

Weixin Cai

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Update: Oct 1, 2026

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization: General Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of AI, Philosophy of Social Science
Areas of Competence: Metaphysics, Ethics, Metaphilosophy, Philosophy of Mind

WORK EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Fellow | Lingnan University 2026–2027
Project: *The Philosophy of Contemporary and Future Science*
PI: Darrell Rowbottom

EDUCATION

PhD in Philosophy | University of California San Diego 2020–2026
Dissertation: *The Philosophical Significance of Causal Diversity*
Committee: Nancy Cartwright (Co-Chair), David Danks (Co-Chair), Kerry McKenzie, Karen Kovaka, Stephan Haggard (Political Science)

MA in Philosophy | Simon Fraser University 2016–2019
MA in Philosophy | Renmin University of China 2014–2017
BA in Philosophy | Renmin University of China (Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award) 2010–2014

VISITING POSITIONS

Visiting Researcher | Durham University Apr–Jun 2025
Department of Philosophy | Host Professor: Nancy Cartwright

Visiting Student | University of Cambridge Oct–Dec 2024
Department of History and Philosophy of Science | Host Professor: Anna Alexandrova

Guest Associate Researcher | Kyoto University Apr–Aug 2024
Department of Philosophy and History of Science | Host Professor: Tetsuji Iseda (伊勢田 哲治)

PUBLICATIONS

In English

- Causal-Structural Explanation** (with Zili Dong; equal authorship) Conditionally accepted
Philosophy of Science (expected to be published in 2027).
- Simpson’s Paradox Beyond Confounding** (with Zili Dong and Shimin Zhao; equal authorship) 2024
European Journal for Philosophy of Science 14, 44: 1–22.
- Causal Exclusion and Causal Autonomism** (invited publication for the best essay award) 2018
Frontiers of Philosophy in China 13 (3): 402–419.

In Chinese

4. **Can Large Language Models Provide Reliable Virtual Subjects for Experimental Philosophy?** Forthcoming
| 大语言模型能否为实验哲学提供可靠的虚拟被试?
Studies in Philosophy of Science and Technology (科学技术哲学研究)
5. **Simplicity: A Secondary Ultimate Cognitive Value for Non-Ideal Cognitive Agents** 2026
| 简单性: 非理想认知主体的次要终极认知价值
Journal of Dialectics of Nature (自然辩证法通讯) 48 (8): 33–40.
6. **Determinism as a Stance** | 作为立场的决定论 2025
Journal of Dialectics of Nature (自然辩证法通讯) 47 (10): 48–54.
Excerpt reprinted in *Chinese Social Science Digest* (中国社会科学文摘). 2025 (12): 152.

Under Review

1. **Facilitated Causation** (In English)

PRESENTATIONS († = REFEREED; ‡ = INVITED)

Promoting Scientific Progress: A Mechanistic Account

1. Workshop on Scientific Progress and the Future of Science | Lingnan University Nov 2026†

Causal-Structural Explanation

2. The 30th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association | San Diego, California, United States Nov 2026†
3. The 22nd Biennial Chinese National Conference on Philosophy of Science | Sun Yat-sen University Nov 2025†
4. The 1st Workshop on Philosophy of Biological Sciences | Sun Yat-sen University Oct 2025‡

Facilitated Causation

5. Colloquium for CAPE (Center for Applied Philosophy & Ethics) Lecture | Kyoto University Aug 2026‡
6. Huiyuan Philosophy Colloquium | Huazhong University of Science and Technology Jun 2026‡

Two Approaches to Philosophical Theorizing: Causation as a Case Study

7. The 1st Philosophical Analysis Methodology Workshop for Junior Scholars | Shanxi University Nov 2025†

Opportunities and Perils in Using Large Language Models in Experimental Philosophy

8. The 1st Cross-Disciplinary Workshop on Mind and Intelligence | Sun Yat-sen University Sep 2025†

The Virtue of Middle-Range Philosophizing: The One and the Many

9. The 29th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association | New Orleans, Louisiana, United States (Poster Session, declined due to overseas academic visit) Nov 2024†
10. Philosophy of Science: Past, Present and Future | University of Minnesota (Poster Session, declined due to overseas academic visit) Oct 2024†

Simplicity as a Secondary Ultimate Cognitive Value for Non-Ideal Epistemic Agents

11. The 2024 Annual Conference of the Korean Society for the Philosophy of Science | Jeju National University Jul 2024†
12. Colloquium for CAPE (Center for Applied Philosophy & Ethics) Lecture | Kyoto University Jun 2024‡
13. The 6th Science and Philosophy Workshop for Junior Scholars | University of Chinese Academy of Sciences Apr 2024†
14. Philosophy of Science around the World 2023 | Online Nov 2023†

A Plea for Middle-Range Theories of Causation

15. Causation in Kyoto: A Workshop on the Philosophy, Psychology, and Computer Science of Causation | Kyoto University Jun 2023†

