Lokchun K. Gustin LAW

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Research and Teaching Interests

AOS Ancient Philosophy (Chinese & Greco-Roman), Moral Psychology, Action

AOC Chinese Buddhism, Neo-Confucianism, Medieval Ethics, Bioethics, Social-Political Philosophy

Till my death, I am changing, and I am not indifferent to *how* I change as a thing in progress. I also appear to exercise some power over myself and my life – they seem to be a *work* in progress. But my power is limited: the world often proves uncooperative; besides, my preferences may be imperfect, so that what I envision to be the ideal itinerary may in fact be poor voyaging. I cannot just will these two kinds of limitations away. Because the ship of change that is me is already at sea, this work in progress is specifically a Neurath's ship in progress: if I can work on my imperfect or ever-changing self at all, I can do so only while also relying on it. Accordingly, my research progresses largely on three fronts: understanding change, finding hope despite the limitations, and questioning voyage-optimization. Some sources of special significance to my thinking are Mencius, the *Zhuangzi*/*Chuangtzu*, Aristotle, Anselm of Canterbury, Iris Murdoch, and G.E.M. Anscombe.

Academic Appointments

Research Associate, Department of Philosophy, Duke University	since 2025
Associate Director, Duke Center for Comparative Philosophy, Duke University	since 2025
Harper-Schmidt Fellow & Collegiate Assistant Professor, University of Chicago	2021-25
Visiting Assistant Professor, Vassar College	2020-21
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Vassar College	2019-20
Visiting Lecturer, 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
- Mount San Antonio College (before transferring to UC Berkeley) — 2003-2005

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"Aristotle's Final-Causal Syllogistic in *Posterior Analytics* 2.11." *Revue de philosophie ancienne*. forthcoming

"Mengzi's reception of two all-out externality statements on *yi* 義." *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 24: 55-84 (https://rdcu.be/d7RKC). 2025

"Ethical advance and ethical risk – a Mengzian reflection." *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 19: 535-558 (https://rdcu.be/b74FC). 2020

Conditional Acceptance or Revise-and-Resubmit at Peer-Reviewed Journals

"[History of ancient Greek philosophy; name redacted.]" *Ancient Philosophy*. R&R

Book Chapters

On anxiety, in *Ancient Philosophy: 20 Questions for Today*. Series editor: Anna Marmodoro. forthcoming

"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

Under Review (available upon request)

"[Comparative philosophy; name redacted to facilitate anonymous review.]" present

"[History of early Chinese philosophy; name redacted.]" present

"[History of early Chinese philosophy; name redacted.]" present

Book Reviews and Book Note

Cause and Explanation in Ancient Philosophy, eds. A. Ross and D. Vázquez.
The Classical Review forthcoming

Naturalism, Human Flourishing, and Asian Philosophy: Owen Flanagan and Beyond, ed. B. Seok.
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews 2021

The Many Moral Rationalisms, eds. K. Jones and F. Schroeter.
Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Volume 98 Issue 2, 417 2020

Book Proposal Scheduled for Review

[*Trade book on issues about persuasion*], C. Marshall and L. K. G. Law present

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

Moderator and Lead Discussant at Duke University

- *Reading Group of Philosophical Texts in Classical Chinese* since F 2025

Instructor of Record at Duke University

History of Ancient Greek Philosophy F 2026

Instructor of Record at University of Chicago

- *Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, and Transformations III: Comedies* S 2022, 23, 24, 25
- *Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, and Transformations II: Tragedies* W 2022, 23, 24, 25
- *Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, and Transformations I: Epic Poetry* F 2021, 22, 24

Instructor of Record at Hyde Park Institute

- *Mini Seminar on the* Zhuangzi 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, causation 2018-19
- Directed study on early Confucianism F 2016

Pedagogy Development

Emerging Pedagogies Summit: AI and Teaching Futures, Duke University Sep 2026

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, University of Pittsburgh (credential) Sep 2018
Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop, American Association of Philosophy Teachers Feb 2017

