

Curriculum vitae

CHEUNG Wai Lok (Ray)

張煒樂

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I work on the epistemology of identity with my Master thesis, and am now working on epistemic reasonableness. I differentiate reasonableness from rationality with my safety theory, which measures with the likelihood of an act having been performed with perfect safety. I also work on Daoism, having developed a realist Daoism, and theology, with my contribution of a theology of humanity.

Born: Hong Kong, China
Nationality: Chinese (Hong Kong)
E-mail: hongkongray@gmail.com

Occupation

2012-22 Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2017-18 Part-time Lecturer, Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2012, 2017 Demonstrator, Philosophy Department, The University of Hong Kong
2011 Translator, Macau Ricci Institute, Macau, China
2006 Research Assistant, Institute of Clinical Neuropsychology, The University of Hong Kong and MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Hong Kong, China
2005 Summer Intern, Federation of European Data and Marketing, Brussels, Belgium
2004-2005 Intern, Psychological Services Group, Hong Kong Police Force, Hong Kong, China
2004 Summer Intern, China Central Television, Beijing, China

Education

2020-2021 Youth Leader Pre-Theology Programme, Alliance Bible Seminary
2012-2017 M.Phil., Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Thesis: Referential presuppositions, epistemic possibilities, and epistemic content
A study of Robert Stalnaker's theory of the necessary *a posteriori* in light of an exegesis of Saul Kripke's *Naming and Necessity*
2010-2012 M.A., Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Thesis: Conceivability, the *a priori*, and primary possibilities
A study of David Chalmers' theory of conceivability and its implication for the *a priori*

2003-2004 Worldwide Student Exchange, Philosophy Department, Tufts University
2002-2006 B.Soc.Sc. (1st hon.), Social Sciences Faculty, The University of Hong Kong
Thesis: Emotions, pleasantness of music, and risk taking behaviours
A behavioural experimentation on the effect of mood induced by music interacting with its preference on decision-making and learning

Publication

- (forthcoming) Epistemic possibility: Kripke versus Soames. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
2026. Epistemic sense: interpreting Frege with Kripkean metaphysics. *Teorema. International Journal of Philosophy*. 45(2).
2025. Epistemic competence: empowerment through luck minimization. *Logos & Episteme*. 16(4):407-423.
2025. Holiness: contrasting a secular absence with its religious opposite. *Biblical Studies Journal*. 7(3):27-35.
2025. Fictionally fictional object: the alleged objecthood of nothingness. *Asian Studies*. 13(3):153-162.
2025. Epistemic safety: risk and its negativity in the good case. *Logos & Episteme*. 16(2):139-156.
2025. A situational hermeneutic: the priority of reference over meaning. *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*. 48(2 supp):61-72.
2025. A respect restoration theory of reconciliation with the June Fourth Incident as a case study. *Biblical Studies Journal*. 7(1):23-36.
2024. A realist Daoism: reading *Zhuangzi* with Laozi's Daoist realism. *Comparative Philosophy*. 15(2):43-65.
2024. Epistemic responsibility: an agent's sensitivity towards the world. *Logos & Episteme*. 15(4):389-403.
2024. A theology of humanity through identity politics: reading the Book of Esther. *Biblical Studies Journal*. 6(4):25-38.

