

ASHER Y. SHANG

Department of Philosophy
University of Pittsburgh
1009 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Email: ashershang@pitt.edu
Web: ashershang.com

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Normative Ethics, Political Philosophy

AREA OF COMPETENCE

Decision Theory, Social Choice Theory

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh (2023–)
Ph.D. in Philosophy

Princeton University (2025–2026)
Visiting Student Research Collaborator
Faculty Sponsor: Jake Nebel

Fudan University (2019–2023)
B.A. in Philosophy (with *Dean's Prize for overall best performance*)
Thesis: “The Structure of Political Normativity: A Proposal”
Advisor: Tongdong Bai

University of California, Berkeley (2021–2022)
Visiting Student in Philosophy

RESEARCH

Publications

“[Intentions and the Limits of Autonomy.](#)”
The Journal of Philosophy, forthcoming.

Work-in-Progress

[a paper on risk] (R&R at *Free and Equal*)
[a paper on structural injustice] (under review)
[a paper on nonidentity] (in preparation)
[a paper on distributive equality] (in preparation)

PRESENTATIONS

“Large Worlds, High Stakes: On Moderate Inequality-Aversion in Distributive Ethics”

Formal Ethics 2026 (July 2026)

18th Meeting of the Society for Social Choice and Welfare (June 2026)

“Asymmetries in Nonarchimedean Population Axiologies”

6th NYU Philosophical Bioethics Conference (May 2026)

“On Feeling Aggrieved in a World of Injustice”

PPE Society (Nov 2025)

“Risky Prospects, Incommensurable Lives, and Betterness-for-Reasons”

Beijing International Summer Workshop on Formal Philosophy (Jul 2025)

Lund Formal Ethics Workshop (May 2025)

Pacific APA (April 2025; Commentator: Johan Gustafsson)

Formal Ethics 2024 (Jul 2024)

“An Intrapersonal Nonidentity Paradox”

Central APA (Feb 2025)

17th Annual Mark L. Shapiro Graduate Conference at Brown University (Feb 2024;

Commentator: Caleb Camrud)

“The Nexus of Political Normativity, and How to Argue For It”

1st Beijing International Graduate Conference in Analytic Philosophy (Jan 2023)

Comments

On Patrick McKee, “[The Unhappy Conclusion](#)”

Eastern APA (Jan 2025)

On Tom Dougherty, “Fact-Relative and Evidence-Relative Rights against Harm”

Michael R. Bennett Memorial Philosophy Workshop (Oct 2024)

On Calvin Baker, “[Non-Archimedean Population Axiologies](#)”

16th Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (Jul 2023)

TEACHING

As Instructor-of-Record

Introduction to PPE (Fall 2026, scheduled)

As Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Ethics (Fall 2024)

Social Philosophy (Spring 2025)

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

Arts and Sciences Fellowship (Pittsburgh, 2023–)

Institute for Humane Studies Residency Funding (2026)

Dean's Prize (Fudan, 2023)

awarded annually to one student in philosophy for best overall performance

Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute (PIKSI) Fellowship (Penn State, 2022)

Shanghai Government Scholarship (Fudan University, 2019)

Hui-Chun Chin and Tsung-Dao Lee Chinese Undergraduate Research Endowment (Fudan, 2023)

awarded to support a year-long research project in political philosophy

GRADUATE COURSEWORK (* = audit)

History

*Hegel	(John McDowell, Pittsburgh)
Aristotle	(Jed Lewinsohn & Jacob Rosen, Pittsburgh)
Independent Study: Sidgwick	(Jennifer Whiting, Pittsburgh)
*Thought, Character, and Action in Aristotle	(Timothy Clarke, Berkeley)

Theoretical

*Formal Methods in Philosophy	(Krzysztof Mierzewski, CMU)
Decision Theory	(Sven Neth, Pittsburgh)
Grue: The New Riddle of Induction	(Sven Neth, Pittsburgh)
*Decision Theory: Self-Locating Belief	(Adam Elga, Princeton)
Advanced Logic	(Douglas Blue, Pittsburgh)

Practical

Making up Selves	(Jennifer Whiting, Pittsburgh)
*Workshop in Law, Philosophy & Political Theory: "A Theory of Justice Fifty Years On"	(Joshua Cohen & Veronique Munoz-Darde, Berkeley)
Artificial Virtues	(Jed Lewinsohn, Pittsburgh)
Independent Study: Formal Ethics & Social Choice	(Sven Neth, Pittsburgh)
Political Philosophy: New Directions	(Japa Pallikkathayil, Pittsburgh)
*Longtermism	(Jake Nebel, Princeton)
Choosing Between Moral Paradigms	(Lara Buchak & Elizabeth Harman, Princeton)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

6th PPE Graduate Summer Workshop (Jun 2026)

SERVICE

Graduate student mentor for Open Doors Philosophy Academy (2024)

Prospective Student Visit Organizer (2024)

Reviewer for Pittsburgh-CMU Graduate Conference (2023, 2024, 2025)

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

Essays

“Being a Humanist in a World of Need: Review of *Parfit*.” *Shanghai Review of Books*, June 2025.

Translated Works

Debra Satz (2010). *Why Something Should Not Be for Sale: The Moral Limits of Market*.
Chinese translation at Zhejiang People's Publishing House (2023).

Miranda Fricker (2008). *Epistemic Injustice: The Power and Ethics of Knowing*.
Chinese translation at Zhejiang People's Publishing House (2026).

Last Updated: April 2026