

# PAMELA LEE - curriculum vitae

Department of Philosophy

University of Ottawa

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**AOS:** Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics

**AOC:** Applied Ethics, Chinese Philosophy, History of (European) Philosophy

## Education

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University of Ottawa (Canada)

PhD Philosophy, Dec 2023

Thesis: *Making space for alternative modernities within a critical democratic multiculturalism*

Supervisor: Sonia Sikka, Philosophy, University of Ottawa

Internal Examiners: Nigel DeSouza, Philosophy, University of Ottawa; Hilliard Aronovitch, Philosophy, University of Ottawa; Lori Beaman, Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa

External Examiner: Monique Deveaux, Philosophy, University of Guelph

Brock University, Philosophy

MA Philosophy, 2010

Major paper: *Identity and Origin: A Comparative Study of Heidegger and Daoism*

Committee: Wing-Cheuk Chan (Supervisor), Michael Berman

University of King's College/Dalhousie University

BA (HON) Early Modern Studies/German Studies, 2005

Thesis: *In pursuit of unity: A new perspective on Schiller's Letters on the Aesthetic Education of Man*

Committee: Jane Curran (Supervisor), Kathryn Morris, Neil Robertson

## Scholarships and Awards

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Léonard Ducharme Scholarship (2016) -- for aptitude in teaching philosophy

SSHRC Doctoral Award (2014-2016, \$40 000)

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2013-14, \$15 000)

University of Ottawa Excellence Scholarship (2013-14, 2014-15)

Mervyn Sprung Award, Private Research Grant in Comparative Philosophy (Summer 2009)

John R. A. Mayer Graduate Scholarship Award (2009) – highest academic standing in MA Philosophy 2008-09 class, Brock University.

## Teaching

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### *Part-Time Professor, University of Ottawa:*

PHI 1104 E Great Philosophers, Winter 2024  
PHI 1102 C Moral Reasoning, Winter 2024  
PHI 1102 D Moral Reasoning, Winter 2024  
PHI 2396 C Bioethics, Fall 2023  
PHI 1102 D Moral Reasoning, Winter 2023  
PHI 2389 A Asian Philosophy (Chinese), Winter 2018  
PHI 1102 C Moral Reasoning, Winter 2016

### *Guest lecturer, Carleton University:*

“Wu-wei and the Dao”, RELI 1716R East Asian Religions (online asynchronous course),  
Invited by M. Coughlin, Carleton University, Nov 9, 2017. Link to video:  
[https://mediaspace.carleton.ca/media/2018\\_RELI\\_1716\\_Winter\\_Module\\_04\\_Pamela\\_Lee/04xcrnfwl](https://mediaspace.carleton.ca/media/2018_RELI_1716_Winter_Module_04_Pamela_Lee/04xcrnfwl) (10min runtime).

### *Teaching Assistantships:*

#### University of Ottawa (2011-2022):

##### Main responsibilities:

Reviewing class material with students (individual or small group sessions during weekly office hours), grading essays and exams, proctoring exams, assisting the professor in administration of course and course website or devising evaluation assessments.

##### Courses:

PHI 2122A Ancient Wisdom (bimodal course)  
PHI 2396A/E Bioethics (online synchronous course)  
PHI 2397A/C/E Business Ethics  
PHI 2174A Political Philosophy  
PHI 1101F/A/N/B/C/D Reasoning and Critical Thinking  
PHI 1103A/B/D Fundamental Philosophical Questions  
PHI 1104A Great Philosophers

##### Tutorials:

Midterm Review Tutorial, PHI1101F Reasoning and Critical Thinking, D. Lauer/I. Apostolova, Nov 4, 2013.

##### Guest lectures:

“Introduction to Daoism”, PHI2122A Ancient Wisdom, C. Collobert, Oct 7, 2021.  
“Mencius: Human Nature is Good”, PHI1103B Fundamental Philosophical Questions, S. Sikka, Nov 28 – Dec 1, 2016.

“Zhuangzi on Happiness”, PHI1103A Fundamental Philosophical Questions, S. Sikka, Dec 7, 2015 (updated lecture given in 2018).

