europass

Xihe (River) Ouyang

Email: xiheouyang@gmail.com **Phone:** (+1) 5878300146

Website: https://philpeople.org/profiles/xihe-river-ouyang

ABOUT ME

I am a Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy at the University of Calgary, specializing in political philosophy and ethics. My research focuses on egalitarianism, intergenerational justice, and the ethics of post-work societies, with particular interests in both distributive and relational equality.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Chinese

Other language(s):

English

LISTENING C2 **READING** C2 **WRITING** C2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C2 **SPOKEN INTERACTION** C2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

CURRENT OCCUPATION

[01/09/2022 – Current] **Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Calgary**

Regarding my degree timeline, the writing of my doctoral dissertation is now substantially complete. The remaining requirements are strictly limited to final chapter polishing, committee review, formal submission, and the oral defense. These final milestones are scheduled for completion by December 2026, fully guaranteeing the conferral of my Ph.D. well before the start of the fellowship.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

[01/09/2022 – Current] **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philosophy**

University of Calgary

City: Calgary | **Country:** Canada | **Field(s) of study:** Philosophy

Political philosophy and practical ethics, with a focus on egalitarianism, distributive and relational justice, intergenerational justice, and the ethics of post-work societies.

[01/09/2020 – 20/05/2022] **Ph.D. Studies in Philosophy (Transitioned to a new program)**

University of Missouri–Columbia

City: Columbia | **Country:** United States | **Field(s) of study:** Philosophy

Conducted graduate research with an emphasis on metaphysics and ethics. Relocated to Canada and commenced a new program to pivot my research direction. This transition was necessitated by faculty retirement and an adverse sociopolitical climate during the pandemic.

[01/09/2017 – 19/12/2019] **Master of Arts in Philosophy**

University of Arizona

City: Tucson | **Country:** United States | **Field(s) of study:** Philosophy

Metaphysics, moral and political philosophy, ethics, and related areas; philosophical analysis, argumentation, academic research, and writing.

[01/09/2012 – 20/06/2016] **Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy**

Beijing Normal University

City: Beijing | **Country:** China | **Field(s) of study:** Philosophy

Ethics; political philosophy; history of philosophy; logic; epistemology; metaphysics; philosophical analysis and argumentation; academic research and writing.

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Calgary

City: Calgary | **Country:** Canada

[30/06/2025 – 24/08/2025] **Philosophy Sessional Instructor**

Instructor of record for PHIL 345: Issues in Environmental Ethics. Independently designed and delivered the course, including the syllabus, reading list, assignments, examinations, and grading rubrics; delivered lectures; graded all student work; and held office hours and individual student meetings.

University of Calgary

City: Calgary | **Country:** Canada

[01/09/2022 – Current] **Philosophy Teaching Assistant**

- Information Technology Ethics (Fall 2026; Fall 2022; Winter 2023)
- Law and Philosophy (Fall 2025)
- Sex, Love and Death (Winter 2025)
- Gender and Sexuality (Fall 2024)
- Research Ethics (Fall 2024)
- Logic 1 (Winter 2024)
- Ethical Theory (Fall 2023)

As a teaching assistant, I lead four 50-minute discussion sections each week. In these sessions, I clarify course concepts that students find challenging and guide them in discussing competing views on controversial real-world issues. I also grade all assignments and hold office hours to answer students' questions. When needed, I cover one or two lectures for the course instructor.

University of Missouri, Columbia

City: Columbia, MO | **Country:** United States

[01/08/2020 – 30/05/2022] **Philosophy Teaching Assistant**

- Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2022)
- Medical Ethics (Fall 2021; Spring 2021)
- How to think: Logic and Reasoning for Everyday life (Fall 2020)

As a teaching assistant, I lead four 50-minute discussion sections each week. In these sessions, I clarify course concepts that students find challenging and guide them in discussing competing views on controversial real-world issues. I also grade all assignments and hold office hours to answer students' questions. When needed, I cover one or two lectures for the course instructor.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

[15/01/2026 – 15/06/2026] **Visiting Ph.D. Researcher at The Centre for the Experimental-Philosophical Study of Discrimination (CEPDISC), Department of Political Science, Aarhus University**

I actively participated in [CEPDISC's](https://ps.au.dk/en/cepdisc) interdisciplinary meetings, seminars, and conferences, presenting my work and providing oral and written feedback on colleagues' research. This experience deepened my understanding of empirical approaches to social issues and strengthened my ability to contribute to an interdisciplinary research community.

