

Hengyuan Liu

Ph.D. Student in Politics, King's College London
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EDUCATION

Doctoral Student in Politics 09/2025-
Department of Political Economy, King's College London
Supervisor: Professor Robin Douglass, Professor of Political Theory
Doctoral Thesis: ***Hobbes's Idea of Monarchy***
Research Area: Thomas Hobbes, Sovereignty and Government, History of Political Thought

Master's in Ethics and Political Philosophy 09/2022-07/2025
Department of Philosophy, Peking University
Supervisor: Professor Meng Li, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Peking University
Research Area: History of Political Thought (esp. 15th-17th century, Hobbes)
Dissertation: ***The Historical Hobbes? The Historical Origins of Monarchy and the Sovereign State in Hobbes's Political Thought***

B.A. in Philosophy 09/2017-07/2022
Department of Philosophy, Peking University
Supervisor: Professor Meng Li, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Peking University
Research Area: History of Political Thought (esp. 15th-17th century, Hobbes, Ferdinand Tönnies)
Dissertation: ***Does Hobbes Support Negative Liberty? On Hobbes' Concept of Liberty***
Term Dissertation: ***Beyond Leviathan—the Hobbesian Philosophy in Tönnies's Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft***

RESEARCH INTEREST

History of Political Thought (medieval and early modern)
Thomas Hobbes
Theories of Sovereignty, Natural Law and Natural Rights;
Theories of Government
Classical German Social Theories (e.g. Ferdinand Tönnies, Max Weber)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Hobbes's Idea of Monarchy *Researcher & Author* 9/2025-
Supervisor: Professor Robin Douglass, Professor of Political Theory, King's College London

- Systematically analyses Hobbes's argument for monarchy and its chronological evolution;
- examines Hobbes's relationship with contemporaries and previous scholars in terms of monarchy;

Thomas Hobbes on Aristocratic Virtue *Researcher & Author* 10/2019-5/2020
Supervisor: Professor Meng Li, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Peking University

- Systematically analyses Hobbes's account of honour, glory, and aristocratic virtue in his works;
- Examines Leo Strauss's claim on Hobbes's attitude towards aristocratic virtue;
- Discussed Hobbes's significance in the history of political thought based on previous

investigation.

Ferdinand Tönnies's intellectual Relationship with Thomas Hobbes

Researcher & Author

7/2020-7/2021

Supervisor: Professor Meng Li, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Peking University

- Summarises Hobbes's account of "concord" and "union" in his major works.
- Comparative reading between Tönnies's narrative of Gemeinschaft and Hobbes's idea of natural concord.
- Discovered key evidence for new conclusion: Tönnies's Gemeinschaft partly came from Hobbes's concord.
- Reevaluates the relationship between Tönnies and Hobbes based on previous findings.
- Re-examines Hobbes's significance in classical social theories.

Thomas Hobbes on Liberty *Researcher & Author*

1/2022-7/2022

Supervisor: Professor Meng Li, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Peking University

- Summarises Hobbes's account of liberty in various texts;
- Examines and responds to current explanations of Hobbes's account of liberty;
- Clarifies Isaiah Berlin's error that Hobbes belongs to the school of negative liberty.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Philosophy (course) | Peking University | Co-Instructor with Professor Meng Li

9/2022-1/2023

9/2023-1/2024

9/2024-1/2025

- Led weekly course discussion sections providing in-depth interpretation and discussion of Plato's *Symposium*, *Theaetetus*, *Phaedo*, and Descartes's *Meditations on First Philosophy*, with relevant secondary literature resources.
- Assisted with instruction and graded students' assignments and papers.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOP

The 10th National Conference on Classical Studies

10/2022 Beijing

Conference Paper: "Hobbes's Political Philosophy: Origins and Foundations – Strauss and Pre-war Hobbes Studies" Co-Researcher & Co-author

Research Seminar on Rousseau's *Considerations on the Government of Poland*

2022-2023

Research Seminar on Rousseau's *The Constitution of Corsica*

2023-2024

Research Seminar on Bodin's *The Six Books of the Commonwealth*

2023-2025

- Translating Bodin's work into Chinese based on the French and Latin versions of the text.
- Discussing Bodin's ideas alongside figures such as Hobbes and Rousseau.

SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS

The Canon Scholarship of Merits

9/2023

Peking University Award for Excellence in Research

9/2023

The Peking University Scholarship of Merits

9/2024

Peking University Award for Excellence in Research

9/2024

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Mandarin: native language; English: full professional proficiency; German: professional research proficiency.