

Yichu Fan

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EDUCATION

University of Edinburgh, Philosophy
Doctoral Candidate

Edinburgh, UK
2022 – current

- Areas of specialisation: Philosophy of Neuroscience, Philosophy of Biology.
- Areas of interest: Philosophy of Cognitive science, General Philosophy of Science, Chinese Philosophy.
- Thesis title: “A Pragmatist Approach to Incoherent and Indeterminate Concepts in Neuroscience”.
- Supervisors: Dr. Mazviita Chirimuuta, Dr. Mark Sprevak
- Studentship: Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship.

University of Edinburgh, Philosophy
Master of Science

Edinburgh, UK
2020 – 2021

Shenzhen University, Biology
Bachelor of Science

Shenzhen, China
2015 – 2019

PUBLICATIONS

- “How to explain degenerate mechanisms”. *Synthese* **206**, 222 (2025). <https://doi-org.eux.idm.oclc.org/10.1007/s11229-025-05302-1>
- A paper on reconciling different accounts of constitutive relevance (under review).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Tutor in Philosophy, University of Edinburgh

2023 – current

- Introduction to Cognitive Science
- Mind, Matter and Language
- Logic 1
- The Computational Mind

PRESENTATIONS

- “Phenomenon Reconstitution as a Tool for Explanatory Progress”, *Webconference of the International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind (ISPSM)*, 2025.
- “How to Explain Degenerate Mechanisms”, *The 20th Annual Conference of the Italian Association for Cognitive Sciences*, 2024.
- “How to Explain Degenerate Mechanisms”, *Webconference of the International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind (ISPSM)*, 2024.
- “Mechanistic Explanations for Biological Oscillators”, *The XII edition of the Research Workshop on Philosophy of Biology and Cognitive Sciences (PBCS XII)* at University of Malaga, 2023.
- “Explaining Endogeneity: Mechanistic Explanations without Input”, *Webconference of the International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind (ISPSM)*, 2023.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- Postgraduate Research Representative for Philosophy, University of Edinburgh, 2023-2025
- Attendee at the Society for the Metaphysics of Science summer school, 2025.
- Attendee at summer school ‘School of Ideas in Neuroscience’ at Nencki Open Lab, 2024.
- Attendee at summer school ‘Neuromatch Academy’, an interdisciplinary training programme on computational neuroscience, 2020.
- Researcher in the Alzheimer’s Disease project at Shenzhen Brain Science Center, 2016-2019.