

Lewis (Kuizhi) Wang

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Areas of Specialization

Kant (esp. theoretical), Buddhist Philosophy, Hegel (esp. political)

Areas of Competence

Epistemology, Aesthetics, Early Modern Philosophy, Chinese Philosophy, Political Philosophy

Education

2019 - 2025 (Expected)	Ph.D. in Philosophy <i>Boston University</i> Dissertation: Towards A Hybrid Reading of Kant's Transcendental Idealism Advisor: Sally Sedgwick
Sept 2024 - Feb 2025	Visiting Doctoral Student <i>Goethe-Universität Frankfurt</i> Host: Marcus Willaschek
2023 - 2024	Visiting Fellow & Visiting Student Research Collaborator <i>Princeton Project in Philosophy & Religion, Princeton University</i> Host: Andrew Chignell
2017 - 2019	B.Phil in Philosophy <i>University of Oxford</i> Thesis: Kant on Object and Objectivity Advisor: Ralf Bader
2013 - 2017	B.A. in Philosophy and Economics <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i> <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> Thesis: Kant on Appearances and Things in Themselves as Objects Advisor: Alexandra Newton

Publications

Journal Articles

forthcoming	"The Early Development of Kant's Practical Notion of Belief", <i>Inquiry</i>
2023	"Kant on Propositional Content and Knowledge", <i>Kant Yearbook</i> 15 (1):175-196.

Book Chapters

forthcoming	"On the Secondary Quality Analogy", in <i>Proceedings of XIV International Kant Congress</i> . Berlin: De Gruyter
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forthcoming	“Hegel’s Justification of Private Property”, in Sebastian Rand and Andy Davis (eds.), <i>New Perspectives on Hegel’s Philosophy of Right</i> , London: Bloomsbury
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Book Review

forthcoming	Review of Gabriele Gava, <i>Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason and the Method of Metaphysics</i> , in <i>British Journal of History of Philosophy</i>
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Works in Progress

Under review	A paper on arguments against mind-independent existence in <i>Cheng Weishi Lun</i>
Under review	A paper on the moral impact of viewing photographs of violence and suffering
Under review	A paper on the role of the Doctrine of Method in the Critique of Pure Reason
Under review	A paper on epistemic instrumentalism and the combinatorial problem
In progress	“Ontology, Transcendental Philosophy, and Transcendental Idealism: Kant on the Inescapability of the Human Standpoint”
In progress	“Kant’s Theory of Reasons for Belief”
In progress	“Can We Know the Existence of Things in Themselves, Prof. Kant?”
In progress	“Hegel’s Implicit Solution to the Problem of Poverty”
In progress	“Hegelian Sufficiency as an Anti-Colonial Theory of Justice” (Co-authored with Joshua Folkerts)

Translation

in progress	Xuanzang’s <i>Cheng Weishi Lun</i> , Book I, translated from Chinese original
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Dissertation Summary

My dissertation proposes a novel reading of Kant’s transcendental idealism which I call the hybrid reading. Roughly put, transcendental idealism is the doctrine that the objects we can experience, or appearances, are in some way mind-dependent, and that we cannot know how things are in themselves. Current interpretations of this doctrine fall into two main camps. One camp of readers holds that transcendental idealism amounts to the metaphysical thesis that reality has a tiered structure: things in themselves are what is ultimately real, while appearances are less real. The other camp interprets this doctrine as highlighting the conditions and boundary of human knowledge. My reading steers a middle course between these two camps. As I read him, Kant’s idealism explains the nature of objects as the basic constituents of reality. At the same time, however, he regards the properties that are essential to being an object as dependent on the conditions of our knowledge, namely the categories and space and time. I thus read transcendental idealism as primarily concerned with providing a radically anthropocentric metaphysics: while it aims to describe the way the world is, it also regards the human conditions of knowledge as central to how we describe the world. On my reading, while Kant denies that we can have any knowledge (*Wissen*) of how the world ultimately is independently of the human standpoint, he nonetheless makes some metaphysical commitments about how things are in themselves, and he regards these commitments as practically justified beliefs (*Glauben*).

