

William Sterling Gilbert

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Research Interests

Primary: Korean Philosophy, Korean Daoism, Religious Syncretism in East Asia

Secondary: Yi Gyubo; Confucian care ethics; East Asian aesthetics

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Philosophy; Sogang University (Seoul), 2024-2027

- Dissertation: "The Emergence of Korean Daoism: Its Introduction, Early Development, and Syncretic Integration" (Working title)
 - Supervisor: Professor Halla Kim

Master of Arts, Korean Philosophy; Sungkyunkwan University (Seoul), 2024

- Thesis: "Exploring Creator and Creation in Yi Gyubo: In Comparison with Daoist Cosmogony"
 - Supervisor: Professor Sojeong Park

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy; University of North Florida (Jacksonville), 2019

Associate of Arts; Saint Johns River State College (Saint Augustine), 2017

Publications

Journal articles

1. 2020 "A Critique of Nelson Goodman's Aesthetics: Music as Process." *PANDION: The Osprey Journal of Research and Ideas*. Vol. 1: no. 1, Article 6, 1-16.

Articles In Progress

Under Review

1. Confucian Care Ethics in Pandemic Response: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives (8,000 words)
2. *Religious Syncretism in Daoist and Shamanistic Imagery in Three Kingdoms Tomb Murals* (7,000 words)

Under Development

1. *A Reinterpretation of Baekje's Gilt-Bronze Incense Burner: The Heavenly Rooster* (10,000 words)
2. *Daoist and Shamanistic Syncretism in Korean Sansin Paintings and Rituals* (5,500 words)
3. *A paper about Silhak, Dasan, and early Korean modernity* (4,000 words)
4. *Religion and Philosophy in Korea's Three Kingdoms Period* (4,000 words)

Employment

Graduate Research Assistant, K-Academic Expansion Center, July 2021 – February 2024

- Co-produced and developed online courses on Korean philosophy and culture.
- Created lecture storyboards, edited scripts, appeared in filmed lectures, edited subtitles, and co-organized international conferences.

Research Assistant, University of North Florida, August 2019 – January 2020

- Transcribed interviews for *Exploring the Heart Sutra*, a monograph by Sarah Mattice, published by Rowman & Littlefield, 2021.
- Researched and invited contributors to the John C. Maraldo Festschrift project.

Awards, Honors, and Scholarships

1. Doctoral Research Capacity Enhancement Support Grant¹, Sogang University, 2025
2. Graduate School Student Outstanding Paper Award², Sogang University, 2024
3. Research exchange program with Sophia University, Sogang University, 2024
4. Sogang Global Fellowship (S)³, Sogang University, 2024
5. Brain Korea 21 Scholar, Sungkyunkwan University, 2020-2021
6. Graduate Program Scholarship for Intl. Students, Sungkyunkwan University, 2020
7. Annual Philosophy Department Paper Prize, University of North Florida, 2020

¹ 5,000,000 KRW

² 1,000,000 KRW

³ 12,000,000 KRW

Presentations

Invited

1. “Emotions, Sages, Principle: A Zhuangzian Approach to the Four-Seven Debate”
Confucian Culture Expo, Institute of Korean Confucian Culture. Nonsan-si, South Korea. September 7th, 2024

Refereed

1. “Cosmogony and Korean Neo-Daoism in the Writings of Yi Gyubo”
NAKPA Panel for the 2026 APA-Pacific Division Meeting (April 8-12, 2026)
2. “Reconsidering Korean Modernity: The Silhak Movement and the Legacy of Dasan”
2025 ISEAP Conference: Progressive East Asian Philosophy, National Chengchi University, Taiwan. August 29th, 2025
3. “Buddha-Nature as Soteriological Universal Potential in the Mahāparinirvāṇa Sūtra and Wonhyo”
CSCS-ATI Summer School: “Buridan and the Buddha: Nominalism and Universals from East to West” Hong Kong Baptist University. Hong Kong. August 5th, 2025
4. “Cosmogony and Korean Neo-Daoism in the Writings of Yi Gyubo”
四海为学 [Collaborative Learning “Works in Progress”] Academic Forum. May 19th, 2025
5. “Confucian Care Ethics in Pandemic Response: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives”
GWIKS 2025 Graduate Student Research and Publication Workshop. March 7th, 2025
6. “Religious Syncretism in Daoist and Shamanistic Imagery in Three Kingdoms Tomb Murals”
NAKPA Panel for the 2025 APA-Central Division Meeting. February 21st, 2025
7. “Confucian Care Ethics in Pandemic Response: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives”
Biennial Conference of the World Consortium for Research in Confucian Cultures. Seoul, South Korea. November 1st, 2024
8. “Sacred Convergence: The Influence of Daoism in Korean Shamanistic 山神祭 [Sansin Rituals]”

