

Lewis (Kuizhi) Wang

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Education

2019 - 2025 (Expected)	Ph.D. in Philosophy <i>Boston University</i> Dissertation: Towards A Hybrid Reading of Transcendental Idealism Advisor: Sally Sedgwick
Wintersemester 2024/25 (Upcoming)	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</i> <i>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

Areas of Specialization

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

Areas of Competence

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

Publications

forthcoming	“On the Secondary Quality Analogy”, in <i>Proceedings of XIV International Kant Congress</i>
forthcoming	“The Early Development of Kant’s Practical Notion of Belief”, <i>Inquiry</i>
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
2023	“Kant on Propositional Content and Knowledge”, <i>Kant Yearbook</i> 15 (1):175-196.

Works in Progress

R&R	“Susan Sontag and the Moral Impact of Photographs of Violence and Suffering” Review & Resubmission at <i>British Journal of Aesthetics</i>
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	”Can We Know the Existence of Things in Themselves, Professor Kant?”
in progress	”Kant’s Theory of Reasons for Belief”
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)
in progress	“The Buddhist Case for Ontological Idealism: Two Arguments Against Mind-Independent Existence in Xuanzang’s <i>Cheng Weishi Lun</i> ”

Translation

in progress	Xuanzang’s <i>Cheng Weishi Lun</i> , Book I, translated from Chinese original (draft available on my website)
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Teaching

(all taught at Boston University)

Primary Instructor

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

Teaching Fellow/Assistant

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

“Hegelian Sufficiency as an Anti-Colonial Theory of Justice” (with Joshua Folkerts)	
Aug 2024	Hegel at SOAS Conference, London

“Kant’s Theory of Reasons for Belief”

Apr 2024 | Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion Working Group

“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)

“On the Secondary Quality Analogy”

Sep 2024 | 14th International Kant Congress, Bonn

Feb 2024 | American Philosophical Association (APA) Central Division Meeting, New Orleans

“Against the Epistemic Instrumentalist Solution to the Combinatorial Problem”

Jan 2024 | APA Eastern Division Meeting, New York

“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

“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

“Hegel’s Developmental Justification of Private Property”

Oct 2022 | Biennial Conference of the Hegel Society of America, Nashville

Jun 2021 | 33rd International Hegel Congress

“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 UMN 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 für ausländische Studierende und Graduierte (Grant for Summer Language Course in Germany), DAAD
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
2015	Howard F. Crombie 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
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

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 Schear, 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)

Dissertation Summary

In my dissertation, I offer a novel reading of Kant's transcendental idealism. Roughly put, transcendental idealism is the doctrine that the objects we perceive are in some way mind-dependent, and that we cannot know the underlying mind-independent reality. Current interpretations of what this doctrine exactly amounts to fall roughly into two camps: metaphysical readers believe that it is about primarily describing reality as having a tiered structure, while epistemic readers take it to be primarily concerned with highlighting the conditions and boundary of human knowledge. My hybrid reading steers a middle course in between these two camps. On my reading, Kant's idealism aims primarily to explain how the concept of an object, which for Kant is the basic constituent of reality, is relativized to our conditions of knowledge. That is, I argue that for Kant, the properties that define what it is to be an object in general depend on the human conditions of both thinking and intuition, and no thought of any possible object by us can ever transcend the human standpoint consisting of these two conditions. I thus read Kant's transcendental idealism as primarily concerned with providing a radically anthropocentric metaphysics.