

# Yili Zhou (周奕李)

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**Areas of Specialization:** Aesthetics, Metaethics, Chinese Philosophy  
**Areas of Competence:** Normative Ethics, Applied Ethics, Epistemology

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Duke Kunshan University | 2025–present |
| Postdoctoral Researcher, Philosophy, Zhejiang University            | 2023–2025    |

## EDUCATION

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| Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Arizona                                                            | 2023 |
| Dissertation: “All about Normativity”                                                               |      |
| Committee: Terrence Horgan and Mark Timmons (co-chairs), Reza Hadisi, John Muniz                    |      |
| Ph.D. Minor, Piano Performance and Music Education, Fred Fox School of Music, University of Arizona | 2023 |
| M.A., Philosophy, Renmin University of China                                                        | 2017 |
| B.A., Political Education, China Youth University for Political Sciences                            | 2014 |

## PUBLICATIONS

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| “Moral Self-Cultivation and Chinese Art Education,” book chapter in an edited volume (ed. Ben Van Overmeire), under advanced contract                     | <i>forthcoming</i> |
| “When Morality Shapes Music Sound: Moral Disposition and Music Performance,” <i>Convocarte: Revista Belas-Artes</i> .                                     | <i>forthcoming</i> |
| “Why Follow the Score? Aesthetic Normativity in Performing Classical Music and the Genuine Performing Experience,” <i>British Journal of Aesthetics</i> . | 2026               |
| With R. Borchert. “The Perils of Rejecting the Parity Argument,” <i>Philosophy</i> 98(2): 215–241.                                                        | 2023               |
| With D. Lim and C. Xi. “Motivational Externalism and Misdetecting Cases,” <i>American Journal of Bioethics–Neuroscience</i> 7: 218–219.                   | 2016               |
| Review of <i>Moral Error Theory: History, Critique, and Defense</i> , 中国学术 (Chinese Studies), Issue 42 (in Chinese).                                      | 2020               |

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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| <b>British Society of Aesthetics New Horizons Prize</b> , for “Morality and Music: How Moral Self-Cultivation Contributes to Musicianship” | 2026 |
| Travel Assistance Fund for Philosophers of Color, APA Pacific Division Meeting                                                             | 2024 |

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| Travel Assistance Fund for Philosophers of Color, APA Central Division Meeting                                                | 2023 |
| Best Graduate Student Essay Prize, Center for Philosophical Studies, American Society for Aesthetics, Rocky Mountain Division | 2022 |

## INVITED TALKS AND SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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| “Morality and Music: How Moral Self-Cultivation Contributes to Music Performance,”<br>APA Pacific Division                     | Apr 2026 |
| “When Art Resonates: Aesthetic Value and Individuality,” Analytic Aesthetics and<br>Philosophy of Art Forum, Peking University | Oct 2024 |
| “Why Follow the Score? ... and the Genuine Performing Experience,” Lanzhou<br>University                                       | Jul 2024 |
| “Be True to Yourself: The ‘Why Be Moral’ Question and Genuine Moral Experience,”<br>APA Pacific Division                       | Mar 2024 |
| “Why Follow the Score: A Case Study in Piano Performance,” Analytic Philosophy<br>Workshop, Zhejiang University                | Dec 2023 |
| “Aesthetic Experience as a Grounding for Aesthetic Normativity,” APA Central<br>Division                                       | Feb 2023 |
| “Aesthetic Normativity of Following the Score,” American Society for Aesthetics,<br>Rocky Mountain Division                    | Jul 2022 |
| “The Perils of Rejecting the Parity Argument,” 2nd Northeast Normativity Workshop,<br>The College of New Jersey                | Oct 2020 |
| “The Perils of Rejecting the Parity Argument,” Syracuse Graduate Philosophy<br>Conference, Syracuse University                 | Aug 2020 |
| “A Dilemma for Olson’s Moral Error Theory,” Southeast Graduate Philosophy<br>Conference, University of Florida                 | Mar 2019 |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Instructor

|                                                                      |                        |
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| Philosophy of Music — Duke Kunshan University                        | Fall 2026              |
| Ethics, Citizenship, and the Examined Life — Duke Kunshan University | Fall 2025, Spring 2026 |
| Philosophy of Music — University of Arizona                          | Spring 2023            |
| Business Ethics — University of Arizona                              | Summer 2021, 2022      |
| Environmental Ethics — University of Arizona                         | Summer 2020            |

### Teaching Assistant

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| Mind, Matter, and God — University of Arizona     | Fall 2022  |
| Logic & Critical Thinking — University of Arizona | 2020, 2021 |

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK (SELECTED)

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**Metaethics:** Ethical Theory: Metaethics (Timmons); Independent Study on Moral Normativity (Horgan & Timmons); Moral Knowledge (Rosati, audit)

**Normative Ethics:** History of Moral and Political Philosophy (Timmons); Virtue and Morality (Annas)

**Epistemology:** Genealogical Arguments against Rational Belief (Cohen & Comesaña); Theory of Knowledge (Comesaña); Epistemology Seminar (Comesaña); Independent Study on Epistemic Normativity (Comesaña)

**Metaphysics, Logic, Language, and Science:** Symbolic Logic (Turner); Philosophy of Language (Reimer; Horgan seminar); Intro to Cognitive Science (Peterson); Independent Study on Metaphysics (Sartorio); Grounding Free Agency and Responsibility (McKenna & Sartorio)

**Music:** Piano Literature and Applied Piano (Linder); Foundations and Principles in Music Education (Williams)

## ACADEMIC SERVICE AND OUTREACH

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| <b>Referee:</b> Acta Analytica                                                                                                                   | 2026     |
| <b>Referee:</b> Estetika: The European Journal of Aesthetics                                                                                     | 2026     |
| <b>Convener,</b> International Research Workshop on Chinese Art, Aesthetics, and Ethics, Duke Kunshan University                                 | 2026     |
| <b>Organizer,</b> Aesthetic Standards in Gu Qin (古琴) Performance Workshop, Duke Kunshan University                                               | 2026     |
| Referee: Asian Journal of Philosophy;                                                                                                            | 2025     |
| Referee: Chinese Philosophical Review                                                                                                            | 2025     |
| <b>Translator,</b> <i>Social Philosophy and Policy</i> (David Schmidtz), Wuhan University Press                                                  | expected |
| <b>Translator,</b> <i>Moral Error Theory: History, Critique, Defense</i> (Jonas Olson), Yilin Press                                              | 2022     |
| <b>Committee Member,</b> Climate Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Arizona                                                      | 2021     |
| <b>Podcast Interviewer,</b> “Philosophy Un(Phil)tered” (Michael Smith; Eddy Nahmias), Center for Analytic Philosophy, Renmin University of China | 2016     |

## LANGUAGES

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Chinese (native); English (fluent — research and teaching)

## REFERENCES

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**James Harold**

Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Philosophy, Mount  
Holyoke College  
jharold@mholyoke.edu

**Matteo Ravasio**

Assistant Professor of Art Theory, School of Arts,  
Peking University  
matteoravasio88@gmail.com

**Mark Timmons**

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of Arizona  
mtimmons@arizona.edu

**Ben Van Overmeire (Teaching)**

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Duke Kunshan  
University  
ben.van.overmeire@dukekunshan.edu.cn

**Ouyang Xiao (欧阳霄)**

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and  
Religious Studies, Peking University  
ouyang.xiao@pku.edu.cn

**Reza Hadisi**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Toronto  
r.hadisi@utoronto.ca

**Terrence Horgan**

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of Arizona  
thorgan@arizona.edu