

Sophia Fanglin Sui

1st Year MA of Philosophy (2Y), Central European University

Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Philosophy, CEU

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Main Research Areas:

Pain and Suffering, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Action, Philosophy of Art

Other Areas of Interest:

Phenomenology, Psychology, Ethics, Religion, Philosophy of Love

Education:

Central European University, M.A., Philosophy, 2024-present

New York University Abu Dhabi, Dual B.A., Philosophy, Art and Art History, 2020-2024

Thesis (Philosophy): “Desiring Pain” (Advisor: Gabriel Oak Rabin)

I argue that the psychological mechanism of cognitive override allows us to desire and pursue pain, and that pains that are desired serve important functional roles. I show that we can preserve the intuitive view that it is pain’s nature to feel bad; pain can be desired and pursued despite its negative affect because it can be deeply rewarding and meaningful.

Works in Progress:

“The Subject of Pain: The Body, Consciousness, or the Lived-Body?”, term paper for *Metaphysics of Mind* (Instructor: Tim Crane), winter 2025.

“Beyond Biological Norms: Rethinking Normal Functioning Through a Social Model”, term paper for *Advanced Issues on Human Nature* (Instructor: Maria Kronfeldner), winter 2025.

“Lost in Pain”, book-length manuscript (autotheory/memoir), under development for publication.

Presentations:

“Echoes of Solitude: The Universal yet Private Language of Pain”, *Nordic Summer University Winter Symposium*, Turku, Finland, March 2025 (Upcoming).

“Painful Art: In Between Aesthetics and Abjection”, *Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Philosophy Conference*, Abu Dhabi, UAE, April 2024.

Teaching Experience:

HLAB, Liberal Arts Summer School, Tokyo, Japan, August 2022, 2023

Seminar: Topics in Philosophy of Sports, August 2023

I designed and led seminars on fundamental philosophical questions surrounding the nature, meaning, and significance of sports in human life, such as the nature of competition and the ethics of controversial practices in sports.

Seminar: Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art, August 2022

I designed and led seminars on fundamental topics of aesthetics in philosophy, art history, and psychology, with a focus on aesthetic appreciation and the philosophy of art.

Outreach / Non-Academic:

Consultant for Translation (English-Chinese) and Social Media at Spring Care Stress Intervention Service Center, Shenzhen, China, 2021-present.

Art Installation, “Lost in the Shell”, NYUAD Art and Art History Capstone Exhibition, April 2024.

Board Member, Global Mentors Representative for Tokyo Region at HLAB, 2023.

80+ essays and short stories, published at WeChat Official Account “Sui Fangshao”, 2020-2023.

Co-founder and Leader of “Eeyore’s Bowknot: Adolescent Depression Awareness Project”, China, 2016-2018.

70+ articles on depression, published at WeChat Official Account “Eeyore’s Bowknot”, 2016-2018.

Presentation, “Influencing Factors and Ways of Approaching Adolescent Depression”, 2nd Shenzhen Psychological Stress Intervention Conference, co-hosted by Shenzhen Mental Health Center and Spring Care Stress Intervention Service Center, Shenzhen, October 2017.

Interview, “Five Girls’ ‘Bowknot’ Project”, on social awareness of adolescent depression in China, with Guangzhou Daily. March 2017.

Academic References:

Tim Crane, Professor of Philosophy, Central European University

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Gabriel Oak Rabin, Associate Professor of Philosophy, New York University Abu Dhabi

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Inés Crespo, Global Lecturer, New York University Paris

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