Presentation

2023.3.3 A situational theologian: duty of a Christian intellectual discharged through

- pastoral practice
- Ministerial Formation
- On This Rock I Will Build My Church: Ecclesiology in Africa
- African Society for Evangelical Theology
- Limuru, Kenya
- 2022.12.17 Queer theology: reading St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans with St. Mark's Jesus as an exercise in situational hermeneutic
- Sin and Forgiveness Symposium
- Institute of Sino-Christian Studies
- Hong Kong, China
- 2022.11.29 The subjectivity of others: an understanding of a Husserlian transcendental idealism with a realism of affectivity
- 2022 Annual Conference
- Australasian Society of Continental Philosophy
- Melbourne, Australia
- 2022.11.26 *Der Übermensch*: an authenticity conception of his will to power through self-respect
- Zoom Conference
- The British Personalist Forum
- Loughborough, United Kingdom
- 2022.10.27 A philosopher's eagerness: an experience sharing of public engagement
- Roundtable Presentations: Political Philosophy and Contemporary Themes II
- The 3rd Unifesp Philosophy Graduate Conference: What is Philosophy? Minority Perspectives on Philosophical Production
- Department of Philosophy, Federal University of São Paulo
- Guarulhos, Brazil
- 2022.10.18 Illusory possibility: the way back to reality through clearly impossible object
- Modal Metaphysics: Tilburg Issues on the (Im)possible
- Tilburg University
- Tilburg, The Netherlands
- 2022.9.25 Son of Man and Kingdom of Heaven: a humanism reading of Paul's Epistles to the Thessalonians
- The eternity of this life Sunday school
- Hong Kong Baptist Church

- Hong Kong, China
- 2022.7.22 Chance and choice: a neurobiology of freewill through epistemic superposition
- CogSci 2022 Hong Kong Meetup & Symposium: Computational Approaches to Psychological Research
- Department of Computer Science, City University of Hong Kong
- Department of Psychology, The University of Hong Kong
- Hong Kong, China
- 2022.7.15 Dissolution of the halting problem: a recognition conception of decision procedure
- Computability in Europe: Revolutions and Revelations in Computability
- School of Mathematics and Computer Science, Swansea University
- Swansea, United Kingdom
- 2022.6.30 A success conception of justification: externalist rationality through Gettier case
- 2022 Annual Conference
- Australasian Association of Philosophy <http://aap.org.au/>
- 2022.6.23 The Liar: paraconsistency with logical classicality through fictitiousness
- 2022 Annual Conference
- Australasian Association for Logic <http://sites.google.com/view/aalogic/>
- 2022.6.7 Religious exclusivism: the one real hinge versus the many fictitious ones
- 3rd Hinge Epistemology Conference: Hinge Epistemology and Religious Belief
- Nova Institute of Philosophy, Nova University of Lisbon
- Portugal, Lisbon
- 2022.6.4 A Kripkean understanding of contextual definition: a Russellian description theory of proper name through epistemic situationality
- 49th Annual Meeting: Remembering Russell 150 Years after His Birth
- The Bertrand Russell Society
- McMaster University
- Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
- 2022.5.28 A logic of logic: computation and modal logic through possibility quantification

- Logic and Philosophy: Historical and Contemporary Issues
Institute of Philosophy, Vilnius University
Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2022.4.16 Deontic contextualism: utilitarianism without over-population
Ethics and Applied Philosophy Graduate Conference
The Philosophical Union, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Charlotte, North Carolina, United States of America
- 2022.3.7 A situational theologian: duty of a Christian intellectual discharged through
pastoral practice
The International Conference on Practical Theology
Imam Sadiq University
Tehran, Iran
- 2022.2.24 A humanistic agnosticism: psychology of significance projection and the
reality of sacredness
Religious Experience and Metaphysics
Society for the Phenomenology of Religious Experience Session
Central Division, American Philosophy Association
Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
- 2021.12.11 Liberal perfectionism: a dignity maximization through the illiberality of
addiction
Contemporary Challenges and Values
Culture and Values
Institute of Philosophy, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University.
Lublin, Poland
- 2021.12.11 Confucius' wisdom: a liberal reading of the Analects and its conservative
implications
Philosophies around East Asian Seas
International Society of East Asian Philosophy and Meiji Institute of
Philosophies, Meiji University
<http://iseap.jp/>
- 2021.11.12 A pretence understanding of the post-truth through an identity politic
STATE (IN)STABILITY 2021: State (in)stability in the age of post-
truth
Faculty of International Relations and Diplomacy, Libertas
International University
Zagreb, Croatia

