

# Wenjin Liu

Department of Philosophy  
West Duke Building  
Duke University  
Durham, NC 27705  
<https://scholars.duke.edu/person/wenjin.liu/credentials>

wenjin.liu@duke.edu  
+1 267 255 2846 (mobile)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Areas of Specialization:** Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy, History of Ethics, Comparative Philosophy

**Areas of Competence:** Chinese Philosophy, Ethics, Political Philosophy, Epistemology

## EMPLOYMENT

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### Duke University

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Philosophy, July 2023 to Present  
of Asian/Pacific Studies Institute, September 2023 to Present  
Research Assistant Professor of Philosophy, July 2022 to June 2023  
Co-Director of Center for Comparative Philosophy, October 2022 to Present  
Faculty Affiliate of Transformative Ideas Initiative, October 2023 to Present  
Co-Director of The Harmony Lab in Franklin Hope Humanities Center, July 2024 to Present

## EDUCATION

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### Princeton University

*Ph.D. in Philosophy* (Interdepartmental Program in Classical Philosophy), 2023  
Dissertation: *Plato's Theories of Vice*  
Committee: Hendrik Lorenz (Chair), Benjamin Morison, Melissa Lane

*M.A. in Philosophy*, 2019

### University of Pennsylvania

*B.A. & M.A. in Philosophy &*  
*B.A. in Classical Studies (Track 1, Classical Languages and Literature)*, 2015  
Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book Manuscript

*Plato's Medicinal Politics and Its Hippocratic Entwinement: Paideia, Illness, and the Decline of the Ideal City* (under contract with *Cambridge Element Series in Ancient Philosophy*, draft submitted to the editor on Jan 30, 2026).

*Charting Imperfection: Plato on Ignorance, Vice, and Illness* (full draft 95,000 words completed, under revision).

### **Peer Reviewed Journal Article**

Forthcoming The Anatomy of Ignorance in Plato's *Republic*, *Phronesis*.

2022 Ignorance in Plato's *Protagoras*: An Inquiry into Humanity's Dark Side. *Phronesis*, 67: 309-337.

2016 *Phantasia* as Perception-Based Belief and the Epistemic Worry of Plato. *Southwest Philosophy Review*, 32: 175-187.

### **Under Review and In Progress**

A Paper on what is it to be philosophical in the *Republic* (under review)

A paper on civic moderation and friendship in the *Republic* (under review)

A paper on self-care in *Alcibiades I* (in revision)

A paper on experience (*empeiria*) in the *Republic* (draft in progress)

A paper on civic friendship in Aristotle (draft in progress)

A paper on ignorance in Plato's *Sophist* and *Statesman* (draft in progress)

A paper on nourishing what one doesn't know in Zhuangzi (draft in progress)

A chapter on whether having more knowledge is necessarily better in early Chinese philosophy, commissioned for an OUP volume on Chinese philosophy, edited by Karyn Lai and David Machek (draft completed)

A chapter on moral (mis)education in Plato's *Protagoras*, commissioned for the Keeling Colloquium and the ensuing OUP anthology (draft completed)

### **Book Reviews**

2025 Plato's Moral Realism, *Philosophical Review*

### **FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

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2025 Winner: Manuscript Workshop, Franklin Hope Humanities Center, Duke University (\$10000)

2024–2026 Co-Director of the Harmony Lab, Franklin Hope Humanities Center, Duke University (\$15000\*2 years, awarded competitively)

- 2023-2024 Faculty Research Grants, The Arts and Sciences Council Committee on Faculty Research Duke University (\$5000)
- 2020-2022 Graduate Travel Award (\$300), American Philosophical Association
- 2017-2019 Stanley J. Seeger Fellowship, Princeton University
- 2016-2022 Conference Travel & Research Fellowship, Princeton University
- 2016-2022 Dean's Grant, Princeton University
- 2016-2022 University Fellowship, Princeton University
- 2016 Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania
- 2011-2015 Benjamin Franklin Scholar, University of Pennsylvania
- 2011-2015 Penn World Scholar, University of Pennsylvania

## **CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES**

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### **Conferences Organized**

- 2023–Present Duke Annual Workshop on Comparative Philosophy
- 2025 Northeast Conference on Chinese Thought, November 14–15
- 2025 Workshop on Harmony in Ancient Greek and Chinese Philosophy, April 10–11.
- 2023 Duke+UNC Ancient Greek Philosophy Workshop, November 16–17.
- 2022–Present Duke+UNC Ancient Greek Philosophy WIP
- 2020 Princeton-Penn Plato Workshop, Princeton, December 16.
- 2017-2021 Princeton Classical Philosophy Work-in-progress Series

### **Papers Presented (Selected)**

- 2026 Moral (Mis) Education in Plato's *Protagoras*, Keeling Colloquium, University College London, September .
- 2026 Uncovering Self-Care in Plato's *Alcibiades I*, APA Central, February.
- 2025 The Virtue of Living Together in a City: Civic Moderation in Plato's *Republic*, New York University Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, October 10.
- 2025 Uncovering Self-Care in Plato's *Alcibiades I*, West Coast Plato Workshop, May 17.

