.
- Engaged over **80** postgraduate participants from international universities.
- The Series has **continued independently**, with the 7th workshop completed in 2025 and the 8th in preparation for 2026.

## Other Research Activity

Peer review 2024–2026

2026

*Sophia* (Springer Nature) (AHCI; SJR Q1)

*Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* (Springer Nature) (AHCI&SSCI; SJR Q1)

Roundtable moderation 2025

“Silence in Early Chinese Thought,” **12<sup>th</sup> Roundtable of Collaborative Learning (四海為學) Program** (Online), East China Normal University, Shanghai.

Discussants: Professor Dirk Meyer (Oxford University), Professor Ai Yuan 袁艾 (Tsinghua University), and Professor Lisa Indraco (Tallinn University)

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| Invited lectures                  | 2026      | Invited lecture, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing. <b>Forthcoming</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                   | 2024      | “Good Governance (善政) and Good Teaching (善教): An Interpretative Model of Mencius' Sage Stories and Ideal Political Paragons,” <b>13<sup>th</sup> Chuanxi (傳習) Alumni Forum Series</b> , China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing.<br>Discussant: Professor Chunying Li (CUPL)                                                                                                                                             |
| Research assistance               | 2023–2024 | Assisted late Professor <b>Chung-ying Cheng</b> (University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA) in research tasks, including recording and proofreading over <b>ten articles</b> and <b>six book drafts in English and Chinese</b> , communicating with publishers, and drafting presentation manuscripts, emails, and documentation. <b>Co-authored</b> and published a paper with Professor Cheng in a prestigious CSSCI journal (listed above). |
| Academic essay/paper competitions | 2022      | 4 <sup>th</sup> Xinming (新命) Philosophy Essay Competition, China University of Political Science and Law, The Second Prize ( <b>Highest among all postgraduate candidates</b> ).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                   | 2021      | 18 <sup>th</sup> Academic Newcomer Thesis Competition, China University of Political Science and Law, “Academic Newcomer” Award (Highest award, <b>11 winners university-wide, the only winner in philosophy</b> ).                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

### Grants and Funded Projects

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| 2026      | Development and Research Training Grant (DRTG), Graduate Research School, UNSW                                                                               |
| 2025      | ADA HDR Essential Costs of Research Funding Scheme, Faculty of Arts, Design, and Architecture, UNSW                                                          |
|           | Development and Research Training Grant (DRTG), Graduate Research School, UNSW                                                                               |
| 2022–2023 | “Revisiting the Relationship between the Five Conducts and the Mencius,” Master’s Degree Thesis Grant Project, project leader, CUPL                          |
| 2021–2022 | “Utilitarian Breakthrough: Taking the Concept of ‘Public Interest’ as an Opportunity,” Master’s Innovation Practice Funding Project, Major Participant, CUPL |
| 2020–2021 | “A Study about “the Others” in Kant’s <i>What is enlightenment?</i> ” Master’s Innovation Practice Funding Project, Project Leader, CUPL                     |

### Languages, Skills, and Public Engagement

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| Languages                          | Chinese (Mandarin): Native proficiency                                                                                                 |
|                                    | English: Fully professional proficiency                                                                                                |
| Technical skills                   | Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint): proficiency                                                                          |
|                                    | Adobe Photoshop: proficiency                                                                                                           |
|                                    | Notion: proficiency                                                                                                                    |
| Social media and public engagement | Manage an academic profile on Rednote (小紅書) with over <b>1,300</b> followers among Chinese postgraduates and early-career researchers. |