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Research Interests

Areas of Specialization

General Philosophy of Science (esp. Causation, Explanation, Theoretical Virtues), Philosophy of Social Science, Philosophy of AI, Meta-Philosophy

Areas of Competence

Metaphysics, Ethics, Philosophy of Mind

Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy | University of California San Diego 2020-2026 (Expected)

Dissertation: *Middle-Range Theories of Causation*

Committee: Nancy Cartwright (co-chair), David Danks (co-chair), Kerry McKenzie, Stephan Haggard (political science)

M.A. in Philosophy | Simon Fraser University 2016-2019

Thesis: The Role of Non-Causally Related Variables in Causal Models

Supervisors: Holly Andersen (primary), Jennifer Wang

M.A. in Philosophy | Renmin University of China 2014-2017

Thesis: The Autonomy Approach for Non-Reductive Physicalism

Supervisors: Donghui Han (韩东晖), Chang Liu (刘畅)

B.A. in Philosophy | Renmin University of China 2010-2014

Thesis: The Structure of Knowledge-How (Distinguished Undergraduate Thesis)

Supervisor: Xiaoli Liu (刘晓力)

Visiting Positions

Visiting Researcher | Durham University Apr-Jun 2025

Department of Philosophy | Host Professor: Nancy Cartwright

Visiting Student Researcher | University of Cambridge Oct-Dec 2024

Department of History and Philosophy of Science | Host Professor: Anna Alexandrova

Guest Associate Researcher | Kyoto University Apr-Aug 2024

Department of Philosophy and History of Science | Host Professor: Tetsuji Iseda (伊勢田 哲治)

Publications

In English

1. **Simpson's Paradox Beyond Confounding** (with Zili Dong and Shimin Zhao; equal authorship) 2024
European Journal for Philosophy of Science 14, 44. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13194-024-00610-8>
2. **Causal Exclusion and Causal Autonomism** 2018
Frontiers of Philosophy in China 13 (3): 402-419

In Chinese

3. **Determinism as a Stance** | 作为立场的决定论 Forthcoming
Journal of Dialectics of Nature | 《自然辩证法通讯》

In Progress

1. A pair of papers on theorizing causation (Under Commission).
2. A co-authored paper on how causal structures explain (Under Review).
3. A paper on simplicity as a cognitive value in science.

Presentations († = Referred)

The Virtue of Middle-Range Philosophizing: The One and the Many

1. The 29th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association (Poster Session, declined due to overseas academic visit) Nov 2024[†]
2. Philosophy of Science: Past, Present and Future | University of Minnesota (Poster Session, declined due to overseas academic visit) Oct 2024[†]

Simplicity as a Secondary Ultimate Cognitive Value for Non-Ideal Epistemic Agents

3. The 2024 Annual Conference of the Korean Society for the Philosophy of Science | Jeju National University Jul 2024[†]
4. Colloquium for CAPE (Center for Applied Philosophy & Ethics) Lecture | Kyoto University Jun 2024
5. The 6th Workshop for Young Scholars in Science and Philosophy | University of Chinese Academy of Sciences Apr 2024[†]
6. Philosophy of Science around the World 2023 Nov 2023[†]

A Plea for Middle-Range Theories of Causation

7. Causation in Kyoto: A Workshop on the Philosophy, Psychology, and Computer Science of Causation | Kyoto University Jun 2023[†]

Reductio ad Absurdum Explanations

8. Pacific APA (cancelled due to COVID-19) Apr 2020[†]

The Role of Non-Causally Related Variables in Causal Models

9. The 26th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association Nov 2018[†]

How Can We Understand Mental Causation

10. Workshop on Mental Causation | Renmin University of China May 2017

The Autonomy Approach, Interventionism, and Multiple Realizability

11. The 3rd Beijing Analytic Philosophy Conference | Renmin University of China Apr 2016⁺

Mental Causes as Insufficient Causes

12. The Mental and the Physical: The 3rd Summer Workshop of the Chinese Wittgenstein Society | East China Normal University Aug 2015

Refuting an Argument against Anti-Intellectualism

13. Experience and Concept: Conference on Themes from John McDowell and Wilfrid Sellars | Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Oct 2013

