

CURRICULUM VITAE

University of Pennsylvania
Department of Philosophy
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MINGJUN ZHANG

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of biology, philosophy of science

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Environmental philosophy, philosophy of mind

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, U.S.

Ph.D. in Philosophy Expected in 2021
Dissertation: *Understanding Patterns in Nature*
Committee: Michael Weisberg (Supervisor), Quayshawn Spencer, Karen Detlefsen,
Erol Akçay (Department of Biology)

Certificate Program in Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Expected in Dec 2020

The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

Visiting Student in the School of Philosophy Jul-Aug 2019

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

M.A. in Philosophy, supervised by Wei Wang (王巍) 2015
B.S. with Major in Chemistry and Minor in Law 2013

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Zhang, Mingjun. 2020. "The Use and Limitations of Null-Model-Based Hypothesis Testing." *Biology & Philosophy* 35 (2): 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10539-020-09748-0>

Zhu, Jing*, Mingjun Zhang*, and Michael Weisberg. 2020. "Why Does the Chinese Public Accept Evolution?" *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A* 81: 116–24. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.shpsa.2019.07.003>
(Authors with * contributed equally to this work.)

Wang, Wei, and Mingjun Zhang. 2015. "How-Possible and Why-Necessary: A Criticism of Rosenberg's Darwinian Reductionism." *Studies in Dialectics of Nature* (Chinese journal) 8: 20-24.

Publication in chemistry

Liu, Xiaohui, **Mingjun Zhang**, Guifang Dong, Xinyue Zhang, Yapei Wang, Lian Duan, Liduo Wang, and Yong Qiu. 2014. "The Effect of Oxygen Content on the Performance of Low-Voltage Organic Phototransistor Memory." *Organic Electronics* 15(7): 1664–71.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.orgel.2014.03.017>

WORK IN PROGRESS

Zhang, Mingjun. "Say Goodbye to Empirical Adaptationism."
(submitted to *Philosophy of Science*, under review)

Zhang, Mingjun, Deena Skolnick Weisberg, Jing Zhu, Michael Weisberg. "A Comparative Study of the Acceptance and Knowledge of Evolution between China and the US."
(submitted to *Public Understanding of Science*, under review)

Zhang, Mingjun. "Is Methodological Adaptationism Really So Dangerous?" (manuscript)

Zhang, Mingjun. "Assessing Templeton's Denial of Biological Races in Humans." (manuscript)

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

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|-------------------|--|
| 2020-2021 | School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship
(University of Pennsylvania, <i>the only one in the Philosophy Department</i>) |
| 2015-2020 | Benjamin Franklin Fellowship (University of Pennsylvania)
<i>Full support for graduate research from the Philosophy Department</i> |
| 2019 | CTL Teaching Certificate (Penn Center for Teaching and Learning) |
| 2017, 2018 & 2019 | School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Travel Subvention
(University of Pennsylvania) |
| 2016, 2017 & 2019 | Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Travel Grant
(University of Pennsylvania) |
| 2016 & 2018 | National Science Foundation Travel Grant |
| 2009-2013 | Tsinghua and Cyrus Tang Foundation Scholarship
(Tsinghua University, <i>one in each grade in the Chemistry Department</i>) |
| 2010-2011 | Tsinghua Xuetao Talents Program Scholarship
(Tsinghua University) |
| 2009-2010 | Tsinghua Academic Merit Scholarship (Tsinghua University) |

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Oral presentations

- July 2019 “Two senses of relative importance and the testability of empirical adaptationism”
ISHPSSB 2019 (International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Oslo)
- July 2017 “Is methodological adaptationism really so dangerous?”
ISHPSSB 2017 (International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, São Paulo)

Poster presentations

- November 2018 “Adaptationism revisited: three senses of relative importance.”
PSA 2018 (Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Seattle)
- November 2016 “Is methodological adaptationism really so dangerous?”
PSA 2016 (Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Atlanta)

