

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

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

EDUCATION

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

“Moral Self-Cultivation and Chinese Art Education,” In <i>The Chinese Arts of Education: Embodiment, Self-Cultivation, and Intercultural Pedagogy in the 21st Century</i> , edited by Ben Van Overmeire. New York: Palgrave Macmillan	<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

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

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

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

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

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND OUTREACH

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

GRADUATE COURSEWORK (SELECTED)

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)

LANGUAGES

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

REFERENCES

James Harold

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

Matteo Ravasio

Assistant Professor of Art Theory
School of Arts
Peking University
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Mark Timmons

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Terrence Horgan

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