- 2021.11.6 Citizenship: civility through self-liability
 Moral Education for Social Justice
 47th Annual Conference
 Association for Moral Education
 <http://www.amenetwork.org/>
- 2021.11.6 Abortion: the fictitious face of the zygote and the insignificance of our
 feeling
 Inaugural conference
 Society of Christian Bioethics
 <http://www.scbethics.com/>
- 2021.10.28 Infinity: reference without complete description
 The Complementarity Between Metaphysics and Mystical Life
 8th World Conference on Metaphysics
 The Idente Foundation for Studies and Research
 Rome, Italy
- 2021.10.27 God’s choice: His decisions within and without our world
 Creation and Evolution. Metaphysics, Science, Ecology, and Religion
 8th World Conference on Metaphysics
 The Idente Foundation for Studies and Research
 Rome, Italy
- 2021.9.24 Heideggerian worldliness: an analytic theory of continental anti-
 Cartesianism
 Incomprehensibility, Irreality, and Worldliness
 2021 Annual Conference: Celebrating 40 Years of Doing
 Phenomenology in the Human Sciences around the World
 Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences [http://
 www.sphs.info/](http://www.sphs.info/)
- 2021.9.21 Climate justice: peace through the punitively augmented Paris Agreement
 Partnerships and the Sustainable Development Goals
 9th International Conference on Sustainable Development: Research
 for Impact: An Inclusive and Sustainable Planet
 Global Association of Master’s in Development Practice Programs and
 the Sustainable Development Solutions Network
 <http://ic-sd.org/>
- 2021.9.21 Green finance: an offer you can’t refuse

Sustainable Finance for the Implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement

9th International Conference on Sustainable Development: Research for Impact: An Inclusive and Sustainable Planet

Global Association of Master's in Development Practice Programs and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network

<http://ic-sd.org/>

2021.9.21 Ethics and politics of grass-fed cows

Water-Energy-Food Nexus Research Impact and Stakeholder Engagement

9th International Conference on Sustainable Development: Research for Impact: An Inclusive and Sustainable Planet

Global Association of Master's in Development Practice Programs and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network

<http://ic-sd.org/>

2021.9.20 A system conception of growth and development

Systems Approaches for Sustainability

9th International Conference on Sustainable Development: Research for Impact: An Inclusive and Sustainable Planet

Global Association of Master's in Development Practice Programs and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network

<http://ic-sd.org/>

2021.9.5 On a pursuit of power for its own sake

Congress of the Swiss Philosophical Society: Knowledge – Power – Action

Swiss Philosophical Society

Lugano, Switzerland

2021.9.4 A choice theory of metaphysical possibility

6th Annual Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science

Society for the Metaphysics of Science

Birmingham, United Kingdom

2021.9.2 Naturalism: ontological necessitarianism through an actualism

Comment on Margarida Hermida's *Cats are not necessarily animals*

6th Annual Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science

Society for the Metaphysics of Science

Birmingham, United Kingdom

2021.8.26 Unsupervised learning: computation and connectionism through modal

- logic with grammar as a case study
 Brain and Language 2021
 Faculty of Education and Psychology, University of Jyväskylä
 Jyväskylä, Finland
- 2021.8.19 An economic of dignity: a meritocracy through competence
 2021 Congress: Idea to Reality
 Basic Income Earth Network
 Glasgow, Scotland
- 2021.8.10 The Second Flood: a Messianic reading of the Book of Revelation
 New Testament Session
 Summer Conference for Early Career Researchers endorsed by the
 Society of Biblical Literature
 The Second Temple Early Career Academy
 Birmingham, United Kingdom
- 2021.7.30 A teacher's liability: his participation in curriculum design and his
 discretionary power
 Student Corner
 Teaching and Learning Innovation Expo 2021
 Centre for Learning Enhancement And Research, Centre for eLearning
 Innovation and Technology, and Information Technology Services
 Centre, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
 Hong Kong, China
- 2021.7.26 A decision-theoretic connectionism: increased sensitivity towards
 punishment through reinforcement learning with better mood
 Hong Kong Meetup and Symposium
 43rd Annual Meeting: Comparative Cognition – Animal Minds
 The Cognitive Science Society and The University of Hong Kong
 Hong Kong, China
- 2021.7.17 Epistemic content: Stalnaker versus Kripke
 The Open Session
 The 95th Joint Session
 The Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association
 United Kingdom
- 2021.7.15 An ideology critique of ideology critique: indulgence in scratching a
 phantom itch
 Final Participants Conference