Comments

1. On Prasanta S. Bandyopadhyay's "A Dilemma for the Causal Theorist" | Pacific APA Apr 2021

Grants & Awards

- Dissertation Fellowship | University of California San Diego 2024-2025
- First-Year Graduate Fellowship | University of California San Diego 2020-2021
- Graduate Fellowship | Simon Fraser University 2016, 2018
- Graduate Research Award | Simon Fraser University 2017
Awarded annually to the best graduate philosophy paper
- Department-Level Excellent Graduate Student Award | Renmin University of China 2017
- Prize for the Best Student Essay in the 3rd Beijing Analytic Philosophy Conference 2016
- National Scholarship for Graduate Students | Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China 2015
Highly competitive scholarships granted to selected graduate students nationwide based on merit
- University-Level Student Award of Merit | Renmin University of China 2015
- Excellent Graduate Student Award | Renmin University of China 2015
- Distinguished Undergraduate Thesis in Philosophy | Renmin University of China 2014
- Excellent Undergraduate Student Award | Renmin University of China 2014

Teaching Experience

University of California San Diego

As Primary Instructor

- Philosophy of Science Summer 2025

Pedagogical Training

- Advanced College Teaching Winter 2025
- Foundations of Teaching Workshops Fall 2024

As Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Logic | Winter 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2023: Jennifer Carr

- Ethics and Society (I) | Winter 2024, Winter 2023, Spring 2022: Manuel Vargas | Fall 2022: Mara Harrell | Fall 2021: Reuven Brandt
- Ethics and Society (II) | Winter 2022: Mara Harrell
- Topics in Metaphysics | Summer 2022: Joseph Martinez

Simon Fraser University

As Teaching Assistant

- Critical Thinking | Summer 2019: Lyle Crawford | Spring 2018: Jennifer Wang | Fall 2017: Dai Heide | Summer 2017: Jill McIntosh
- Introduction to Logic and Reasoning | Spring 2019: Tom Donaldson | Fall 2018, Spring 2017: Jill McIntosh
- Introduction to Philosophy | Fall 2016: Jennifer Warriner

Selected Graduate Coursework

Philosophy of Science and Scientific Practice

- Topics in Philosophy of Science | Nancy Cartwright
- Causation: Singular & Generic | Nancy Cartwright
- Empiricism in Philosophy of Science | Kerry McKenzie
- Qualitative Methods in Political Science | Stephan Haggard
- Quantitative Methods in Sociology | Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra
- Philosophy of Science: Objectivity and Other Issues | Nancy Cartwright
- Laws of Nature | Eddy Keming Chen
- Pain | Matthew Fulkerson
- History and Philosophy of Science: An Integrated Approach | Holly Andersen
- Explanation and Causation | Holly Andersen

Moral Philosophy

- Data Ethics | David Danks
- Risk, Responsibility, and Morality | Dana Kay Nelkin, Samuel Rickless
- Pleasure and Hedonism in Greek Philosophy | Monte Ransome Johnson
- Mathematics of Morality | Evan Tiffany, Nicolas Fillion
- Meta-Normativity | Evan Tiffany

Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Language

- Contemporary Analytic Metaphysics: Varieties of Metaphysical Relationship | Eric Watkins
- Topics in Recent Epistemology | Jennifer Carr
- Applied Formal Epistemology | Jennifer Carr
- Core Course in Philosophy of Language | Jonathan Cohen
- The Principle of Sufficient Reason | Fatema Amijee, Dai Heide
- Physicalism | Thomas Donaldson
- The Metaphysics of Properties | Jennifer Wang

Service & Activities

- Referee: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence
Synthese
- Website maintainer for Nancy Cartwright Summer 2024 to now
- Research assistant for Kerry McKenzie Summer 2022
- Co-organizer and regular attendant of a weekly reading group on philosophy of science Summer 2019 to now
- Organizing assistant for the 3rd Beijing Analytic Philosophy Conference Apr 2016
- Editorial assistant for *Philosophy Digest* (a quarterly digest for Chinese philosophy journal articles) Jul 2015-Apr 2016