

Liu Xingding 劉星鼎

Email: xingding.liu@unsw.edu.au | Postal address: UNSW, Sydney, NSW, 2052, Australia

Web: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/hdr/xingding-liu> | ORCID: 0009-0007-3722-3215

Research Interests

Areas of specialization History of philosophy; Philosophies of Xuanxue (a Chinese philosophical tradition originating from the Wei-Jin Period 220–589 CE); Philosophy of language in Medieval China

Areas of competence Philosophical methodology; Confucian ethics; Historiography of philosophy

Education

From Jan. 2024 **Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy, University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Dissertation topic: Applies philosophy-of-language methodology to the analysis of key philosophical terms in Xuanxue (玄學), demonstrating how early medieval Chinese thought can offer productive resources for philosophical questions on naming and meaning in ways accessible to the wider, non-Sinophone history of philosophy.

Supervisors: Professor Karyn Lai (Primary, UNSW), Professor Yi Zheng (UNSW), and Doctor Qin Liu (Wuhan University)

Full funding: University International Postgraduate Awards (UIPA) by UNSW (Value of scholarship over 3.5 years: ~ A\$ 245,000)

Awards: HDR Research Output Award (Q1 tier, Faculty ADA, UNSW, 2026)

2020–2023 **Master of Philosophy, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing**

Academic record: Average score: 93 (Ranking 1st)

Dissertation title: Sagely virtues and sageliness (*sheng* 聖): Revisiting the relationship between the *Five Conducts* and the *Mencius* ("Exceptional Dissertation" by the International Confucian Academy at CUPL)

Thesis advisor: Professor Xuezhi Zhang (Peking University)

Awards: President Scholarship of CUPL (~0.06%); National Scholarship for Postgraduates (~1.25%); 1st Class Academic Scholarship (~10%)

2016–2020 **Bachelor of Philosophy, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing**

Academic record: Average score: 88 (Ranking 4th)

Publications

Research 2026 "Xuanxue's 玄學 Ongoing Evolution: Thinking with Wang Bi's Name-Actuality Dialectic." *Asian Philosophy* ahead-of-print: 1–19.

articles	https://doi.org/10.1080/09552367.2025.2610932 A&HCI; SJR Q1.
2025	"Good Governance and Good Teaching: An Interpretative Model of Mencius' Sage Stories and Ideal Political Paragons 「善政」與「善教」: 《孟子》聖人故事與理想政治的一種闡釋模式." <i>Legein Monthly 鵝湖月刊</i> 600: 36–49. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.16209879
2024	(Co-authored with Chung-ying Cheng, late Professor of Philosophy at University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA) "An Onto-hermeneutic Analysis of 'Jinsheng Yuzhen' in the Warring States Period 對戰國儒家金聲玉振概念的本體詮釋." <i>Philosophical Analysis 哲學分析</i> 15(4): 43–56. Chinese Social Sciences Citation Index (the premier index for high-impact scholarship in China).
Work in progress	"How to name the nameless: A typological analysis of signifiers in Wang Bi's philosophy of language." Under review. "Internality (<i>nei</i> 內) and externality (<i>wai</i> 外): A perspectival conception of directional terms in Guo Xiang's philosophy." In preparation.

