

Taro Okamura

Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Letters, Doshisha University
Kyoto, Japan | tokamura@mail.doshisha.ac.jp
researchmap.jp/okamurataro | philpeople.org/profiles/taro-okamura

Academic Appointments

- 2026–present Assistant Professor (tenured), Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Letters, Doshisha University.
- 2025–2026 Program-Specific Lecturer, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University.
- 2022–2025 JSPS Postdoctoral Research Fellow (PD), Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, University of Tokyo.
- 2015–2016 JSPS Research Fellow (DC2), Kyoto University.

Education

- 2022 Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Alberta (2016–2022).
Dissertation: *Hume’s Epistemic Sentimentalism*.
Supervisor: Amy Schmitter. Committee: Jennifer Welchman, Howard Nye, Ingo Brigandt, and Karl Schafer (external examiner).
- 2014–2019 Doctoral studies in Philosophy, Kyoto University.
- 2015–2016 Visiting Student, University of Toronto.
- 2014 M.A. in Philosophy, Kyoto University (2012–2014).
- 2011 B.A., International Christian University (2007–2011).

Honors and Awards

- 2024 Encouragement Award, ICU Philosophy Association.
- 2023 Hume Studies Essay Prize, for “Hume’s Passion-Based Account of Moral Responsibility.”
- 2022 Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Teaching Award, University of Alberta.
- 2019 Andrew Stewart Memorial Graduate Prize, University of Alberta.
- 2018 Kessler Prize, Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta.
- 2016 Hume Society Young Scholar Award.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

2025. “Reason in Tranquility: Hume’s Critique of Superstition.” *The Philosophical Quarterly*, advance online publication, pqaf085. doi:10.1093/pq/pqaf085.
2024. “Hume’s Constitutivist Response to Scepticism.” *Ergo: An Open Access Journal of Philosophy* 11: 349–372. doi:10.3998/ergo.5718.
2024. “Why Non-Philosophers Do Philosophize.” *Tetsugaku Kenkyu* 612: 91–116. [In Japanese.]
2023. “Hume’s Passion-Based Account of Moral Responsibility.” *Hume Studies* 48(2): 195–216. doi:10.1353/hms.2023.a910742. Hume Studies Essay Prize.
2019. “Hume on Distinctions of Reason: A Resemblance-First Interpretation.” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 97(3): 423–436. doi:10.1080/00048402.2018.1529047.
2016. “What Kind of Intentionality Does Pride Have?” *Igrisu Tetsugaku Kenkyu* 39: 51–65. [In Japanese.]
2013. “The Place of the ‘Self of the Passions’ in Hume.” *Tetsugaku Ronso* 40: 46–57. [In Japanese.]
2012. “‘The Ownership of Perception’ Problem in Hume’s Theory of the Self.” *Tetsugaku Ronso* 39: 63–74. [In Japanese.]

Other Publications and Book Reviews

2026. Review of David Hume, *The History of England*, vols. I–II. *Shukan Dokushojin*. [In Japanese.]
2025. With Takeshi Kato. “Passersby WE and Coexistent WE: Characteristics from Network Model Perspective.” Kyoto University Research Information Repository, 1–14. [In Japanese.]
2013. Review of Galen Strawson, *The Evident Connexion: Hume on Personal Identity*. *Tetsugaku Ronso* 40, supplementary volume: 13–16. [In Japanese.]

Research Grants

- 2025–2027 Principal Investigator, “The Theoretical Foundations of Hume’s Critique of Religion.” JSPS KAKENHI, Research Activity Start-up. July 2025–March 2027.
- 2024–2027 Co-Investigator, “Developing a New Postmodern Conception of the Self to Overcome Dystopia.” JSPS KAKENHI, Transformative Research Areas (B). PI: Yasuo Deguchi. April 2024–March 2027.
- 2022–2025 Principal Investigator, “Sentimentalist Constitutivism about Normativity.” JSPS KAKENHI, Grant-in-Aid for JSPS Fellows. April 2022–March 2025.
- 2015–2016 Principal Investigator, “Hume’s Model of Self-Knowledge and Its Contemporary Development.” JSPS KAKENHI, Grant-in-Aid for JSPS Fellows. April 2015–August 2016.

