

William Sterling Gilbert

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Areas of Specialization: Korean Philosophy; Daoism; Comparative Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Confucian Ethics; Silhak (Practical Learning); Religious Syncretism

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Philosophy; Sogang University, expected 2027

- Dissertation: “Korean Neo-Daoism in Goryeo Korea: Yi Gyubo and the Seven Worthies of the Eastern Land”
 - Supervisor: Professor Halla Kim

Master of Arts, Korean Philosophy; Sungkyunkwan University, 2024

- Thesis: “Exploring Creator and Creation in Yi Gyubo: In Comparison with Daoist Cosmogony”
 - Supervisor: Professor Sojeong Park

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy; University of North Florida, 2019

Publications

Journal articles

1. "Religious Syncretism between Daoist and Shamanistic Imagery in Goguryeo Tomb Murals." *The Review of Korean Studies* 29, no. 1 (June 2026): 237–258.
2. *Forthcoming* (October 2026). “Ordering Emotion through Sound: Ritual Music and Heart-Mind Cultivation in Korean Neo-Confucianism.” *European Journal of Korean Studies* 26.1 (Research Note).

Manuscripts under revise and resubmit

1. *Yi Gyubo as a Korean Neo-Daoist, Philosophy East and West*
2. *Tasan & Modernity, International Journal of Korean History*

Manuscripts under review

3. *Confucian Approaches to Care and Public Health*
4. *Fallout and Aesthetic Retrofuturism*
5. *Daoist elements of Korean Mountain Spirit worship*

Presentations

Invited

1. “Emotions, Sages, Principle: A Zhuangzian Approach to the Four-Seven Debate”
Confucian Culture Expo, Institute of Korean Confucian Culture. Nonsan-si, South Korea. September 7th, 2024

Refereed

1. “Toward Korean Neo-Daoism: Daoist Philosophy in the Writings of Yi Gyubo”
NAKPA Panel for the 2026 APA-Pacific Division Meeting. April 12th, 2026
2. “Reconsidering Korean Modernity: The Silhak Movement and the Legacy of Dasan”
2025 ISEAP Conference: Progressive East Asian Philosophy, National Chengchi University, Taiwan. August 29th, 2025
3. “Buddha-Nature as Soteriological Universal Potential in the Mahāparinirvāṇa Sūtra and Wonhyo”
CSCS-ATI Summer School: “Buridan and the Buddha: Nominalism and Universals from East to West” Hong Kong Baptist University. Hong Kong. August 5th, 2025
4. “Cosmogony and Korean Neo-Daoism in the Writings of Yi Gyubo”
四海为学 [Collaborative Learning “Works in Progress”] Academic Forum. May 19th, 2025
5. “Confucian Care Ethics in Pandemic Response: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives”
GWIKS 2025 Graduate Student Research and Publication Workshop. March 7th, 2025
6. “Religious Syncretism in Daoist and Shamanistic Imagery in Three Kingdoms Tomb Murals”
NAKPA Panel for the 2025 APA-Central Division Meeting. February 21st, 2025

7. “Confucian Care Ethics in Pandemic Response: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives”
Biennial Conference of the World Consortium for Research in Confucian Cultures. Seoul, South Korea. November 1st, 2024
8. “Sacred Convergence: The Influence of Daoism in Korean Shamanistic 山神祭 [Sansin Rituals]”
SNU Center for Religious Studies 2024 International Conference, with North American Korean Philosophy Association. Seoul, South Korea. October 30th, 2024
9. “Exploring Creator and Creation in Yi Gyubo’s Thought”
World Congress of Philosophy: Philosophy across Boundaries. Student Session. La Sapienza University. Rome, Italy. August 4th, 2024
10. “Creator and Creation in Yi Gyubo’s Thought”
Neo Daoism in China and Korea: Weijin Xuanxue and Korean Syncretic Daoism. International Conference. Graduate Student Session. Seoul, South Korea. November 17th, 2023
11. “Introducing Yi Gyubo’s Creator”
Zhuangzi beyond the Inner Chapters in Seoul. Graduate Student Session. Seoul, South Korea. March 17th, 2023
12. “Korean Religious Syncretism in Sanshin Paintings”
Introducing Korean Beauty in Music, Art and Literature. Sungkyunkwan University & Institute of Korean Philosophy and Culture. June 18th, 2021

Comments

1. “Philosophical Interpretation of Yi Gyubo’s Theory of Creating New Meaning”
Response to Mayuko Sasaki. KAEP Korean Philosophy Research Symposium. Sungkyunkwan University. Seoul, South Korea. September 5th, 2025

Employment

Graduate Research Assistant, Center for K-Academic Expansion in Philosophy, July 2021 – February 2024

- Co-produced and developed online courses on Korean philosophy and culture.
- Created lecture storyboards, edited scripts, appeared in filmed lectures, edited subtitles, and co-organized international conferences.