Conference Presentations

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| 2026 | - British Society for the History of Philosophy Annual Conference, "How to name the nameless: Two types of signifiers in Wang Bi's philosophy of language," King's College London, London. Forthcoming. |
| 2025 | - Australasian Philosophy Postgraduate Conference (APPC), "How to Name the Nameless Dao: A Linguistic Analysis of Wang Bi's Idea on Names," University of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Philosophy HDR Workshop (Wuhan-USyd-UNSW), "Wandering Between Illusion and Reality: 'Jingjie 境界-Based' Interpretation of the Real and the Illusory in Black Myth: Wukong" (collaborated with Kai Wang 王開), University of New South Wales, Sydney.
- ECNU International Graduate Conference of Philosophy, "Treating Xuanxue 玄學 as an Evolving Project: Methodological Reflections," East China Normal University, Shanghai. |
| 2024 | - The Sixth Workshop of the "Jigu" Series on Chinese Philosophy, "A New Interpretation of the Warring States Concept of 'Jinsheng Yuzhen' 金聲玉振: Integrating Virtue, Presenting <i>Benti</i> 本體," Peking University, Beijing.
- Wuhan-UNSW Graduate Student Philosophy Workshop, "How is Neo-Daoist 'Sageliness Within and Kingliness Without' Possible: Ouyang Jian's 歐陽建 Practical Insights on the Words-Meaning Debate," University of New South Wales, Sydney. |
| 2023 | - Zhejiang University National Doctoral Forum on Future Philosophy, "'Good Governance' (善政) and 'Good Teaching' (善教): An Interpretative Model of Mencius' Sage Stories and Ideal Political Paragons" (Revised), Zhejiang University, Hangzhou.
- Conference on Wang Yangming Mind Philosophy, "Mind Structure and Moral Meaning of the 'Heart-Mind' in the Mencius: Desire, Emotion, Will and Anticipation," |

Shaoxing University of Arts and Sciences, Shaoxing.

- International Philosophy Summer School at Fudan, Shanghai, Fudan University, Shanghai.
 - ATI Summer Seminar in Asian Philosophy and Scholasticism, "What roles could practical reasoning specifically have in self-transformation and the cultivation of virtues/vices? Is there a connection?" Thomistic Institute at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome.
 - International Confucian Association's 2023 "Youth Academic Salon," " 'Good Governance' (善政) and 'Good Teaching' (善教): Examining the Sequence of Sages in the Mencius from a Political Context," China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing.
 - The Second "Qing Bei Ren Shi" Joint Philosophy Graduate Student Academic Forum, "The Changing Meaning and *Jingjie* 境界 Spheres of the Concept of Sheng in the *Wu Xing* 五行" (Revised), Tsinghua University, Beijing.
- 2022
- "An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy" Academic Seminar (online), "The Great Body (大体) and the Small Body (小体): a Comparison of the Ideas of the *Wu Xing* 五行 and the Mencius on the *Xin* (心)" (Revised), Peking University, Beijing.
 - The Third Workshop of the "Jigu" Series on Chinese Philosophy (online), "The Changing Meaning and *Jingjie* 境界 Spheres of the Concept of Sheng in the *Wu Xing* 五行," Shandong University, Jinan.
 - International Confucian Association's 2022 "Youth Academic Salon," "The Great Body (大体) and the Small Body (小体): A Comparative View of the Ideas of the *Wu Xing* 五行 and the Mencius on the *Xin* (心)," Sihai 四海 Academy, Beijing.

University Teaching

2026	Tutor Mind, Ethics, and Freedom: Introduction to Philosophy (ARTS1361), School of Humanities & Languages, UNSW, Sydney	Designed tutorial content and supplementary handouts to meet course specifications. Collaborated with the other three tutors, under the direction of Course Convenor, Associate Professor Markos Valaris. Undertook marking duties.
2025	Grading Tutor Chinese Philosophy (ARTS2363), School of Humanities & Languages, UNSW, Sydney	Evaluated and graded essays. Provided detailed, constructive feedback. Applied rigorous academic standards to ensure consistent and equitable assessment. Collaborated with the Course Convenor, Professor Karyn Lai, to uphold the pedagogical goals of the course.