Refereed Presentations

Are "Virtues" Ideal or Remedial? The City of Pigs as a "Daoist" Whisper

- APA Pacific Division Meeting, Portland OR Mar 2027

Yan Hui as an Improv Artist in the Theater of Life

- Carolinas Conference on Chinese Thought, Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar VA Apr 2026

Native Abilities and Situational Goodness in Mengzian Thought

- APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago IL Feb 2026
- Northeast Conference on Chinese Thought, Duke University, Durham NC Nov 2025

Is It Our "Nature" to Become Virtuous? Interviewing Aristotle and Mengzi

- APA Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore Jan 2026
- Midwest Conference on Chinese Thought, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, La Crosse WI Apr 2025

Zhuangzian Doubleness

- Biennual Conference of the European Association for Chinese Philosophy, University of Iceland, Reykjavík Jun 2025

Fasting of the Heart, Mirror Poetry, Cure for the State

- International Society for Chinese Philosophy Conference, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana Jun 2025
- East-West Philosophers' Conf., 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
- Rutgers Workshop on Chinese Philosophy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ Apr 2023
- APA Eastern Division Meeting, Montreal Jan 2023

The Function of "Zhongni" and the Supposed Result of "Fasting" in Zhuangzi *4/1-34*

- The 28th Southeast Early China Roundtable, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC Oct 2024

Mengzi's Reception of Meng Jizi's All-Out Externality Claim on Yi

- 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 Yì "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 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

- Graduate Phil. Conference, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Amsterdam — Dec 2011

Invited Presentations and Discussions

Is It Our "Nature" to Become Virtuous? Interviewing Aristotle and Mengzi

- Columbia University, New York City, NY — Mar 2026
- Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong — May 2025

Comments on Mike Ashfield, "Aptic Normativity: The Right Fit for Confucian Righteousness?"

- APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, CA — Apr 2025

"Responding, They Do Not Store" – Two Anxieties about Artificial Intelligence

- Confucius-Aristotle Symposium, United Nations — Jul 2024

Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Qufu and Beijing

"Flying by Not Having Wings" – In and beyond the Zhuangzi

- Summit on Chinese and Greek Civilizations in Dialogue, Southwest University China, Chongqing — Jul 2024

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*

- Ancient Philosophy Society Annual Independent Meeting, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA — Apr 2022

Ways of Being: A Research Overview

- Weissbourd Fall Symposium, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL — Oct 2021

Is Yì "External" or "Internal"? Mengzi's Resistance and Reticence

- Ethics & Value Symposia, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL — Sep 2021

Ethical Advance and Ethical Risk – A Mengzian Reflection

- Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL — Feb 2020

What Makes Causes Causes in Aristotle?

- Siena College, Troy, NY — Nov 2019
- San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA — Jan 2019

Comments on Michael Szlachta, "The First Movements of the Will and the Intellect: A Puzzle in Thomas Aquinas' Moral Psychology"

- APA Central Division Meeting, Kansas City, MO — Mar 2017

Gaozi's Maxim as a Recipe for the Unwavering Heart

- International Conference on Ancient & Medieval Philosophy, Fordham University, New York City, NY — Oct 2016

The Stoic Response in de Finibus *to the Epicureans' "Cradle Argument"*

- 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

Professional Service

Associate Director, Duke Center for Comparative Philosophy	Since 2025
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

Professional Affiliations

United Nations Sustained Development Solutions Network (UN-SDSN)

Dissertation

Free Will as Etiological Self-Sufficiency	John McDowell, Michael Thompson (co-chairs) Stephen Engstrom, Kieran Setiya, Karl Schafer

Language Proficiency

Cantonese	Mandarin	Classical Chinese (reading)
German (reading)	Classical Greek (reading)	Classical Latin (reading)

References

James Allen
University of Toronto
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Jamie Kelly (teaching reference)
Vassar College
jamkelly@vassar.edu

Gabriel Richardson Lear
University of Chicago
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John McDowell
University of Pittsburgh
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Hagop Sarkissian
CUNY Baruch College; Graduate Center
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