- Critical Theory Workshop
Interdisciplinary Institute of Anthropology of the Contemporary,
School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences
Paris, France
- 2021.6.27 A conditional probability theory of probability of conditional
The Rump Session
The 18th Conference on Theoretical Aspects of Rationality and
Knowledge
Tsinghua University
Beijing, China
- 2021.6.23 Formalising conceptual analysis
Formal Philosophy 2021
International Laboratory for Logic, Linguistics and Formal Philosophy
National Research University Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia
- 2021.6.10 An epistemic theory of information
The Gong-Show
XXIV International Summer School in Philosophy of Physics: Black
Holes and the Information Loss Paradox
University of Urbino
Urbino, Italy
- 2021.6.2 Irreversibility of climate change with some degree of global warming
The Chinese University of Hong Kong team meeting
2020 Global University Climate Forum [http://campuspress.yale.edu/
climateforum/](http://campuspress.yale.edu/climateforum/)
- 2021.5.28 Self-efficacy and psychiatric outpatient
Mental Health Issues
7th Pan-Pacific Nursing Conference – From Evidence to Impact: Co-
designing Care for Future
Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong, China
- 2021.5.28 An equality of opportunity conception of equity
Student Seminar on Health Equity
Inaugural Symposium on Health Equity in Hong Kong and Beyond
Institute of Health Equity, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong, China

- 2021.5.27 Moral judgment in the mental health profession
Culture and Bioethics
Asia Pacific Bioethics Education Network 2021: Rethinking bioethics education after 2020
Deakin University
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 2021.5.19 An epistemic theory of Fregean sense
12th Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science: Linguistic and Cognitive Foundations of Meaning
The Central European Cognitive Science Association <http://www.cecog.eu/>
- 2021.5.17 The politics, ethics, and morality of deep ecology
Socially equitable green recovery
Climate Exp0: a fusion of science and policy – advancing a resilient, zero-carbon world
COP26 Universities Network and Italian University Network for Sustainable Development
<http://www.climateexp0.org/>
- 2021.4.22 Masculinity: individuality and Asian communitarianism
Understanding Masculinities and Social Change undergraduate course
Gender Studies Programme, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong, China
- 2021.4.20 Music, the structure of emotion expression, and the sharing of humanity
Music, Interiority and Affect
1st Annual Midlands Music Research Network Conference: Music and Adversity
Midlands Music Research Network <http://www.midlandsmusicresearchnetwork.com/>
- 2021.4.19 Transphobia: hatred out of self-disrespect
LGBTQI+ Studies Identities and Social Change undergraduate course
Gender Studies Programme, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong, China
- 2021.3.24 Phenomenality: indication without representation
Perspectives on Intentionality and Consciousness conference