Presentations and Commentaries

- July 2026 “Pleasant Passions and Autonomy in Hume’s Critique of Superstition.” 52nd International Hume Conference.
- Mar. 2026 “On the Relationship between Hume’s Theoretical and Practical Philosophy.” 50th Anniversary Symposium, Japanese Society for British Philosophy. [In Japanese.]
- Feb. 2026 “Emotion and Authenticity.” Dystopia Ethics Project Meeting, FY2025. [In Japanese.]
- Sept. 2025 “The Involvement of the Self in Consensus Formation.” Workshop on Transdisciplinary Approaches and ELSI in the Digital Transformation of Public Spaces, Japan Association for the Contemporary and Applied Philosophy. [In Japanese.]
- July 2025 With Ryo Tanaka. “A Genealogical Approach to Self-Transformation.” Dystopia Ethics Research Seminar. [In Japanese.]
- Feb. 2025 Comments on James Simpson, “It Is Easy to Derive an Ought from an Is.” American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, online.
- Jan. 2024 “Hume on the Reasons to Do Philosophy.” Kyoto Hegel Reading Group, Kyoto, Japan. [In Japanese.]
- July 2023 “The Place of Virtue in Hume’s Sceptical Crisis.” 49th International Hume Conference, Provo, USA.
- Mar. 2023 “Hume’s Epistemology and the Notion of Virtue.” Special Open Lecture, Institute for the Study of Christianity and Culture, International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan.
- Oct. 2022 Comments on Charles Goldhaber, “Hume’s Skeptical Philosophy and the Moderation of Pride.” Early Moderns on the Power of Philosophy Workshop, Dublin, Ireland. (Invited.)
- Aug. 2022 “How Does Virtue Contribute to Resolving Scepticism?” Hume Colloquium, Tokyo, Japan. [In Japanese.]
- Mar. 2022 “Truth-Sensitivity of Hume’s Naturalistic Epistemology.” ICU/ISSP Conference on Political Economy in the Scottish Enlightenment, online. (Refereed.)
- Jan. 2022 “Truth-Sensitivity of Hume’s Naturalistic Epistemology.” American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, online. (Refereed.)
- July 2021 “Hume’s Passion-Based Account of Agency.” 47th International Hume Conference, online. (Refereed.)
- June 2021 “Truth-Sensitivity of Hume’s Naturalistic Epistemology.” Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress, online. (Refereed.)
- Apr. 2021 “Personal Identity and the Normativity of Reason in Hume’s ‘Conclusion’.” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, online. (Refereed.)
- Mar. 2021 “Personal Identity and the Normativity of Reason in Hume’s ‘Conclusion’.” 45th Japanese Society for British Philosophy Conference, online. (Refereed.)

Presentations and Commentaries (continued)