Awards, Honors, and Scholarships

1. CSCS-ATI Summer School Fellowship, Hong Kong Baptist University¹, 2025
2. Doctoral Research Capacity Enhancement Support Grant², Sogang University, 2025
3. Graduate School Student Outstanding Paper Award³, Sogang University, 2024
4. Research exchange program with Sophia University, Sogang University, 2024
5. Sogang Global Fellowship (S)⁴, Sogang University, 2024
6. Brain Korea 21 Scholar, Sungkyunkwan University, 2020–2021
7. Graduate Program Scholarship for Intl. Students, Sungkyunkwan University, 2020
8. Annual Philosophy Department Paper Prize, University of North Florida, 2020

Teaching Experience

Guest Lecture

1. “Introduction to Korean Daoism”
 ‘Introduction to Korean Philosophy’, Korean Studies Department.
 Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary. April 2nd, 2025

Teaching Assistantships

1. History of Korean Philosophy, Sogang University | Spring 2025
2. The History of Pre-Qin and Han Dynasty Philosophy, Sogang University | Spring 2024
3. History of Korean Philosophy, Sungkyunkwan University | Spring 2021
4. Korean Thought and Culture, Sungkyunkwan University | Fall 2020

Academic Service

5. **Editorial Assistant**, “Oxford Handbook of Korean Philosophy” (*Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press*, forthcoming under contract) edited by Halla Kim. 2024–2026
6. **Editorial Assistant**, “Korean Philosophy: An Intellectual History” (*London: Routledge*, forthcoming under contract) Monograph by Halla Kim. 2024–2026
7. **Editorial Assistant**, “Oxford Bibliography: Korean Philosophy” (*Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press*, 2025) by Halla Kim
8. **Co-organizer**, “What is living and what is dead in the philosophy of Kant today”, International Conference, Seoul. 2024
9. **Co-organizer**, “Build Bridge: Korean Philosophy in the World”, Conference, Seoul. 2023

¹ Travel, accommodation, and meals

² 5,000,000 KRW (approx. USD \$3,300)

³ 1,000,000 KRW (approx. USD \$700)

⁴ 12,000,000 KRW (approx. USD \$8,000)

10. **Co-organizer**, “Discovering Korean Arts and Philosophy”, International Workshop, Seoul. 2021
11. **Co-organizer**, “Women, Family, and Korean Confucianism”, Conference, Seoul. 2020

Outreach

Online Courses (Co-Produced, Center for K-Academic Expansion in Philosophy)

1. [*Korean Music, A Philosophical Exploration*](#), Coursera, 2023
2. [*An Introduction to Korean Buddhist Philosophy*](#), KMOOC, 2023
3. [*In Search for the Origins of Korean Philosophy*](#), Coursera, 2023
4. [*Korean Aesthetics*](#), KMOOC, 2023
5. [*Introduction to Korean Philosophy and Culture*](#), Coursera, 2021

Interviews/Podcasts

1. Reports from Abroad in *Blog of the APA*, [*Between Traditions: Korean Philosophy and the Limits of Universality—Interview with Ph.D. Student Will Gilbert*](#), 2026
2. *Sogang Gazette* (Sogang University Newspaper), [*Sogang Story*](#) No. 115, 2025
3. *Korea Deconstructed*, Ep. 77: [*Taoism and the Creator*](#), 2024

Public Writings (Invited / Non–Peer Reviewed)

1. Gilbert, William, and André M. Penna-Firme. “[*Rediscovering a Neglected Tradition: Book Review—Korean Philosophy: Sources and Interpretations*](#).” *Blog of the American Philosophical Association (Reports from Abroad)*, December 15th, 2025

Social Media

1. Founder & Moderator, [*r/KoreanPhilosophy*](#). 2024–Present (819 members)

Memberships and Affiliations

North American Korean Philosophy Association (since 2019)

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division (since 2023)

International Society for Philosophy as a Way of Life (since 2026)

Languages

Korean: Intermediate

Classical Chinese: Basic research proficiency