

Helen Han Wei Luo

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Areas of Specialization - *Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy, Classical Chinese Philosophy*

Areas of Competence - *Epistemology, Philosophy of Law*

Education

Columbia University Ph.D. – Philosophy (GPA 3.93) *Entering class of 2022*

University of British Columbia M.A. Philosophy (CGPA 4.33, 91.3%) *2022*

Simon Fraser University B.A., First Class Honors with Distinction (CGPA 4.09), *2020*

- ❖ Major in Philosophy and Political Science, Concentration in Law and Philosophy
 - ❖ Graduate of the French Cohort Program with Extended Minor in French
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Research Grants

\$120,000 SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship

\$17,500 SSHRC CGS-M Grant

Public Philosophy

“Why Women Should Rethink their Love of Gay Male Manga” [Aesthetics for Birds](#), February 2025

Conference Presentations

“Polite Politics”

- ◆ October 2024 – Toronto Graduate Conference

“What kind of metaethics must the presentist have?”

- ◆ January 2024 – Eastern APA Colloquium

“Knowledge Appropriation as Cultural Appropriation” – *Co-authored with Amogh Sahu*

- ◆ October 2023 - Philadelphia Normative Philosophy Conference
- ◆ April 2024 – Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference
- ◆ January 2025 – Eastern APA Symposium

“Gendered Material Objects”

- ◆ August 2023 - Social Ontology Conference in Stockholm (International Social Ontology Society)
- ◆ April 2023 - Pacific APA Colloquium

“When the Sprouts Wither: On the Mengzi-Xunzi Disagreement on Human Nature”

- ◆ January 2023 - Eastern APA Colloquium as part of the ACPA

“The Harms of Mere Belief”

- ◆ August 2022 - Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress poster presentation

“The Problem of Forgotten Moral Truths”

- ◆ July 2022 - USC Rightness, Ignorance, Certainty and Praise Workshop
- ◆ April 2022 – Pacific APA Colloquium

Teaching and Employment

PIKSI–Boston Teaching Fellow, MIT (2023)

- ♦ Teaching seminar titled “Confucius and Politeness Norms”; mentoring underrepresented students in philosophy; program organization and candidate selection
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Employment at Columbia as Teaching Assistant

Ethics (2024) – with discussion section

Epistemology (2024) – with discussion section

Topics in ethics: Responsibility’s Conditions, Scope, and Limits (2023)

Other Employment at Columbia

Teaching Assessment Fellowship (2024-2025)

- ♦ Designed TA training program and teaching observation rubric for Chemical Engineering department; organized Columbia Teaching Conference

Rapporteur for the Comparative Philosophy Seminar Series (2024-2025)

Employment at the University of British Columbia as Teaching Assistant

Business Ethics (2022)

Contemporary Moral Problems (2022)

Philosophy of Law (2022)

Introduction to Logic (2021)

Introduction to Epistemology (2021) x3 – once with discussion section

Biomedical Ethics (2020)

Other Employment at the University of British Columbia

Essay Clinic Instructor in Philosophy department (2022)

Employment at Simon Fraser University

Writing and Learning Instructor at Student Learning Commons (2019-2020)

Research Assistant to Prof. Jennifer Wang (2019)

- ♦ Compiling syllabus for course on classical Chinese philosophy
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Other qualifications

Level 2 College Reading and Learning Association Certificate (International Tutor Training Program)

Professional Service

Reviewer - *Nous*

Conference organizer – 2023 Columbia-NYU Graduate Conference Committee

Commentator

- ♦ 2023 Columbia End of Summer Workshop (Avery Archer – “On Doxastic Neutrality”)
- ♦ 2022 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (Laura Soter - “Reframing Epistemic Partiality: Acceptance and the Cognitive Work of Friendship”)

University Service and Community Involvement

Columbia Senator (2024-2026)

- ◆ Elected to two-year term representing graduate humanities students in university-wide forums working in collaboration with upper administration; co-Chair of the Commission on Diversity member of the Student Affairs Committee

Representative at Columbia Arts and Sciences Graduate Council (2023-2025)

- ◆ Advocacy for student interests; member of budget and finance committee

Department Graduate Representative (2024)

Ethics Bowl Canada – Coach and Case Development Committee Member (2021-2024)

- ◆ Write high school ethics bowl cases for regional and national competitions; coaching UBC undergraduate team for Northwest Regional Competition; voting member of advisory board since 2024

Corrupt the Youth Instructor (2024)

- ◆ Teaching philosophy at underprivileged high schools in the New York area

Columbia Non-Western Philosophy Reading Group Organizer (2023-2025)

- ◆ Lead small discussion groups on texts in the non-Western philosophical canon (*Mengzi*, *Zhuangzi*, *Analects*)