- The University of Waikato
Hamilton, New Zealand
- 2021.3.22 Logicality, reasonableness, and fictitiousness
Work-in-progress session
Virtual International Consortium for Truth Research [http://
oohlah.wixsite.com/mysite/](http://oohlah.wixsite.com/mysite/)
- 2021.3.14 Food production as a case of the malfunctioning of the free market
The Chinese University of Hong Kong team meeting
2020 Global University Climate Forum [http://campuspress.yale.edu/
climateforum/](http://campuspress.yale.edu/climateforum/)
- 2021.3.13 An epistemic contextualism: competence with sensitivity
Super Saturday Seminar
Hyderabad theory of knowledge group
Hyderabad, India
- 2021.3.7 By faith alone: 1-6 of Martin Luther's *Von den guten werckenn*
Tracing God's footprints: a Church history exploration Sunday school
Hong Kong Baptist Church
Hong Kong, China
- 2021.3.3 A Daoist pluralism: realism with relativity
Ethics in the *Zhuangzi* graduate seminar
Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong, China
- 2021.2.27 The ugliness of evil: anthropology through social activism
Public Philosophy and Activism
Minorities and Philosophy Group Session
Central Division, American Philosophy Association
New Orleans, Louisiana, United States of America
- 2021.2.15 Incentivising fossil fuel companies to transition into renewable energy with
green finance
The Chinese University of Hong Kong team meeting
2020 Global University Climate Forum
<http://campuspress.yale.edu/climateforum/>
- 2021.1.29 Sustainability and dignity
The Chinese University of Hong Kong team meeting

2020 Global University Climate Forum

<http://campuspress.yale.edu/climateforum/>

- 2021.1.26 Women pornography: understanding gender through fieldwork
Critical Introduction to Pornography undergraduate course
Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, The Chinese University
of Hong Kong
Hong Kong, China
- 2021.1.23 A measure of dignity
For a New Global Social Contract
The Future of Global Cooperation: Ethics and Governance
Global Negotiation Conference
<http://www.global-negotiation.org/>
- 2021.1.16 A spirituality theory of personal development
Monthly meeting
Christian Association for the Psychology of Religion Limited
Hong Kong, China
- 2020.12.14 A knowledge-first virtue epistemology
Epistemology meeting with Ernest Sosa
Hyderabad theory of knowledge group
Hyderabad, India
- 2020.12.6 Freedom of conscience and freedom of expression
2020 International eConference on Interreligious Dialogue
Global Center for Religious Research
Denver, Colorado, United States of America
- 2020.12.1 Augmentation of the Paris Agreement with punitive measures, and its
mandatory participation
The Chinese University of Hong Kong team meeting
2020 Global University Climate Forum [http://campuspress.yale.edu/
climateforum/](http://campuspress.yale.edu/climateforum/)
- 2020.11.6 Weak preference as deontic accessibility
Research methodology seminar
Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong, China
- 2020.6.15 A metaphysic of society
Mini-seminar for graduate students

- Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong, China
- 2020.2.25 Agency: recursivity of self-determination through the materiality of causation
 Comments on Alyssa Ney's *Physical Causation and Difference-Making*
 Metaphysics of causation graduate seminar
 Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
 Hong Kong, China
- 2019.11.8 A metaphysic of action
 Research methodology seminar
 Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
 Hong Kong, China
- 2019.11.3 A Daoist theory of self-expansion
 The Chinese Society for Dialectics of Nature 2019 Conference
 The Chinese Society for Dialectics of Nature
 Beijing, China
- 2019.10.27 A fictitiousness theory of Wittgensteinian nonsense
 The Fourth International Wittgenstein Symposium
 Chinese Wittgenstein Society, Chinese Society for Contemporary Foreign Philosophy
 School of Philosophy, Northwest University, China
 Xi'an, China
- 2019.8.22 An ignorance of obligation explanation of blamelessness
 Cologne Summer School on Epistemology with Clayton Littlejohn
 University of Cologne
 Cologne, Germany
- 2017.8.10 Modus ponens and scepticism
 M.A. in philosophy summer preparatory class
 Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
 Hong Kong, China
- 2016.3.8 Quine and Linsky on reference, modality, and essentialism
 Kripke and metaphysics graduate seminar
 Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
 Hong Kong, China

- 2014.10.10 'Jack the Ripper' and the contingent a priori
Research methodology seminar
Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong, China
- 2012.11.30 'I have my brain in a vat'
Research methodology seminar
Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong, China