

Guan, Chengying

(PhD, FHEA)

Pronouns: He/Him/His

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ACADEMIC AREAS

AOS: Philosophy of Action, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science (esp. Embodied Cognition), Metaphysics

AOC: Ethics, Metaethics

EMPLOYMENT

2025- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Philosophy (Zhuhai), Sun Yat-sen University, China

2024-25 Lecturer (Academic Education Pathway) in Philosophy – Rolling Teaching Fellow, Department of Philosophy, King’s College London, the UK

2020-23 Graduate Teaching Assistant, King’s College London, the UK

EDUCATION

2018-24 King’s College London, the UK, PhD in Philosophy (awarded 2025)

2016-18 University of Copenhagen, Denmark, Cand.mag. [Danish MA] in Philosophy with Concentration on Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind

2013-16 University of Groningen, the Netherlands, MA(Res) in Practical Philosophy

2012 National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan, China, Visiting Student

2008-09 Shandong University, China, Visiting Student

2007-13 Jilin University, China, BA in Philosophy, MA in Ethics

QUALIFICATION

FHEA — Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy

PUBLICATION (♣ refereed)

J. Journal Articles

[J2] 《论人工智能与跨学科语境中 agent 一词的汉语翻译问题——基于行动哲学视角》，《逻辑学动态与评论》（总第九辑），中国社会科学出版社 2026 年 5 月版 [On the Problem of Translating the Term “Agent” into Chinese in AI and Interdisciplinary Contexts: A Perspective from Philosophy of Action. In *Trends and Reviews in Logic*, Volume 9. China Social Sciences Press, May 2026. ♣

[J1] The Wishful Thinking Problem for Non-cognitivism: Does It Really Make Sense?, *Kriterion – Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 1, no. 28, 2014, pp. 30-44. <https://doi.org/10.1515/krt-2014-012804>. ♣

C. Book Chapters

[C1] Analytic Metaphysics, Linguistic Analysis, and the Diversity of Natural Languages: A Methodological Blind Spot, In P. Stalmaszczyk (ed.), *Between Philosophy and Linguistics: Semantic Theory, Metasemantics, and Metaphilosophy*, Brill | Mentis (forthcoming, scheduled early 2027) ♣

D. Dissertations

[D1] *Humans as Tool-Using Animals and the Exercise of Their Powers: Foundations for a New Theory of Action*, King's College London (Doctoral Thesis), 2025.
<https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/studentTheses/humans-as-tool-using-animals-and-the-exercise-of-their-powers> (xv+298 pages, 98,369 words, full text embargoed until August 2030, available on request)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

A paper on analytic metaphysics (Major Revisions)

A paper on metaethical constitutivism

A paper on the philosophy of cognitive science

A paper on the philosophy of action

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

King's College London:

As Module Convenor & Syllabus Designer

2024-25 (Autumn) General Philosophy (for Conversion MA Students)

As Seminar Tutor

2024-25 (Spring) Philosophy of Race

Introduction to Value-Based Clinical Studies: Philosophy Block (for Medical Students)

2022-23 (Spring) Introduction to Philosophy: Metaphysics Element

Doctor and Society (for Medical Students)

2021-22 (Autumn) Philosophy of Psychology (for Psychology Students)

Elementary Logic

2020-21 (Autumn) Introduction to Philosophy: Logic Element (for PPE Students)

Elementary Logic

2019-20 (Spring) Philosophy of Psychology

STUDENT SUPERVISION

E. Barker MA Dissertation in ethics, 'Blame, Distinctive Psychology, and Temporal Parts: A Case for Why Blameworthiness Could Diminish over Time' (KCL 2025 | Distinction)

S. Du BA Dissertation in ethics, 'The Harm of Death: A Subjective-Centred Critique of Nagel's Deprivationism' (KCL 2025 | First-Class Grade)

A. Attoh BA Dissertation in the Philosophy of Race, ‘The Hidden Currents of Neo-Colonialism: Linguistic Imperialism and the Struggle for Linguistic Decolonisation’ (KCL 2025 | First-Class Grade)

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2025 Selected for inclusion in the Faculty of Arts & Humanities Excellence in Education Celebration, King’s College London
- 2023 Chinese Student Award (GBP 2,000), The Great Britain–China Educational Trust, Great Britain–China Centre
- 2022 Faculty of Arts and Humanities Group Event Grant (GBP 2,912), King’s College London, awarded for organising the workshop ‘Non-Human Agency and the Standard Story of Action’ (1/2 Co-applicant)
- 2022 Graduate Teaching Assistant Award – Winner, Department of Philosophy, King’s College London
- 2021 Graduate Teaching Assistant Award – Honourable Mention, Department of Philosophy, King’s College London
- 2018 King’s College London–China Scholarship Council Joint Doctoral Scholarship
- 2017 Study Grant (DKK 40,000) of the S. C. Van Foundation, Denmark
- 2016 Danish Government Scholarship for Highly-Qualified Non-EU/EEA Students
- 2013 Theo A. F. Kuipers Stipend for Excellent Foreign Students (EUR 10,000), Faculty of Philosophy, University of Groningen
- 2011 First-Class Postgraduate Scholarship, Jilin University
- 2011 Jilin University Outstanding Bachelor’s Dissertation Award (sole in the philosophy programme)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (♣ refereed, ♠ invited)

Actions as Movements of Bodies Coupled with Tools: A Case for Instrumentalism about Basic Action

- The 99th Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, the UK, 11–13 July 2025 ♣

Defining Tool Use: A Philosophically Adequate, Affordance-Based Approach

- The 51st Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, at Cornell University, United States, 19–21 June 2025 ♣

Davidson’s Semantic Argument That Actions Are Events: A Cross-Linguistic Challenge

- The Ninth International Conference on Philosophy of Language and Linguistics (PHILANG 2025), at the University of Lodz, Poland, 16–18 May 2025 ♣

The Ontology of Action and Radical Novel Agent Causalism

- The Third International Workshop on Logic and Philosophy: Agency and Intentionality, at Tsinghua University, China, 25–26 May 2024 ♣

Novel Agent Causalism, Powers Ontology, and the Property Exemplification Account of Events: A Case for Trilateral Alliance

- Workshop on the Standard Story of Action and Non-Human Agency, 16–17 September 2022, King’s College London (organiser)

行动哲学中的唯意欲论——历史、现状，及其人类中心主义特质 [Volitionism in Philosophy of Action: The Past, the Present, and Its Anthropocentric Character]

- Summer Workshop on the Philosophy of Action, East China Normal University, China, 21–25 August 2021 ⇨

Defending the Reflective Deliberation View of Agential Activity

- The 18th Annual Meeting of Danish Philosophical Society, Aarhus University, Denmark, 3–4 March 2017 ♣

Modal Ambiguities and Theory Ladenness: Two Problems with Katsafanas's Objection to the Reflective Deliberation View of Agential Activity in Human Actions

- The Fourth Annual Conference of Dutch Research School of Philosophy, University of Groningen, the Netherlands, 9–10 December 2016 ♣

The Wishful Thinking Problem for Non-cognitivism: Does It Really Make Sense?

- The Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy (SOPhiA 2014), Salzburg University, Austria, 4–6 September 2014
♣ [Selected for *Kriterion – Journal of Philosophy* publication on by the conference committee through a double-blind peer-review process]

SERVICE

Co-founder and Co-convenor of Philosophy of Action Reading Group, Department of Philosophy, King's College London, 2019–22

Co-organiser of the International Workshop 'Non-Human Agency and the Standard Story of Action', King's College London, 2022