Teaching

Primary Instructor, Boston University

Summer 2024	Introduction to Philosophy: Life and Death
Summer 2022	History of Modern Philosophy

Teaching Fellow/Assistant, Boston University

Summer 2023	Politics and Philosophy
Spring 2023	Existentialism
Fall 2022	Medical Ethics
Summer 2022	Business Ethics
Spring 2022	Great Philosophers
Fall 2021	Politics and Philosophy
Spring 2021	Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2020	Introduction to Ethics

Presentations

“Kant’s Theory of Reasons for Belief”

Jan 2025	Frankfurter Kant-Arbeitskreis, Goethe Universität Frankfurt (upcoming)
Apr 2024	Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion Working Group, Princeton University

“On the Secondary Quality Analogy”

Sep 2024	14th International Kant Congress, Bonn
Feb 2024	American Philosophical Association (APA) Central Division Meeting, New Orleans

“Hegelian Sufficiency as an Anti-Colonial Theory of Justice” (with Joshua Folkerts)

Aug 2024	Emancipation in Hegel’s Metaphysics and Social Theory Conference, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
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“The Role and Significance of the Doctrine of Method”

May 2024	North American Kant Society South Study Group Meeting, Columbia, SC
Dec 2022	Kant Graduate Student Forum, Harvard University (Invited)

“Against the Epistemic Instrumentalist Solution to the Combinatorial Problem”

Jan 2024	APA Eastern Division Meeting, New York
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“Susan Sontag and the Moral Impact of Photographs of Violence and Suffering”

Nov 2023	American Society of Aesthetics Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.
Aug 2023	Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, CO
Jun 2021	European Society of Aesthetics Conference

“Hegel’s Developmental Justification of Private Property”

Oct 2022	Biennial Conference of the Hegel Society of America, Nashville
Jun 2021	33rd International Hegel Congress

“Can We Know the Existence of Things in Themselves, Prof. Kant?”

Sept 2022 | UK Kant Society Conference, London

“Hegel and the Problem of Poverty”

Apr 2022 | British Society of History of Philosophy Annual Conference

Apr 2022 | APA Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver

Nov 2021 | Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference

“On the Incoherence of Luck Egalitarianism”

Jan 2021 | APA Eastern Division Meeting, Online

Sept 2020 | Pavia Graduate Conference in Political Philosophy

Apr 2020 | UIUC Philosophy Graduate Conference (cancelled due to Covid)

“On the Location of Kant’s Refutation of Idealism”

Jan 2020 | APA Eastern Division Meeting, Philadelphia

Nov 2018 | Kant Colloquium, University of Oxford

“Interpretive Method Pluralism”

Apr 2019 | American Society of Aesthetics Eastern Meeting, Philadelphia

Apr 2019 | CUNY Graduate Conference

“No Duties of Global Distributive Justice: A Kantian Theory”

Jun 2018 | Brave New World Graduate Conference, University of Manchester

Jun 2018 | Kant’s Legal Theory and Global Justice Conference, University of Bayreuth

Mar 2018 | Graduate Conference at University of Tennessee Knoxville

Awards & Fellowships

2024 – 2025	Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship, Boston University
2024	The Helen G. Allen Humanities Award, Boston University Center for the Humanities
2024	The Angela J. and James J. Rallis Memorial Award, Boston University Center for the Humanities
2023	Student Presenter Travel Grant, American Society of Aesthetics
2023	Professional Development Grant (for University of Minnesota Center for Canon Expansion and Change summer program), Boston University
2021	Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant, Boston University
2021	Summer Research Fellowship, Boston University
2021	Stipendium für Hochschulsommerkurse in Deutschland (Grant for Summer Language Course in Germany), DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)
2019 – 2020	Dean’s Fellowship, Boston University
2019	Irene H. Chayes Travel Grant, American Society of Aesthetics
2017	Brian Keelan Award in Humanities, China Oxford Scholarship Fund
2017	Honorable Mention for Best Undergraduate Student Research, Illinois Program of Research in Humanities Prizes, UIUC
2016	Lois Shepard Green Award, Department of Philosophy, UIUC

