

Xuning Gao

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EDUCATION

CUNY Graduate Center	New York City, NY
Doctoral student in Philosophy	Fall 2026-present
Kenyon College	Gambier, OH
<i>Bachelor of Arts, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Graduated May 2026
Major: Philosophy (distinction with High Honors), Minor: Religious Studies (focus on Buddhism)	
Honors Thesis: “Communication Beyond Words: A Case for Untranslatable Languages”	
Pembroke College, University of Cambridge	Cambridge, UK
Off campus exchange program—tutorial system	Fall 2024

HONORS AND AWARDS

Graduate Center Fellowship, <i>The Graduate Center, CUNY</i>	2026
Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society (Beta of Ohio), Kenyon College (KC)	2026
Virgil C. Aldrich Prize for excellence in the study of Philosophy, KC	2026
Theta Alpha Kappa Religious Studies Honors Society, KC	2025
John W. Adams Summer Scholars Program in Socio-Legal Studies Fellowship, KC	2025
Kenyon College Merit List, KC	2022-2025

AREAS OF INTEREST

Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language, Epistemology, Philosophy of Science

UNDERGRADUATE PUBLICATIONS

Gao, Xuning. “Against the Davidsonian Theory of Communication.” *Logos: The Cornell Undergraduate Philosophy Journal*, Vol. XXII, Spring 2026.

Gao, Xuning. “How Is Mindreading Possible: A Contextual Analysis of Theories of Mind.” *A Priori: The Brown University Undergraduate Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. VIII, Spring 2025.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Kenyon College	Gambier, OH
Senior Honors Thesis - High Honors in Philosophy	Summer 2025-Spring 2026
- Wrote 50-page paper arguing against Donald Davidson on incoherence of complete untranslatable languages. - Defended thesis before an outside examiner (Dr. Olivia Sultanesu) and Kenyon Philosophy department.	
John W. Adams Summer Scholars Program in Socio-legal Studies	Summer 2025
- Awarded \$4,500 to conduct research on interspecies ethics and animal ethics. - Presented poster analyzing application of posthumanist ethical framework for non-human agents, and examining philosophical grounds for U.S. legal regulations on laboratory use of animals.	

Independent Study: Philosophy of AI

Spring 2024

Final Paper: *"Understanding Explained"*

- Conducted literature review on debate over AI consciousness among Ned Block, John Searle, George Rey, Tim Mauldin, and others, proposed viewing "understanding" as a functional relation.

University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

Part II paper: Metaphysics

Fall 2024

Final Paper: *"Personal Identity Revisited: The Existence of Multiple Selves"*

- Challenged existing views of personal identity by proposing pluralistic account of selfhood and challenging first-person authority.

Part II paper: Philosophy of Mind

Fall 2024

Final Paper: *"How Is Mindreading Possible: A Contextual Analysis of Theories of Mind"*

- Challenged the ubiquity principle of mindreading. Argued that the theory-theory and the simulation theory can be contextually integrated as mutually compensating strategies.

OTHER EXPERIENCE**Editorial Research & Digital Media Intern**

Shanghai, China

Coral Dragon Arts & Culture Center

2026

- Researched and selected contemporary feminist artists for editorial coverage.
- Coordinated outreach, designed and conducted interviews independently with selected artists; edited interview materials and produced features for publication on website.
- Adapted and distributed editorial content across social media platforms.

Writing Center Tutor

Gambier, OH

Kenyon College, Writing Center

2025-2026

- Served as liaison for philosophy courses (Introduction to Philosophy; Philosophy of Law), guided students through reading materials and philosophical writing process.
- Provided individualized support to students across disciplines on writing at all stages.
- Collaborated with fellow tutors to maintain an inclusive learning environment, and attended training sessions on pedagogy.

International Pre-Orientation Leader

Gambier, OH

Kenyon College, Center of Global Engagement

Summer 2025

- Helped new international students adapt to college environments, including giving campus tours, leading small group activities, preparing welcome packages, and hosting Q&A panels.

Phonathon Caller

Gambier, OH

Kenyon College, Advancement Office

Fall 2023

- Answered questions about campus life and encouraged alumni donations
- Wrote well-crafted thank you notes and recorded video messages for alumni and parents

LANGUAGE

Mandarin (native)