- 2025 Civic Friendship in Plato's *Republic*, Duke Workshop on Comparative Philosophy, April 10.
- 2025 Platonic Curiosity, Duke+UNC Ancient Greek Philosophy Workshop, March 3.
- 2024 The Root of Political Degeneration, Oxford Workshop on Ancient Philosophy, May 2.
- 2023 Why We Go Wrong Politically: Plato on the Nature and the Root of Political Vice, Duke+UNC Ancient Greek Philosophy Workshop, November 16
- 2023 Why We Go Wrong Politically: Plato on the Nature and the Root of Political Vice, Duke Workshop on Comparative Philosophy, May 19.
- 2023 Plato on Political Vice, John Hope Franklin Center, Duke University, February 10.
- 2022 The Functional Model of Ignorance, Duke + UNC Ancient Philosophy WIP, November 1
- 2022 Ignorance in Plato's *Republic*, Duke University Faculty Colloquium, September 29.
- 2022 Ideal Agents in Mozi and Plato, Workshop on Ancient Wisdom and Modern Challenges, July 7.
- 2022 Plato on Becoming Vicious, Athena in Action, June 28.
- 2021 Plato on the Nature, Becoming, and Responsibility of Vice in the *Republic*, Eastern Division Meeting of American Philosophical Association, January 14-6.
- 2020 Self-Knowledge in Aristotle, Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, January 6.
- 2020 The Fabric of Akrasia: A New Interpretation of the *Protagoras* 351-360, Eastern Division Meeting of American Philosophical Association, January 4-6.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Duke University, Sole Instructor (2022–Present)**

Chinese Philosophy (Fall 2023)

Comparative Ethics (Graduate seminar, co-taught with Prof. David Wong) (Fall 2023, Spring 2025, Spring 2026)

Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025)

Comparative Ethics and Politics (Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2025)

Graduate Professional Development Seminar (Fall 2025)

Graduate Teaching Seminar (Spring 2026)

### **Undergraduate Advising**

Elle Christensen

Kristofer Arnason

Louisa Elizabeth Pauline Bound

Nina Julie Scheyer

**Graduate Advising**

Shih-Han Huang (committee member)  
Botian Liu (committee member)  
Emily Kluge (committee member)

**Princeton University, Preceptor, 2018-2019**

- Introduction to Moral Philosophy (Fall 2019)
- Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology (Spring 2019)
- Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (Spring 2018)

**Princeton University, Guest Lecturer, 2018-2019**

- Moral Knowledge, Introduction to Moral Philosophy (Fall 2019)
- Plato's Protagoras, Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (Spring 2018)

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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**Service to Profession**

Co-director, The Harmony Lab, 2024–Present

Co-director, Duke Center for Comparative Philosophy, 2022–Present

Co-Organizer, Duke + UNC Ancient Greek Philosophy Work in Progress, 2022–Present

Organizer, Princeton-Penn Plato Workshop, 2019

Abstract Reviewer, Graduate Conference on Social Philosophy, Princeton University, 2017

Abstract Reviewer, Ancient Philosophy in Early Modern Europe Conference, Princeton University, 2017

Organizer, Princeton Classical Philosophy Work-in Progress Series, 2017-2022

Referee, Journal of Ancient Philosophy (×2) Ancient Philosophy Today: Dialogoi (×1) Erkenntnis (×1)

**Departmental/University Service**

Post-doc Search Committee, Duke University, 2024–2025

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Duke University, 2022–Present

Organizer, Faculty Research Talk, Princeton University, 2017-2018

Classical Philosophy Representative, Princeton University, 2016-2017

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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American Philosophical Association, 2016-present

Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, 2016-present

International Plato Society, 2019-present

International Society of Socratic Studies, 2020-present

## **LANGUAGES**

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Ancient Greek: Advanced reading knowledge

Latin: Advanced reading knowledge

French: Intermediate reading and conversational knowledge

Mandarin Chinese: Native

Classical Chinese: Advanced reading knowledge

Japanese: Intermediate reading and conversational knowledge

## REFERENCES

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Hendrik Lorenz  
Professor of Philosophy  
Princeton University, Philosophy Department  
1879 Hall, Room 217  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
1.609.258.4300  
hlorenz@princeton.edu

Benjamin Morison  
Professor of Philosophy  
Princeton University, Philosophy Department  
1879 Hall, Room 222  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
1.609.258.4394  
bmorison@princeton.edu

Melissa Lane  
Class of 1943 Professor of Politics  
Director of the Center for Human Values  
Princeton University, Politics Department  
Laura Wooten Hall, Room 302  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
1.609.258.4860  
mslane@princeton.edu

Mariska Leunissen  
Professor of Philosophy  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Philosophy Department  
102B Caldwell Hall  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599  
1.919.962.2280  
mleunissen@unc.edu

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