PUBLICATIONS

[2024] **Intuition and Kagan's Hierarchicalism**

Reference: Ouyang, X. (2024). Intuition and Kagan's Hierarchicalism. Utilitas, 36(3), 265–279.

In this paper, I challenge the widely shared claim that intuitions about distributive justice justify assigning lower moral status to animals. I argue that such intuitions may reflect a bias of the powerful (powerful beings tend to downgrade the status of powerless beings and discount their interests) and that moral status hierarchicalism implies unacceptable inequalities among non-cognitively-impaired humans.

Authors: Xihe Ouyang | **Journal Name**: Utilitas | **Volume, Issue and Pages**: 36(3), 265–279 | **Publisher**: Cambridge University Press

[2027] **Distributive Justice in a Post-Work Society: An Egalitarian Perspective Beyond UBI**

Reference: Forthcoming

In this paper, I examine what kind of distributive system we should have if AI and automation cause mass unemployment. I argue that the predominant proposal, universal basic income, is insufficient on its own and that a more egalitarian distribution is needed.

Authors: Xihe Ouyang | **Journal Name**: The Journal of Ethics

TRANSLATIONS AND PROOFREADING

[2026] **Chinese translation of "Egalitarianism" by Juliana Bidadanure and David Axelsen, The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Spring 2025 Edition), edited by Edward N. Zalta and Uri Nodelman**

Published on Political Philosophy and Ethics (政治哲学与伦理学) WeChat Official Account

[2026] **Chinese proofreading of J. L. Rose, "The Future of Work? The Political Theory of Work and Leisure," Annual Review of Political Science**

Translated by Anbang Chen, published on Political Philosophy and Ethics (政治哲学与伦理学) WeChat Official Account

PROJECTS

[01/04/2024 – Current] **Relational Justice between Generations**

Under Review at *The Philosophical Quarterly*

In this paper, I argue that relational egalitarianism sheds important light on intergenerational justice: concerns about status, power, domination, and respect can arise even between people who never interact.

[01/01/2026 – Current] **The Purposes of Education in a Post-work World**

In preparation

In this paper, I explore what the purposes of education should be in an era of technological unemployment.

[01/04/2026 – Current] **Limitarianism, Luck-egalitarian Equality of Opportunity, and Beyond**

In preparation

In this paper, I argue that luck egalitarians should (also) embrace limitarianism, which brings us one step closer to a hybrid theory combining relational and luck egalitarianism.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

[05/2026] **The Purposes of Education in a Post-work World (Peer-reviewed Talk)** Paris

At European Seminars of Philosophy of Education

[04/2026] **Why Post-Work Societies Need Limitarian Constraints (Peer-reviewed Talk)** Vienna

At CEU's Annual Doctoral Conference (ADC)

[09/2025] **Egalitarianism in a Post-Work World: A Glimpse (Peer-reviewed Talk)** Manchester

At MANCEPT workshop 'Post-Work as Political Thought: Establishing and Questioning the Boundaries of a Tradition.'