Academic Services

2026–2027	<p>Ambassador (Asia-Pacific Region, incoming)</p> <p>British Society for the History of Philosophy, London</p>	<p>Selected as BSHP Ambassador for the Asia-Pacific region (2026–2027), focusing on fostering engagement between the BSHP and research communities across Australasia and East Asia, with particular emphasis on cross-cultural philosophical methodology.</p>
2025	<p>Conference Chair</p> <p>2025 ADA Higher Degree Research Conference, Faculty of Arts, Design, and Architecture, University of New South Wales, Sydney</p>	<p>Chaired the organizing committee of the 2025 ADA HDR Conference, a faculty-wide event showcasing original research from 50 HDR students to over 100 attendees across the humanities, social sciences, built environment, and environmental humanities. Managed a budget of ~A\$5,000 and served as primary liaison to internal and external stakeholders.</p>
2021–2024	<p>Co-Founder & Chair</p> <p>Jigu 稽古 Workshop Series on Chinese Philosophy, International Confucian Academy, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing</p>	<p>Co-founded and chaired the Jigu 稽古 Workshop Series on Chinese and comparative philosophy (Workshops 1–6), engaging the International Confucian Association and the Department of Philosophy at Peking University among other institutional partners, with over 80 postgraduate participants from international universities. The Series has continued independently, with the 7th workshop completed in 2025 and the 8th in preparation for 2026.</p>

Other Research Activity

Peer review	2024–2026	<p><i>Sophia</i> (Springer Nature, Portugal) (A&HCI; SJR Q2)</p>
Roundtable moderation	2025	<p>“Silence in Early Chinese Thought,” 12th Roundtable of Collaborative Learning 四海為學 Program (Online), East China Normal University, Shanghai.</p> <p>Discussants: Professor Dirk Meyer (Oxford University), Professor Ai Yuan 袁艾 (Tsinghua University), and Professor Lisa Indraccolo (Tallinn University)</p>
Keynote speech	2024	<p>“Good Governance (善政) and Good Teaching (善教): An Interpretative Model of Mencius' Sage Stories and Ideal Political Paragons,” 13th Chuanxi 傳習 Alumni Forum Series, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing.</p> <p>Discussant: Professor Chunying Li 李春穎 (CUPL)</p>
Research	2023–2024	<p>Assisted late Professor Chung-Ying Cheng (University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA) in research tasks, including recording and proofreading</p>

assistance		over ten articles and six book drafts in English and Chinese, communicating with publishers, and drafting presentation manuscripts, emails, and documentation. Co-authored and published a paper with Professor Cheng in a prestigious CSSCI journal (listed above).
Academic competitions	2022	4 th Xinming 新命 Philosophy Essay Competition, China University of Political Science and Law, The Second Prize (Highest among all postgraduate candidates).
	2021	18 th Academic Newcomer Thesis Competition, China University of Political Science and Law, "Academic Newcomer" Award (Highest award, 11 winners university-wide, the only winner in philosophy).

Grants and Funded Projects

2025	ADA HDR Essential Costs of Research Funding Scheme, Faculty of Arts, Design, and Architecture at the University of New South Wales (Sydney)	~A\$2,500
	Development and Research Training Grant (DRTG), Graduate Research School at the University of New South Wales (Sydney)	~A\$1,200
2022–2023	"Revisiting the Relationship between the Five Conducts and the Mencius," Master's Degree Thesis Grant Project, project leader, China University of Political Science and Law	~A\$1100
2021–2022	"Utilitarian Breakthrough: Taking the Concept of 'Public Interest' as an Opportunity," Master's Innovation Practice Funding Project, Major Participant, China University of Political Science and Law	~A\$850
2020–2021	"A Study about "the Others" in Kant's 'What is Enlightenment?'," Master's Innovation Practice Funding Project, Project Leader, China University of Political Science and Law	~A\$850

Skills and Social Influence

Languages	Chinese (Mandarin): Native proficiency English: Fully professional proficiency
Technical skills	Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint): proficiency Adobe Photoshop: proficiency Notion: proficiency
Social media and public engagement	Manage a dedicated academic profile with over 1,200 followers on Xiaohongshu 小紅書 (Rednote), a leading social media platform in China with high visibility among young intellectuals, disseminating philosophical scholarship and facilitating discussions for a community of postgraduates and early-career researchers.