

# Ricky Zhao

Carnegie Mellon University  
Department of Philosophy  
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## Research Interests

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**AOS:** Game Theory, Decision Theory

**AOC:** Formal & Social Epistemology, Formal Logic, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Economics

## Education

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### PhD in Philosophy

*Expected Spring 2026*

Carnegie Mellon University

Dissertation: Bounded Rationality in Sequential Games

Committee: Kevin Zollman (chair), Aydin Mohseni, John Miller

### MS in Logic, Computation, and Methodology

*2023*

Carnegie Mellon University

Thesis: An Evolutionary Model of Subgame Perfect Equilibrium

Advisor: Kevin Zollman

### BA in Mathematics

*2016*

Princeton University

Senior Thesis: Combinatorial Walrasian Equilibria and Social Welfare

Advisors: Matt Weinberg, Mark Braverman

## Teaching

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### Instructor

- Games, Decisions, and Rational Thinking *Summer 2025*
- Introduction to Philosophy *Summer 2024, 2023*
- Logic and Proofs *Summer 2022, 2021*

### Teaching Assistant

- Game Theory *Fall 2024*
- Decision Theory *Spring 2024*
- Dangerous Ideas in Science and Society *Fall 2023 (Head TA), Fall 2022 (Head TA),  
Spring 2022, Fall 2021*
- Philosophy of Economics *Spring 2023*
- Introduction to Philosophy *Fall 2020*

### Guest Lectures

- "Interpersonal comparison of welfare." Guest lecture for Philosophy of Economics. Sept. 18, 2025.
- "Evolutionary game theory." Guest lecture for Game Theory; designed accompanying homework assignment. Nov. 21, 2024.

- "Welfare and Paternalism." Guest lecture for Philosophy of Economics. Feb. 21, 2023.
- "Moral Relativism." Guest lecture for Dangerous Ideas in Science and Society. Nov. 17, 2021.

## Awards

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**Dietrich College Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award**

*2023*

## Research

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### Working Papers

- Zhao, R. & Zollman, Kevin. "Strategic evolution in extensive-form games."

### Works in Progress

- Zhao, R. "Strategic complexity in sequential games."
- Zhao, R. & Du, Shaokai. "Role-model-based learning in a network."
- Zhao, R. "Strategic complexity in repeated games."

### Campus Talks

- "Strategic Complexity in Sequential Games," Work-in-Progress Series, Institute for Complex Social Dynamics, Feb. 12, 2025.

## Departmental Service

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**TA/Grader Committee Member**

*Nov. 2024 - Present*

- Attended meetings to discuss and revise departmental policies for TAs and graders.

**Department Grievance Council Member**

*Sept. 2024 - Aug. 2025*

- Served as a student representative for confidential grievance review and deliberation, as required.

**Job Search Committee Member (Assistant Professor in Philosophy)** *Nov. 2023 - Jan. 2024*

- Reviewed applications in the initial pool and participated in committee meetings to identify shortlist candidates.

## Other Work Experience

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**Native English Teacher**

*Feb. 2018 - Feb. 2019*

English Program in Korea

- Taught multi-level ESL classes for South Korean students in grades 7-10
- Advisor for after-school math and games club. Informally introduced various topics of student interest including algebra, probability, and basic game theory

## **Skills**

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### **Languages**

- English (Native)
- Mandarin Chinese (Native)
- Japanese (Intermediate)
- Korean (Intermediate)

### **Programming Languages**

- NetLogo
- Mathematica
- R
- Python