

ASHER YIHAN SHANG

Department of Philosophy
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics; Political Philosophy

AREA OF COMPETENCE

Decision Theory; Social Choice Theory

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh (2023–)

Ph.D. in Philosophy

Dissertation: *Aggregation and Tradeoffs in the Theory of Welfare*

Committee: Sven Neth (co-chair), Jake Nebel (co-chair), Japa Pallikkathayil, Jed Lewinsohn

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

Articles

"[Intentions and the Limits of Autonomy](#)."

The Journal of Philosophy, forthcoming.

Reviews

"[Review of Shlomi Segall, The Future of Equality](#)."

Journal of Moral Philosophy, forthcoming.

In-Progress

[a paper on risk] (under review)

[a paper on reactive attitudes] (under review)
[a paper on distributive equality] (under review)

PRESENTATIONS

TBD

Student-Faculty Colloquium at University of Pittsburgh (January 2027)

“Finding Oneself in the Artificial Other”

Eastern APA Work-in-Progress Session (January 2027)

“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; Commentator: Jessica Fischer)

“On Feeling Aggrieved in a World of Injustice”

PPE Society (November 2025)

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

Beijing International Summer Workshop on Formal Philosophy (July 2025)

Lund Formal Ethics Workshop (May 2025)

Pacific APA (April 2025; Commentator: Johan Gustafsson)

Formal Ethics 2024 (July 2024)

“An Intrapersonal Nonidentity Paradox”

Central APA (Feb 2025)

17th Annual Mark L. Shapiro Graduate Conference at Brown University (February 2024;
Commentator: Caleb Camrud)

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

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

Invited Comments

On Tom Dougherty, “Wronging as Lacking Due Regard”

19th Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (August 2026)

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

Eastern APA (January 2025)

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

Michael R. Bennett Memorial Philosophy Workshop (October 2024)

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

16th Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (July 2023)

TEACHING

As Instructor-of-Record

Introduction to PPE (Fall 2026)

As Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Ethics (Fall 2024; for Larkin Philpot)

Social Philosophy (Spring 2025; for Jed Lewinsohn)

SERVICE

Journal Referee, *Philosophical Studies*

Chair, Eastern APA (2025), PPE Society (2025), Philadelphia Normative Philosophy Conference (2026)

Graduate student mentor for Open Doors Philosophy Academy (2024)

Prospective Student Visit Organizer (2024)

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

GRADUATE COURSEWORK (* = audit)

History

*Hegel	(John McDowell, Pittsburgh)
Aristotle	(Jed Lewinsohn & Jacob Rosen, Pittsburgh)
Independent Study: Sidgwick	(Jennifer Whiting, Pittsburgh)
*Heidegger	(Robert Brandom, 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)
*Self-Locating Belief	(Adam Elga, Princeton)
Advanced Logic	(Douglas Blue, Pittsburgh)
Measurement and Aggregation	(Sven Neth, 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

PIKSI Summer School (June 2022)

6th PPE Graduate Summer Workshop, CU Boulder (June 2026)

Graduate-Level Training in Artificial Intelligence at Carnegie Mellon University:

17209 Demystifying AI: Concepts and Applications (Fall 2026)

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

Arts and Sciences Fellowship (Pittsburgh, 2023–)

Tamara Horowitz Memorial Award Fund (2026)

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

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

Essays

“Being a Humanist in a World of Need,” *Shanghai Review of Books*, June 2025 (in Chinese).

Translation 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: September 2026