[06/2025] **Particularist Relational Egalitarianism and Intergenerational Justice (Peer-reviewed Talk)**
Toronto

At Canadian Philosophical Association Conference

[03/2025] **Particularist Relational Egalitarianism and Intergenerational Justice (Peer-reviewed Talk)**
Champaign

At UIUC Graduate Conference

[05/2023] **Which Desire Helps Desire-satisfactionism Avoid the Experience Machine Objection (Peer-reviewed Talk)**
Online

At 5th International Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life

[10/2022] **Which Desire Helps Desire-satisfactionism Avoid the Experience Machine Objection (Peer-reviewed Talk)**
Winnipeg

At Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference

[02/2022] **Revisiting Normal Variation: A Reply to Kagan (Peer-reviewed Talk)** Cincinnati

At Association for Practical and Professional Ethics

[04/2026] **Luck Egalitarianism, Limitarianism, and The Distributive Demands of Hybrid Egalitarianism (Invited Talk)**
Vienna

At "Early Ideas, Future Breakthroughs" Workshop with Andrew Williams

[03/2026] **Distributive Justice in a Post-work Society: An Egalitarian Perspective (Invited Talk)**
Aarhus

At Political Theory Section Meeting, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark

[12/2025] **Distributive Justice in a Post-work Society: An Egalitarian Perspective (Invited Talk)**
Calgary

At The Apeiron Society for the Practice of Philosophy

[10/2025] **Distributive Justice in a Post-work Society: An Egalitarian Perspective (Invited Talk)**
Calgary

At PGSA Graduate Colloquium Series

[04/2025] **Particularist Relational Egalitarianism and Intergenerational Justice (Invited Talk)** Calgary

At PGSA Graduate Colloquium Series

[04/2025] **Intuition and Moral Status Hierarchicalism (Invited Talk)** Nagoya

At Nagoya Meta-Philosophy Workshop 2.0

HONOURS AND AWARDS

[01/05/2025] **Best Graduate Essay Award Awarding institution:** University of Calgary, Department of Philosophy

Competitive annual essay prize for graduate students in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Calgary, awarded to the sole recipient selected from a pool of 30 submissions. The prize is valued at up to CAD 2,500.

[01/09/2015] **First-Class GPA Award Awarding institution:** Beijing Normal University

First-tier GPA-based academic scholarship awarded by Beijing Normal University, granted to the top 5% of undergraduate students in the cohort.

GRANTS AND FELLOW-SHIPS

[01/01/2026 – 15/06/2026] **Faculty of Graduate Studies Doctoral Scholarship**

Competitive doctoral scholarship awarded by the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Calgary in recognition of strong academic achievement and research potential. Value: CAD 15,000.

[15/04/2026 – 30/04/2026] **GSA Professional Development Grant**

Competitive professional development grant awarded by the Graduate Students' Association at the University of Calgary to support graduate students' academic and professional development activities. Value: CAD 750.

[01/05/2022 – 01/05/2022] **The Kline Fund Grant**

Grant awarded by the Kline Fund Chair in the Department of Philosophy to support graduate student research and professional development. Value: CAD 3,000.

SERVICE

[05/2025] **Organizer (Co-chair)**

12th Annual University of Calgary Graduate Conference

Conference Referee

12th Annual University of Calgary Graduate Conference, 2025

10th Annual University of Calgary Graduate Conference, 2023

Canadian Philosophical Association 2023 Congress Program, 2023

Commentator

Canadian Philosophy Association Congress Program, 2025

12th Annual University of Calgary Graduate Conference, 2025

10th Annual University of Calgary Graduate Conference, 2023

[06/2025] **Judge**

Ethics Bowl Canada (High School), Calgary

[2024 – Current] **Writing Tutor**

Chinese Philosophy Students in UK

NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS

[01/11/2023 – Current] **Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA)** Canada

Member of the Canadian Philosophical Association, the national professional association for philosophers in Canada.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Name: Ann Levey Associate Professor at University of Calgary

This referee may be contacted if needed.

Email: levey@ucalgary.ca

Name: Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen Professor at Aarhus University

This referee may be contacted if needed.

Email: lippert@ps.au.dk

Name: Peter Vallentyne Florence G. Kline Professor Emeritus at University of Missouri, Columbia

This referee may be contacted if needed.

Email: VallentyneP@missouri.edu