

Curriculum vitae
CHEUNG Wai Lok (Ray)
張煒樂

hongkonggray.com/

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
E-mail: hongkonggray@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 <i>a posteriori</i> in light of an exegesis of Saul Kripke's <i>Naming and Necessity</i>
2010-2012	M.A., Philosophy Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong Thesis: Conceivability, the <i>a priori</i> , and primary possibilities A study of David Chalmers' theory of conceivability and its implication for the <i>a priori</i>
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

2026. *Agency: recursivity of self-determination through the materiality of causation*. In di Mieri et al (ed.). *Spacetime Physics and Free Will*. Montreal: Minkowski Institute Press.
2026. Epistemic possibility: Kripke versus Soames. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. 104(2):445-460.
2026. Epistemic context: a justifiability theory of relevance. *Logos and Episteme*. 17(2):145-157.
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*

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 eternality 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/>
- 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/](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/](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/>
- 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