

Chuyu Tian

(917) 826-1805 | ct2823@columbia.edu | chuyutian.com

<https://www.youtube.com/@chuyutian7004> | <https://nonwesternphilosophy.wordpress.com/>

Areas of Specialization

Ancient Greek Philosophy, Chinese Philosophy

Areas of Competence

Buddhist Philosophy, Meta-Ethics, Political Philosophy

Employment

Lecturer of Philosophy, SUNY Purchase College 2025-2026

Education

Columbia University

PhD in Philosophy	2025
MPhil in Philosophy	2021
MA in Philosophy	2019

Northwestern University

BA (Cum Laude), Philosophy major (Honors), Economics major, German minor 2016

Goethe-Universität Frankfurt

Exchange Student in Philosophy 2015

Dissertation

The Measure of Goodness: The Virtuous Human and the Citizen Animal

Examining Committee: Wolfgang R. Mann (sponsor), Richard Kraut, Lydia Goehr, Elizabeth Scharffenberger, Taylor Carman

Abstract: How does Aristotle's ethics differ from a rule-based one? I propose a *phronimos*-centric account of virtuous action. The virtuous person not only has unique epistemic access to what is good, but also serves as a standard for what is good for a human being. I argue that this is not relativism, but a kind of constitutivism. Extending this to the political realm, I argue that the *polis* is a necessary condition for a flourishing life, because the political life of a full-fledged citizen in a full-fledged *polis* is the *telos* and maturation of the human form of life. As much as Aristotle's ethics is teleologically prior to his ideal constitutional design by providing the goals of education, his ideal constitutional design is nonetheless prior by giving substance to his ethics. His ethics is shaped by the common good of the citizenry. I conclude my dissertation with a critical analysis of Aristotle's citizenship: the human being, *qua* "the citizenship animal," is a normative notion, a status conferred by the *polis* on the basis of socio-economic factors. The overly intimate relationship between being human and being a citizen risks dehumanization.

Grants, Honors, and Awards

Dissertation Fellowship, GSAS	2022-2023
Arts and Sciences Graduate Council Travel Grant	2020
Dean's Fellowship, GSAS	2017-2018, 2019-2020
Benjamin Wolstein Fellowship, GSAS	2018-2019

Published Works

- Tian, Chuyu. Review of *Ziran: The Philosophy of Spontaneous Self-Causation*, by Brian Bruya. *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 82 no.4 (2023) 672-674.
- Xiaoqing, Gan, et al. *Laozi: An Axiomatic Interpretation*. Translated by Longyang Sang, Danke Gu, Junchao Wang, Chuyu Tian, Lachun Chen, Jun Mei, and Min Wan. Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2024.
- The Priority Between Aristotle's Ethics and Politics: *Polis*, Under Review.
- The Measure of Goodness: A Constitutive Account: *Apeiron*, Under Review.

Conference Talks

“The Measure of All Things: Virtue and Rules in Aristotle”

Ancient Philosophy and Mutual Learning of Civilizations, Frontier and Innovation: International Conference for PhD Candidates, Renmin University of China (August 2023)

“Natural Resources and Flourishing in Ancient Greece”

University of Southern Florida ICHS's conference (April 2022)

“What Does the Prime Mover Think?”

Fifteenth Annual Marquette Summer Seminar in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy: “Causes and Causation in Aristotle and the Aristotelian Tradition” (June 2021)

“How is Akrasia Possible? Reason, Character, and Decision in Aristotle”

UNC Charlotte Ethics And Applied Philosophy Graduate Conference” (April 2021)

The 42nd Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference at UIUC (April 2021)

South Carolina Society for Philosophy (turned down)

“Nelson Goodman’s and Huayan Buddhism’s Multiple Worlds Theories”

APA-Central Division Meeting, ISCWP group session: Chinese Philosophy and Recent and Contemporary American Thought (February 2020)

Guest Lectures

“Nagel and the Bat” at Columbia University (March 2025)

“Parfit on Personal Identity” at Columbia University (December 2023)

“From Teleology to Messianism: Kant and Benjamin’s Philosophy of History” at Beijing Normal University (December 2021)

“What does the Prime Mover Think?” at Louisiana State University (Zoom, November 2021)

“Hempel’s ‘Explanation in Science and in History’” at Columbia University (March 2021)

“Nāgārjuna’s ‘The Dispeller of Disputes’” at Columbia University (November 2018)

Teaching Assistantship and Volunteer Teaching

Methods and Problems (Taylor Pincin)	Spring 2025
Ethics - Moral Philosophy (Michele Moody-Adams)	Fall 2024
Physics and Philosophy (David Albert)	Spring 2024
Topics in Ethics: Responsibility: Conditions, Scope and Limits (Carol Rovane)	Fall 2023
Philosophy and History (Lydia Goehr)	Spring 2021
Introduction to Logic (John Morrison, Karen Lewis)	Spring 2020, Fall 2020
20 th Century European Philosophy (Taylor Carman)	Spring 2019
Introduction to Philosophy (Taylor Carman)	Fall 2019
History of Philosophy I: Pre-Socratics through Augustine (Dhananjay Jagannathan)	Fall 2018
Corrupt the Youth Teaching Program	December 2022-April 2025
Rethink Teaching Program	November 2019-July 2022

Languages

Ancient: Classical Chinese (advanced), Ancient Greek (advanced)

Modern: Chinese (native), English (near native), German (intermediate), Arabic (beginning)

Services

Office of Religious Life, Columbia University

Multi-Faith Fellow, September 2023-May 2024

Non-Western Philosophy Reading Group, Columbia University

Co-organizer, September 2018-May 2024

Society for Women in Philosophy-NYC Colloquium

Co-organizer, June 2022-August 2022

Philosophy Department, Columbia University

Graduate Representatives, September 2020-May 2021

Arts and Sciences Graduate Council, Columbia University

Philosophy Department representative, ASGC external representative to ISSO, September 2020- May 2021

Columbia Neo-Confucianism Seminar, Columbia University

Rapporteur, September 2019-May 2020

Minorities in Philosophy, Columbia University

Co-organizer, January 2019-May 2020

APA-Central Division Meeting, ISCP group session: Metaphysical Resonances in Chinese and Western Philosophy

Chair, February 2020

“Finding the Way to Truth” Conference, Columbia University

Discussant for Wolfgang Mann’s “Spiritual Exercises? ‘Care for the Soul’ and ‘Contemplation’” and Sara Magrin’s “Who knows you when you know yourself? Plotinus on the Delphic command ‘Know Thyself’”, February 2019

APA-Eastern Division Meeting, ISCWP group session: Exemplars and Human Flourishing

Chair, January 2019

Finding the Way to Truth Conference, Columbia University

Co-organizer, September 2018–February 2019

Columbia-NYU Graduate Philosophy Conference, Columbia University

Co-organizer, September 2017–March 2018

Workshop in Ancient and Contemporary Philosophy, Columbia University

Commentator for Chris Bubonic’s “On Thinking about the Good in the *Philebus*”,

November 2017

References

Wolfgang R. Mann

Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University

wrm4@columbia.edu

Richard Kraut

Charles and Emma Morrison Professor in the Humanities, Northwestern University

rkraut1@northwestern.edu

Tao Jiang

Professor of Religion and Professor of Philosophy, Rutgers University

tjiang@rutgers.edu

Michele M. Moody-Adams

Joseph Straus Professor of Political Philosophy and Legal Theory, Columbia University

moody-adams@columbia.edu

Lydia Goehr

Fred and Fannie Mack Professor of Humanities, Chair of the Philosophy Department, Columbia

University

lg131@columbia.edu