- Dec. 2020 “Hume’s Passion-Based Account of Agency.” 10th New York City Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy. (Refereed.)
- Aug. 2020 “Hume’s Passion-Based Account of Agency.” University of Pennsylvania’s Virtual Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, online. (Refereed.)
- Oct. 2019 “Hume on the Inertness of Belief.” Central States Philosophical Association Conference, St. Louis, USA. (Refereed.)
- May 2019 “Does the Phenomenology of Belief Aim at Truth?” 78th Philosophical Association of Japan Conference, Tokyo, Japan. (Refereed.)
- Nov. 2018 “Does the Vivacity of Belief Aim at Truth?” Philosophy Student Publication Support Group, Edmonton, Canada.
- Oct. 2018 Comments on Donald Oxtoby, “Berkeley on the Auditory Perception of Space.” 55th Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference, Calgary, Canada. (Invited.)
- Apr. 2017 Comments on Andreh Sabino Ribeiro, “Hume on Sentiments in the ‘Treatise’.” University of Alberta Graduate and Postgraduate Conference, Edmonton, Canada. (Invited.)
- Oct. 2016 “The Place of the Passions in Hume’s Notion of the Self.” 53rd Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference, Edmonton, Canada. (Refereed.)
- July 2016 “Hume on Distinctions of Reason: A Resemblance-First Interpretation.” 43rd International Hume Conference, Sydney, Australia. (Refereed.)
- July 2015 “What Kind of Intentionality Does Pride Have?” Kansai Branch Meeting, Japanese Society for British Philosophy, Kyoto, Japan. [In Japanese.]
- Mar. 2015 With Kazuhiro Watanabe. “On the Notion of Self: Hume and Asian Thoughts.” Second Annual NUS–National Chengchi University–Kyoto University Triangular Graduate Conference on Asian Philosophy, Singapore.
- Oct. 2014 “Hume on the Self and Abstraction.” Kansai Philosophical Association Conference, Hyogo, Japan. [In Japanese.] (Refereed.)
- Sept. 2013 “Hume on Skepticism and Personhood.” Hume Colloquium, Nagoya, Japan. [In Japanese.]
- June 2013 “Substantiating Moral Capacity in P. F. Strawson.” Workshop on Free Will and Strawson’s Reactive Attitudes, Japan Association for Philosophy of Science, Osaka, Japan. [In Japanese.]
- Nov. 2012 “The Self as an Abstract Idea in Hume.” History of British Philosophy Colloquium, Kyoto, Japan. [In Japanese.] (Invited.)
- July 2012 “The Ownership of Perception Problem in Hume.” Young Philosophers Forum, Tokyo, Japan. [In Japanese.]

Teaching Experience

Principal Instructor

- 2026–present Doshisha University: History of Western Ethics; Ethics; Readings in English Philosophical Texts; Humanities Seminar; Philosophy Seminars I and II.
- 2025–2026 Kyoto University: Philosophy Seminars I and II; Special Lectures in Philosophy.
- 2024 Toyo Gakuen University: Contemporary Anglo-American Culture (Spring).
- 2022 Eikei University of Hiroshima: Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics (Fall).
- 2021 University of Alberta: Introduction to Philosophy: Value and Society (Winter).
- 2020 University of Alberta: Descartes to Hume (Winter).

Additional teaching: English, Kogakuin University.

Teaching Assistant / Discussion Instructor

- 2017–2019 University of Alberta: Introduction to Philosophy: Values and Society (Fall 2017, Fall 2018); Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality (Winter 2019). Led and graded discussion sections of approximately 25 students.
- 2014–2015 Kyoto University, Faculty of Letters: Teaching Assistant (October–February).

Professional Service

Referee: Cambridge University Press; *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*; *Mind*; *The Philosophical Quarterly*; *Hume Studies*; International Hume Conference; University of Alberta Graduate and Postgraduate Conference.

- 2023–2024 Election Committee, Japanese Society for British Philosophy.
- 2019–2020 Conference Program Committee, University of Alberta Graduate and Postgraduate Conference.
- 2018–2019 Alternate Departmental Representative, Graduate Students' Association Council, University of Alberta.

Additional Fellowships and Academic Development

- 2022 Summer Program, Center for Canon Expansion and Change, University of Minnesota.
- 2017–2022 Graduate Assistantship, University of Alberta.
- 2016–2022 Doctoral Fellowship, Japan Student Services Organization.
- 2017 Teaching Assistant Training, Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta.
- 2016 International Conference Travel Grant, Kyoto University Foundation.
- 2015 Balzan Styles of Reasoning Visiting Fellowship, University of Toronto.

Professional Memberships and Outreach

The Hume Society; Japanese Society for British Philosophy; Philosophical Association of Japan; Hume Colloquium (Japan).

Philosophy lectures at Osaka Prefectural Ibaraki High School (July 2025) and Osaka Prefectural Tennoji High School (May 2025).