Academic Service

Jan 2025	Commentator to Bangrui Chen's paper "Kant, Apperception, and the Unity of Cognition", APA Eastern Division Meeting (upcoming)
Dec 2024	Commentator to Stefanie Grüne, the annual Jean-Jacques Rousseau Conference, ECPR Standing Group on Kantian Political Thought (upcoming)
May 2024	Chair, 3PR Conference on Philosophy, Religion and Love, Princeton University
2023 - 2024	Alumni & Placement Officer, BU Philosophy Graduate Student Association
May 2023	Commentator to Samantha Matherne's Paper "Beauty and the Life of the Mind in Kant and Hegel" at "Organism and Life: Herder, Kant, Hegel" Workshop, Boston University
May 2023	Co-Organizer (with Giulia Battistoni), "Organism and Life: Herder, Kant, Hegel" Workshop, Boston University
April 2023	Co-Organizer (with Matilde Carrera, Casey Grippo, and Jack Harris), Boston University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference
Nov 2022	Co-Organizer (with Joshua Folkerts), Boston Young Hegelian Workshop
2021 - 2024	Paper Referee, Boston University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference
2021 - 2022	International Student Representative, BU Philosophy Graduate Student Association
2018 - 2019	Founding Member and Executive Officer, Philiminality Oxford
2018 - 2019	Co-Organizer, the Jowett Society, University of Oxford
2018 - 2019	Co-Organizer, the Ockham Society, University of Oxford
2018	Co-organizer and Paper Referee, the 22nd Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference

Graduate Coursework

(* = audited)

History of Philosophy: German Idealism

- Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Desmond Hogan, Princeton)*
- Kant: Ethics, Religion, Politics (Andrew Chignell & Jason Yonover, Princeton)*
- Hegel's *Philosophy of Right* (Sally Sedgwick, BU)
- Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Sally Sedgwick, BU)
- Hegel (Mark Wrathall, Oxford)
- Kant's *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (Alexandra Newton, UIUC)

History of Philosophy: Non-Western

- Buddhist Karma and Causality (Jonathan Gold, Princeton)*
- Classical Indian Thought (Jonathan Gold, Princeton)*
- Buddhist Philosophers and Their Critics (Parimal Patil, Harvard) *
- Buddhist Philosophy (Parimal Patil, Harvard) *
- Buddhist Philosophy (David Eckel, BU)

History of Philosophy: Early Modern European

- Spinoza and Modern German Philosophy (Daniel Garber & Jason Yonover, Princeton)*
- British Empiricism (Jefferey McDonough, Harvard) *

History of Philosophy: 19th & 20th Century European

- Phenomenology (Walter Hopp, BU)
- Heidegger (Daniel Dahlstrom, BU)
- Nietzsche (Paul Katsafanas, BU)
- Phenomenology (Joseph Shear, Oxford)

History of Philosophy: Ancient

- Plato's Meno (Marc Gasser-Wingate, BU) *
- Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics (Marc Gasser-Wingate, BU)

Theoretical Philosophy

- Recent Epistemology (Thomas Kelly, Princeton)*
- Wittgenstein (Juliet Floyd, BU) *
- Quine (Peter Hylton, BU) *
- Symbolic Logic (Peter Hylton, BU)
- Self-Consciousness, Agency, and Time (Anil Gomes & Jennifer Hornsby, Oxford)
- Experimental Philosophy (Jonathan Livengood, UIUC) *

Ethics, Aesthetics, and Political Philosophy

- Reasons, Value, Rationality, and Metanormativity (Daniel Star, BU)
- Contemporary Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Photography (Daniel Star, BU)
- Philosophy of Love (Daniel Star, BU)
- Luck and Credit (Daniel Star, BU)
- Philosophy and Literature (Stephen Mulhall & Alice Crary, Oxford)
- Aesthetics (Alison Hills, Oxford)
- Population Ethics (Ralf Bader, Oxford)
- Metaethics (Ralf Bader, Oxford)
- Political Philosophy (Cecile Fabre & Thomas Sinclair, Oxford)

Language

Chinese (native, incl. Classical Chinese), English (fluent), German (B2), Sanskrit (intermediate)