Vice-President and Coach – Simon Fraser University Debate Society (2017-2020)

- ◆ Coach debaters in formal styles (British Parliamentary, Canadian Parliamentary, and Public Forum); tournament judge and chair

Translator and Interpreter - Lingyen Mountain Temple (2016-2023)

- ❖ Translate material for publication from Traditional Chinese to English and French; simultaneous interpretation (Mandarin Chinese to English) at public events

International Study and Summer Programs

Athena in Action 2024

Participant in conference and mentorship program for graduate student women in philosophy

Central European University 2023

Participant in summer workshop “Contemporary Issues in Ontology and Social Ontology”

National University of Rwanda 2023

Participant in summer program “Reflections on Rwanda” for Canadian students conducting research on human rights and genocide remembrance

Université de Strasbourg 2018

Exchange at l’Institut d’Études Politiques and the Philosophy department

NATO Defense College 2018

Participant in international diplomacy and military studies summer program, through Simon Fraser University’s NATO Field School

Graduate Philosophy Coursework – Seminars

Towards Ph.D. at Columbia

Value Theory

Democratic Citizenship
Independent Study in Metaethics
Blaming and Forgiving
The Law and Ethics of Truthfulness, Deception and Disclosure
Dubois and Tocqueville on Democracy in America
Natural Law

History

Aristotle
Plato's *Republic*
Buddhist Philosophy
Hegel: "Introductory Lectures on Aesthetics"

Towards M.A. at UBC

Value Theory

Epistemic Responsibility
Loneliness and Belonging

Epistemology, Metaphysics, Science

Metaphysics of Time
Metaphysics of Social Reality
Philosophy of Biology
Knowledge and Oppression
Metaphysics of Death

History

Classical Chinese Philosophy
Sanskrit Philosophy of Language

Other

Philosophy and Literature

Towards BA – SFU

History of Logic
Phenomenal Concepts
Rights
Culpability and Control

Audit Credit –
"Philosophy of Film"

Philosophy of Language

Registered Audit –
Data, Facts, and Evidence

Languages

English, French, Mandarin Chinese (native level fluency; trilingual)

Academic Scholarships and Awards

Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Scholars – Semi-Finalist (2023)

Research foundation and mentorship program for Canadian doctoral students

Columbia University five-year tuition and fellowship award

Paul Tang Graduate Philosophy Award, UBC \$1000 (2021)

MA student with best performance in seminars

Undergraduate Open Scholarship, SFU \$12,000 (2017-2020)

Robert C. Brown Convocation Award, SFU \$1000 (2020)

Outstanding academic achievement and leadership for arts student at convocation

Award for Student Service, SFU \$2000 (2020)

Volunteer service and leadership in university and community

Brian Keenan Philosophy Prize short list (2019, 2020)

Philosophy essay contest

Dr. Grazia Merler Scholarship in French or Italian, SFU \$1000 (2019)

Top senior French or Italian student

Somjee Undergraduate Scholarship in Political Science, SFU \$2600 (2019, 2020)

Top senior political science student

SFU Alumni Scholarship, SFU \$1000 (2018)

Academic performance

Diamond Family International Mobility Award, SFU \$2000 (2018)

Academic Excellence Entrance Scholarship, SFU \$5000 (2016)

Literary, Debate and Other Awards

The Plentitudes Fiction Contest, Second Place \$300, (2024)

SFU B.A. Convocation, Distinction (2022)

President's and Dean's Honour Roll

CBC Literary Awards Fiction Finalist \$1000, (2023)

BC Federation of Writers Short Prose Contest Longlist (2022)

CBC Literary Awards Fiction Contest Longlist (2020)

SFU IV 2019 Debate Tournament, Champion Team (2019)

Carleton Model NATO Conference, Third Place (2019)

BC Francophone Youth Mock Parliament, Best Orator (2017)

BC Law Society Essay Contest, First Place \$1000, (2016)

CBC Literary Awards Non-Fiction Contest Longlist (2016)

Government of Canada History Essay Prize \$1000, (2014)

Representative Literary Publications

Prose

["Eel Broth for Growing Children"](#) *CBC Literary Awards Finalist 2023*, online print

["The Stone Man's Harem"](#) *The Plentitudes Journal*, 2024, online print

Poetry

"Consider the Peony" *PRISM International*, Issue 59.4, reprinted in *Best of Canadian Poetry 2023*

"Newton of the Blade of Grass, the Weary Wing" "Moondrops and Sudden Splashes of Cerulean" *Sam-Fifty-Four*, Issue 3

"Volumes of Sentience, Part I and II" *Cloud Lake Literary*, Issue 3