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Research Interests

Areas of Specialization: General Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Social Science (esp. Causal Inference in Social Sciences), Metaphysics (esp. Causation and Explanation), Metaphilosophy (esp. Theoretical Virtues in Philosophy), Philosophy of AI

Areas of Competence: Philosophy of Mind, Ethics

Education

PhD in Philosophy University of California San Diego	2020–2026 (Expected)
Dissertation: <i>Middle-Range Theories of Causation</i>	
Committee: Nancy Cartwright (co-chair), David Danks (co-chair), Kerry McKenzie, 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)	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	

Publications

1. **Determinism as a Stance** (in Chinese) | 作为立场的决定论
Journal of Dialectics of Nature (自然辩证法通讯) 47 (10): 48–54. 2025
2. **Simpson's Paradox Beyond Confounding** (with Zili Dong and Shimin Zhao; equal authorship)
European Journal for Philosophy of Science 14, 44. 2024
3. **Causal Exclusion and Causal Autonomism**
Frontiers of Philosophy in China 13 (3): 402–419. 2018

In Progress

1. **Theorizing about Causation, Part I: Grand Theories of Causation and Their Discontents** (commissioned by *Philosophy Compass*).
2. **Theorizing about Causation, Part II: Kinds of Causal Diversity and Middle-Range Theories of Causation** (commissioned by *Philosophy Compass*).

3. **Causal-Structural Explanation** (with Zili Dong; under review).
4. **Simplicity: A Secondary Ultimate Cognitive Value for Non-Ideal Cognitive Agents** (in Chinese; under review).
5. **The Prospects and Challenges of AI-Empowered Experimental Philosophy** (in Chinese; under review).

Presentations († = Referred; ‡ = Invited)

Two Approaches to Philosophical Theorizing: Causation as a Case Study

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

Causal-Structural Explanation

2. The 22nd Biennial Chinese National Conference on Philosophy of Science | Sun Yat-sen University Nov 2025†
3. The 1st Workshop on Philosophy of Biological Sciences | Sun Yat-sen University Oct 2025‡

Opportunities and Perils in Using Large Language Models in Experimental Philosophy

4. 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

5. The 29th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association (Poster Session, declined due to overseas academic visit) Nov 2024†
6. 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

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

A Plea for Middle-Range Theories of Causation

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

***Reductio ad Absurdum* Explanations**

12. Pacific APA (cancelled due to COVID-19) Apr 2020†

The Role of Non-Causally Related Variables in Causal Models

13. The 26th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association Nov 2018†

How Can We Understand Mental Causation

14. Workshop on Mental Causation | Renmin University of China May 2017‡

The Autonomy Approach, Interventionism, and Multiple Realizability

15. The 3rd Beijing Analytic Philosophy Conference | Renmin University of China Apr 2016†

Mental Causes as Insufficient Causes

16. The Mental and the Physical: The 3rd Summer Workshop of the Chinese Wittgenstein Society | Aug 2015
East China Normal University

Refuting an Argument against Anti-Intellectualism

17. Experience and Concept: Conference on Themes from John McDowell and Wilfrid Sellars | Oct 2013
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Comments

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

Grants 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 to the best graduate philosophy paper
- Department-Level Excellent Graduate Student Award | Renmin University of China 2017
- Prize for the Best Student Essay 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 | Department of Philosophy, 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 | Department of Philosophy, University of California San Diego

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

Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Language

- Causation: Singular & Generic | Nancy Cartwright
- 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
- Explanation and Causation | Holly Andersen

Moral Philosophy

- 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

Academic Service and Activities

- Referee: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence
Synthese

- Website maintainer for Nancy Cartwright Summer 2024 to now
- Research assistant for Kerry McKenzie Summer 2022
- Co-organizer and regular attendant of a weekly reading group on philosophy of science Summer 2019 to now
- 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

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Professor of Philosophy (Durham University)
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David Danks

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Kerry McKenzie

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