“The Ethics of Human Gene Patents”, PHI2397C Business Ethics, J. Miller, Nov 26, 2014.

“Existentialism: Self-identity, Responsibility and Radical Freedom”, PHI1103D/E Fundamental Philosophical Questions, N. DeSouza, Mar 4, 2013.

Mount Allison University (2010-2011):

Main responsibilities:

Midterm and final exam review tutorials, meeting with students one-on-one during office hours, grading

Courses:

PHIL 2701 Introduction to Ethics  
PHIL 2511 Introduction to the Philosophy of Science  
PHIL 1601 Plato’s Republic in Dialogue with World Philosophies  
PHIL 1651 The Changing Image of Nature

Guest lecture:

“Daoism”, PHIL1601 Plato’s Republic in Dialogue with World Philosophies, R. Majithia, Mar 23 2011.

Brock University (2008-2009):

Main Responsibilities:

Leading weekly discussion seminars, grading.

Courses:

PHIL 1F90 Philosophical Classics and Contemporary Life  
PHIL 1F94 Introduction to Philosophical Problems

*Grading Assistantships:*

PHI2183B Ethics – A. Sneddon, University of Ottawa

PHI2183B Ethics – D. Kofman, University of Ottawa

German Department, Dalhousie University (2003-04)

**Graduate courses completed as part of MA and PhD**

*PhD, University of Ottawa:*

PHI 6101 Selected Problems I: Phronesis: Reappropriations of Aristotle

PHI 5349 Ancient Philosophy II : Aristotle’s Metaphysics

PHI 5359 German Philosophy II : Husserl’s Cartesian Meditations

PHI 5346 Social and Political Philosophy I: Global Justice

PHI 5771 Philosophie sociale et politique II : Justice et politique de reconnaissance  
PHI 5345 Ethics I: Identity Politics  
PHI5355 Anglo American Philosophy II: The science of philosophy: Dewey v.s. Russell (AUD)

*MA, Brock University:*

PHIL 5P04 Foucault  
PHIL 5P05 Nietzsche  
PHIL 5P07 Husserl and Transcendental Phenomenology  
PHIL 5P08 Simone De Beauvoir  
PHIL 5P30 Indian Philosophy: Vedanta  
PHIL 5P91 Directed Reading I: Daoism  
PHIL 5V10 Yogacara and Sartre  
PHIL 5V11 Daoism and Heidegger

**Other Teaching Positions**

Tutor/Proctor, Disability Services, Mount Allison University (2010-11)  
ESL Teacher, Kojen Language Schools, Taiwan (2006-07)

**Training Certificates**

Virtual Campus (Brightspace) – Workshop, Teaching and Learning Support Services (TLSS),  
University of Ottawa (2018).  
Teaching Assistant Certificate (for completion of pedagogical workshop series), Brock  
University Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies (CTLET) (2009)  
Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language, National School of Languages, Ottawa  
(2006)

**Research Assistantships**

Research Assistant, “Sense of Belonging and Visible Minorities”. Patti Tamara Lenard,  
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa (2014)  
Research Assistant, “Secular Paradigms and Religious Identity”. Sonia Sikka, Philosophy  
Department, University of Ottawa (2012)

## Publications

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### Chapter in an Edited Book:

“Journey Through the Third Space: Performing Aboriginal Identity Through Historic Re-enactment Sites” in *Constructions of Self and Other in Yoga, Travel, and Tourism*. Eds. Lori Beaman & Sonia Sikka (Ottawa: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016).

### Encyclopedia Entry:

“Mencius (Mengzi) on morality and human nature”, *Global Philosophy Database*, Eds. Sonia Sikka & Anna Lännström, Jan 27, 2017, URL: <https://globalphilosophyresources.com/2017/01/27/mencius-mengzi-on-morality-and-human-nature/>.

## Invited Workshops

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A Journey to Elsewhere: Spiritual Travel and the Quest for Authenticity, The Religion and Diversity Project, University of Ottawa, Mar 3-5, 2015.