SNU Center for Religious Studies 2024 International Conference, with North American Korean Philosophy Association. Seoul, South Korea. October 30th, 2024

9. “Emotions, Sages, Principle: A Zhuangzian Approach to the Four-Seven Debate”
K-Confucianism International Forum, Institute of Korean Confucian Culture. Seoul, South Korea. September 9th, 2024
10. “Exploring Creator and Creation in Yi Gyubo’s Thought”
World Congress of Philosophy: Philosophy across Boundaries. Student Session. La Sapienza University. Rome, Italy. August 4th, 2024
11. “Creator and Creation in Yi Gyubo’s Thought”
Neo Daoism in China and Korea: Weijin Xuanxue and Korean Syncretic Daoism. International Conference. Graduate Student Session. Seoul, South Korea. November 17th, 2023
12. “Introducing Yi Gyubo’s Creator”
Zhuangzi beyond the Inner Chapters in Seoul. Graduate Student Session. Seoul, South Korea. March 17th, 2023
13. “Korean Religious Syncretism in Sanshin Paintings”
Introducing Korean Beauty in Music, Art and Literature. Sungkyunkwan University & Institute of Korean Philosophy and Culture. June 18th, 2021

Comments

1. “Philosophical Interpretation of Yi Gyubo’s Theory of Creating New Meaning”
Response to Mayuko Sasaki. KAEP Korean Philosophy Research Symposium. Sungkyunkwan University. Seoul, South Korea. September 5th, 2025

Outreach

Online Courses (Co-Produced for KAEP)

1. *Korean Music, A Philosophical Exploration*, Coursera, 2023
2. *An Introduction to Korean Buddhist Philosophy*, KMOOC, 2023
3. *In Search for the Origins of Korean Philosophy*, Coursera, 2023
4. *Korean Aesthetics*, KMOOC, 2023
5. *Introduction to Korean Philosophy and Culture*, Coursera, 2021

Interviews/Podcasts

1. Interview with Sogang University BK21 for *Sogang Gazette*, 2025
2. Korea Deconstructed Podcast episode 77: “Taoism and the Creator”, 2024

https://youtu.be/hxWup-HhR7o?si=9CvKBD_AoXJPVcfl

Public Writings

1. APA Blogpost December 15, 2025

Social Media

1. Founder & Moderator, Korean Philosophy Subreddit, r/KoreanPhilosophy. 2024-Present (528 members)

Teaching Experience

Guest Lecture

1. “Introduction to Korean Daoism”
‘Introduction to Korean Philosophy’, Korean Studies Department. Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary. April 2nd, 2025

Teaching Assistant

- (Spring 2025) History of Korean Philosophy, Sogang University
- (Spring 2024) The History of Pre-Qin and Han Dynasty Philosophy, Sogang University
- (Spring 2021) History of Korean Philosophy, Sungkyunkwan University
- (Fall 2020) Korean Thought and Culture, Sungkyunkwan University

Professional Development

1. CSCS-ATI Summer School: “Buridan and the Buddha: Nominalism and Universals from East to West” Hong Kong Baptist University, August 4–12, 2025

Academic Service

1. **Editorial Assistant** “Oxford Handbook of Korean Philosophy” (*Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press*, forthcoming under contract) edited by Halla Kim. 2024-2025
2. **Editorial Assistant**, “Korean Philosophy: An Intellectual History” (*London: Routledge*, forthcoming under contract) Monograph by Halla Kim. 2024-2025
3. **Editorial Assistant** “Oxford Bibliography: Korean Philosophy” (*Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press*, 2025) by Halla Kim
4. **Co-organizer**, “What is living and what is dead in the philosophy of Kant today”, International Conference, Seoul. 2024

5. **Co-organizer**, “Build Bridge: Korean Philosophy in the World”, Conference, Seoul. 2023
6. **Co-organizer**, “Discovering Korean Arts and Philosophy”, International Workshop, Seoul. 2021
7. **Judge**, First Coast High School Ethics Bowl. 2021
8. **Co-organizer**, “Women, Family, and Korean Confucianism”, Conference, Seoul. 2020
9. **Judge**, First Coast High School Ethics Bowl. 2019
10. **Editorial Assistant**, *John C. Maraldo Festschrift* (forthcoming) edited by Sarah Mattice. 2019

Memberships and Affiliations

North American Korean Philosophy Association
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division

Languages

English: Native

Korean: Intermediate

Classical Chinese: Beginner