***Reductio ad Absurdum* Explanations**

16. Pacific APA | San Francisco, California, United States (Cancelled due to COVID-19) Apr 2020†
The Role of Non-Causally Related Variables in Causal Models
17. The 26th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association | Seattle, Washington, United States Nov 2018†
How Can We Understand Mental Causation
18. Workshop on Mental Causation | Renmin University of China May 2017‡
The Autonomy Approach, Interventionism, and Multiple Realizability
19. The 3rd Beijing Analytic Philosophy Conference | Renmin University of China Apr 2016†
Mental Causes as Insufficient Causes
20. The Mental and the Physical: The 3rd Summer Workshop of the Chinese Wittgenstein Society | East China Normal University Aug 2015
Refuting an Argument against Anti-Intellectualism
21. Experience and Concept: Conference on Themes from John McDowell and Wilfrid Sellars | Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Oct 2013

Comments

1. On Prasanta S. Bandyopadhyay's "**A Dilemma for the Causal Theorist**" | Pacific APA Apr 2021

RESEARCH GRANTS

1. Member of the Research Project "**Collective Responsibility in Artificial Intelligence**" 2025–2030
Funded by the National Social Science Fund of China

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Dissertation Fellowship | University of California San Diego 2024–2025
- First-Year Graduate Fellowship | University of California San Diego 2020–2021
- Graduate Fellowship | Simon Fraser University 2016, 2018
- Graduate Research Award | Simon Fraser University 2017
Awarded annually for the best graduate philosophy paper
- Department-Level Excellent Graduate Student Award | Renmin University of China 2017
- The Best Essay Award in the 3rd Beijing Analytic Philosophy Conference 2016
- National Scholarship for Graduate Students | Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China 2015
Highly competitive scholarships granted to selected graduate students nationwide based on merit
- University-Level Student Award of Merit | Renmin University of China 2015
- Excellent Graduate Student Award | Renmin University of China 2015
- Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award in Philosophy | Renmin University of China 2014
- Excellent Undergraduate Student Award | Renmin University of China 2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record | University of California San Diego

- Philosophy of Science Summer 2025

Pedagogical Training | University of California San Diego

- Advanced College Teaching Winter 2025

- Foundations of Teaching Workshops

Fall 2024

Teaching Assistant | University of California San Diego

- Climate Ethics | Spring 2026: Karen Kovaka
- Philosophy of Social Science | Winter 2026: Nancy Cartwright
- Introduction to Logic | Winter 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2023: Jennifer Carr
- Ethics and Society (I) | Winter 2024, Winter 2023, Spring 2022: Manuel Vargas | Fall 2022: Mara Harrell | Fall 2021: Reuven Brandt
- Ethics and Society (II) | Winter 2022: Mara Harrell
- Topics in Metaphysics | Summer 2022: Joseph Martinez

Teaching Assistant | Simon Fraser University

- Critical Thinking | Summer 2019: Lyle Crawford | Spring 2018: Jennifer Wang | Fall 2017: Dai Heide | Summer 2017: Jill McIntosh
- Introduction to Logic and Reasoning | Spring 2019: Tom Donaldson | Fall 2018, Spring 2017: Jill McIntosh
- Introduction to Philosophy | Fall 2016: Jennifer Warriner

SELECTED GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Philosophy of Science and Scientific Practice

- Topics in Philosophy of Science | Nancy Cartwright
- Causation: Singular & Generic | Nancy Cartwright
- Philosophy of Science: Objectivity and Other Issues | Nancy Cartwright
- Empiricism in Philosophy of Science | Kerry McKenzie
- Laws of Nature | Eddy Keming Chen
- Qualitative Methods in Political Science | Stephan Haggard
- Quantitative Methods in Sociology | Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra
- Pain | Matthew Fulkerson
- History and Philosophy of Science: An Integrated Approach | Holly Andersen
- Explanation and Causation | Holly Andersen

Ethics

- Data Ethics | David Danks
- Risk, Responsibility, and Morality | Dana Kay Nelkin, Samuel Rickless
- Pleasure and Hedonism in Greek Philosophy | Monte Ransome Johnson
- Mathematics of Morality | Evan Tiffany, Nicolas Fillion
- Meta-Normativity | Evan Tiffany

Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Language

- Contemporary Analytic Metaphysics: Varieties of Metaphysical Relationship | Eric Watkins
- Topics in Recent Epistemology | Jennifer Carr
- Applied Formal Epistemology | Jennifer Carr
- Core Course in Philosophy of Language | Jonathan Cohen
- The Principle of Sufficient Reason | Fatema Amijee, Dai Heide

- Physicalism | Thomas Donaldson
- The Metaphysics of Properties | Jennifer Wang

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

- Referee for philosophy journals: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Erkenntnis*, *Synthese*
AI research journals: *IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence*
- Member: Philosophy of Science Association, Asian Philosophy of Science Association, American Philosophical Association
- Website maintainer for Nancy Cartwright Since Summer 2024
- Research assistant for Kerry McKenzie Summer 2022
- Co-organizer and regular attendant of a weekly reading group on philosophy of science Since Summer 2019
- Organizing assistant for the 3rd Beijing Analytic Philosophy Conference Apr 2016
- Editorial assistant for *Philosophy Digest* (a quarterly digest for Chinese philosophy journal articles) Jul 2015–Apr 2016

REFERENCES

Nancy Cartwright
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy (UC San Diego)
Professor of Philosophy (Durham University)
nancy.cartwright@durham.ac.uk

David Danks
Polk JSF Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy,
Artificial Intelligence, & Data Science (University of
Virginia)
Previously Professor of Data Science, Philosophy, and
Policy (UC San Diego)
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