## Conference Presentations and Panels

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“Rethinking language rights through a decolonizing and anti-racist lens: a Chinese Canadian perspective”, Anti-racism, Decolonization and Multiculturalism Symposium Panel, *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress*, Montreal: McGill University, Jun 20, 2024.

Panelist [discussion leader for the question period], Harold Roth, “Self-Alterity in Original Daoism: Reflections Through the Lens of Contemplative Studies”, The Academy of Mindfulness and Contemplative Studies, in Collaboration with the uOBMRI, University of Ottawa [Zoom], Mar 28, 2022, invited.

“Mencian Analogical Reasoning as a mode of Public Reason”, *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress*, Montreal: UQAM, Jun 7, 2018, accepted by abstract, unable to attend due to illness.

“Cultural Racism against Chinese Canadians Then and Now”, Cultural Racism Symposium Panel, *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress*, Calgary: University of Calgary, Jun 1, 2016.

Commentator, Ian Angus, Heidegger’s Ontology of Labour in *Being and Time*, Existential and Phenomenological Theory & Culture Conference, Ottawa: University of Ottawa, Jun 4, 2015.

“Trust, Duties, Tolerance, & Canadian Citizenship” Comment on Ch 7-9, *What Would You Say? Robin Higham Manuscript Workshop*, Ottawa: Graduate School of Policy and International Affairs, University of Ottawa, Oct 25, 2013, invited.

“Tolerance as the Last Resort in a Pluralist Model of Dialogic Engagement”, Dominican College Roundtable on Tolerance, Apr 11, 2013.

“Heidegger and Interdisciplinarity: The Thing [*Das Ding*] as Research Object” Atlantic Region Philosophers Association, University of King’s College, Halifax, Oct 16, 2010.

## Service

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Lead organizer, Inter-university Classical Chinese Translation Group, Oct 4, 2023-present.

Co-ordinating Professor, Pan-Canadian Model EU, Carleton University, May 5-7, 2023.

Paper referee, Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress, London, Ontario, Jun 1-4, 2020.

Co-organizer, Cultural Racism Symposium Panel, Canadian Philosophical Association, Calgary, Jun 1, 2016.

Paper referee, Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture Conference, Ottawa, Jun 2-5, 2015.

### **Doctoral Dissertation Abstract:**

Insofar as the postcolonial project is one of the elaboration of “the plurality of modernity, and the agency multiplying its forms”, my project is a contribution to this larger one in the form of a postcolonial theory of multiculturalism (Ashcroft, 2009, p. 85). Drawing from minority standpoints, arguments, and narratives, I focus on the lives and perspectives of a few broad groups in particular: indigenous peoples in Canada, Muslim women, and East Asian “immigrant” minorities. I take up a critical theory approach to framing multicultural theory and the questions it asks from the standpoints of minorities themselves, foregrounding the challenges and perspectives of racialized groups for whom their ethno-culture is morally salient and central to their own understanding of their identities and aims. This framework draws on the insights of feminist theorists of deliberative democracy but also departs from them in the crucial respect of affirming a conception of culture and identity that accepts some basic “communitarian” ideas of morality and culture, while conceiving these within a postcolonial project of cultural reclamation rather than a republican framework of the public sphere.

My project is organized into two parts: The first section systematically critiques the dominant liberal multiculturalist model based on Canadian multicultural policy and theorized by Will Kymlicka, which is oriented by the liberal state’s perspective in its aims of integrating minorities. In the first chapter, I reject his universalist principle of liberal neutrality as the standard for justice in favour of a pluralist democratic standard that accommodates “thin” theories of the good. In the second and third chapters, I reformulate Kymlicka’s categories of “national minorities” and “polyethnic minorities” respectively in order to take account of postcolonial indigenous sovereignty and the transnational scope of ethnic identity. The second section develops a pluralist account of agency in its descriptive (Chapter 4), normative (Chapter 5), and prescriptive (Chapter 6) aspects (Deveaux 2006 p. 179). This is developed as a constructive critique of liberal standards of autonomy, particularly feminist proposals for a standard of procedural autonomy, as unable to adequately describe and assess heteronomous agency.