

AILEEN C. LUO

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Education

(2026)	Stanford University Ph.D. in Philosophy Dissertation: "Genetic Epistemology in Kant's Psychological Philosophy" Committee: Allen Wood (co-advisor), Lanier Anderson (co-advisor), David Hills, Thomas Icard Ph.D. minor in Psychology Certificate in Data Science
2017	University of Oxford B.Phil., <i>Distinction</i>
2015	Tufts University M.A., Philosophy
2012	University of Hong Kong P.C.LL., <i>Practising certificate in laws</i>
2010	University of Cambridge LL.M.
2009	City University of Hong Kong LL.B., <i>First class honours</i>

Research

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION: Kant, History and Philosophy of Psychology, Philosophy of Cognitive Science and AI

AREA OF COMPETENCE: Early Modern Philosophy, Post-Kantian European Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Philosophy of Law

Publication

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Accepted "Omissions, the Act Requirement, and Criminal Liability"
Criminal Law and Philosophy

Work in Preparation/in Progress

In preparation "Sense and Sensibility: Kant on Berkeley on Spatial Representation"
(Markus Herz Prize nominee)

Drafted "Kant's Acquisition Theory of the Categories"

<i>Drafted</i>	“Laboring Time: Kant on Locke on Inner Sense”
<i>Drafted</i>	“Recognizing Opportunities for Learning: Limitations of Predictive Processing from a Kantian Perspective”
<i>In progress</i>	“Kant on Epistemic Luck”
<i>In progress</i>	“The Discovery of the Child: Locke on Education”
<i>In progress</i>	“Sophie de Grouchy on the Education of Affect”
<i>In progress</i>	“The Myth of the Given in AI: Inductive Bias and the Limits of Rational Analysis”
<i>In progress</i>	“Quasi-agency and Situational Liability in Large Language Models”

Awards and Fellowships

2025	Best Graduate Paper Award, Midwest North American Kant Society
2025	Society for Philosophy and Psychology Travel Award
2023	Patrick Suppes Dissertation Fellowships
2019	Full Funding for Summer School on Neo-Kantian Philosophy, Chinese University of Hong Kong
2018	Thomas Mardenbro Benson Scholarships
2018	Language Study Grant (\$10,000 for German language study in Berlin)
2017	Stanford University PhD Fellowships
2013	Tufts University MA Scholarships
2006	Chung Hwa Travel Service Scholarships
2006	School of Law Legal Practice Manuals Prizes
2005-06	Chan Tai Ho Scholarships (for best academic performance in cohort)
2005	HSBC Scholarships for Academic Excellence (for best academic performance across the university)

Presentations

Refereed

2025	“Sense and Sensibility: Kant on Berkeley on Spatial Representation” North American Kant Society Midwest Study Group, University of Notre Dame
2025	“Recognizing Opportunities for Learning: Limitations of Predictive Processing from a Kantian Perspective” Talk presented at the Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Cornell University
2023	“Grounding Kant’s Categories” Ethics and Politics, Ancient and Modern Workshop, Stanford University
2022	“Kant’s <i>I think</i> ” Conference on Self and Embodiment, Trinity College Dublin
2019	“Cassirer and Kant on Perception” 13 th International Kant Congress, Oslo

- 2018 “Omissions, the Act Requirement, and Criminal Liability”
 Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference
- 2016 “Voluntariness, Duress, and Culpability”
 Workshop on Knowledge, Reasons and Action, Erlangen University
- 2016 “Space and Apperception in the B-Deduction”
 2nd Kant in Asia International Conference, Hong Kong Baptist University

Departmental

- 2025 “Sense and Sensibility: Kant on Berkeley on Spatial Representation”
 Graduate Workshop on Kant’s Philosophy, UC Berkeley
- 2024 “Kant’s Acquisition Theory of the Categories”
 Graduate Student Workshop, Stanford University
- 2024 “Kant’s Acquisition Theory of the Categories”
 Kant Studies Workshop, Stanford University
- 2022 “Leibniz and Kant on the Human Mind”
 Kant Retreat, Stanford University
- 2022 “Kant’s *I think*”
 Kant Studies Workshop, Stanford University
- 2021 “Kant’s *I think*”
 Graduate Student Workshop, Stanford University
- 2016 “Space and Apperception in the B-Deduction”
 Ockham Society, University of Oxford

Comments

- 2025 On *Autism, Schizophrenia and Predictive Processing: Some Lessons for Perceptual Epistemology* by Timothy Butzer
 American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division

Teaching

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Guest Lecturer

- 2025 Kant’s First Critique

Sole Instructor

- 2026 Other People’s Mind
 2023 Theories of Consciousness in Early Modern Philosophy

Teaching Assistant

- 2026 Philosophy of Mind
 2025 Plato and Punishment
 2024-25 Introduction to Moral Philosophy × 2
 2025 Introduction to Philosophy
 2019-21, 2023-24 Modern Philosophy × 4
 2019, 2022 Minds and Machines × 2

2020 Mind, Matter, and Meaning
2018 Mathematical Logic

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Teaching Assistant

2014 Logic

Pedagogical Training

2022 Preparing for Faculty Careers Seminar, Office of Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Stanford University
2018-19 Teaching Methods Seminar, Philosophy Department, Stanford University

Professional Service

2025 Founder, *Making History Alive* (public philosophy initiative)
2022 Mentor, Philosophy Directed Reading Program, Stanford University
2021-22 Organizer, Kant Studies Workshop, Stanford University
2021-22 Organizer, Kant Reading Group, Stanford University
2019-20 Coordinator, Graduate Student Workshop, Stanford University

Languages

Natural languages: Mandarin (native), Cantonese (fluent), English (fluent), German (intermediate)

Programming/IT: MATLAB, Python

Professional Affiliation

American Philosophical Association
North American Kant Society
Society for Philosophy and Psychology

References

Allen Wood
Professor (Emeritus)
Department of Philosophy
Stanford University

Lanier Anderson
Professor
Department of Philosophy
Stanford University

David Hills
Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy
Stanford University

Greg Wong-Taylor (teaching)
Lecturer
Department of Philosophy
Stanford University

Dissertation Description

Title: “Genetic Epistemology in Kant’s Psychological Philosophy”

Abstract:

My doctoral dissertation investigates the origins of *a priori* cognition in Kant’s critical philosophy. Against the widespread view that Kant understood *a priori* cognition as an innate endowment of the human mind, I argue that even our most fundamental representations—space, time, and the categories—are not simply given but are acquired through the autonomous exercise of reason. Drawing on Kant’s engagements with Berkeley, Locke, and Leibniz, as well as insights from developmental psychology, I develop a *genetic* model of the *a priori* that explains how the mind comes to construct its own forms of intuition and concept under self-imposed constraints. On this view, Kant emerges as an anti-nativist of a distinctive kind, rejecting both divine and natural preformation in favor of a conception of cognition grounded in epistemic agency and justification. What ultimately distinguishes human cognition, then, is not a set of preformed dispositions, but the capacity to develop and exercise cognitive faculties through an ongoing, rational process of self-determination.