INVITED TALKS

- August 2019 “The use and limitations of null-model-based hypothesis testing.”
PBDB 13 (Philosophy of Biology at Dolphin Beach, Australia)
- June 2019 “The possible use and limitations of null-model-based hypothesis testing.”
(Commented by Yili Lu), Tsinghua University, Beijing
- May 2019 “Neutral models and null models: how and why to distinguish between them?”
Fudan University, Shanghai
- June 2018 “Relative causal importance.”
(Commented by Renjie Yang), Tsinghua University, Beijing
- June 2018 “The relative importance of causal factors.”
(Commented by Zhu Xu & Wei Fang), East China Normal University, Shanghai
- May 2016 “Why would robots need emotions? A functionalist reading.”
(Commented by Jianhui Li), Tsinghua University, Beijing

DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS

- November 2019 “Say Goodbye to Empirical Adaptationism.”
Penn Philosophy Graduate Colloquium
- December 2017 “Why does the Chinese public accept evolution?”
Penn Philosophy Graduate Colloquium
- November 2015 “A reconsideration of idealization in the light of de-idealization.”
Penn Philosophy Graduate Colloquium

TEACHING

As Sole Instructor

- Fall 2019 Environmental Ethics, University of Pennsylvania
(seminar, introductory undergraduate level)

As Teaching Assistant

- Spring 2018 Introduction to Philosophy (instructor: Professor Michael Weisberg)
Fall 2017 What Is Meaning? (instructor: Professor Lisa Miracchi)
Spring 2017 Philosophy of Social Science (instructor: Dr. Harold Parker)

As Grader

- Fall 2016 Philosophy of Space and Time (instructor: Prof. Zoltan Domotor)

Guest Lectures

- Spring 2019 “Observation and Experiment” (for the course “Philosophy of Science”)
Spring 2018 “Other Minds” (for the course “Introduction to Philosophy”)
Fall 2017 “Chalmers: Phenomenal Concepts and the Explanatory Gap” (for the course
“What Is Meaning? Introduction to Mind and Language”)
Fall 2017 “Explanation and Reality” (for the course “Introduction to the Philosophy of
Science”)

ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

- Spring 2019-present Member of Erol Akçay’s Ecology, Evolution, and Social Dynamics
Laboratory (Department of Biology at the University of Pennsylvania)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Chinese (native)
English (fluent)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2019 Session Co-Chair for “Evidence in Context,” ISHPSSB 2019
 (International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology)
- Spring 2019 Member of Penn Philosophy Graduate Committee for Prospective Students
- Spring 2019 Coordinator, Penn Philosophy of Science Reading Group
- 2018 Session Co-Chair for “Philosophy of the Biomedical Sciences,” PSA 2018
 (Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting)
- 2015-2017 Graduate Representative of Penn Philosophy Colloquium Committee

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association (APA)
 Philosophy of Science Association (PSA)
 International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

* = Audit

Philosophy of Science

Philosophy of Biology (Michael Weisberg)
 Philosophy of Science (Michael Weisberg)
 Race and Biology (Quayshawn Spencer)
 Independent Study: Nature of Scientific Explanation (Michael Weisberg)

Biology and Neuroscience

Theoretical Population Biology* (Erol Akçay)
 Theoretical Neuroscience (Vijay Balasubramanian)
 Foundations of Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (Martha Farah & Hilary Gerstein)
 Contemporary Research Issues in Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (Martha Farah)
 Neuroscience, Brain Development, and Learning (Hilary Gerstein)

Philosophy of Mind

Philosophy of Mind: Emotion, Motivation, and Control (Lisa Miracchi)
 Philosophy of Mind: Artificial Intelligence* (Lisa Miracchi)

History of Philosophy

Kant: *Prolegomena* and *Critique of Pure Reason* (Gary Hatfield & Rolf Horstmann)
 Kant’s Philosophy of Religion (Andrew Chignell)
 Aristotle’s Psychology (Andree Hahmann)

Political Philosophy

Modern Political Philosophy: Hobbes, Locke, Mill, Marx, and Rawls (Samuel Freeman)
 Expertise: Its Nature and Uses (Alexander Guerrero)

Other courses

Proseminar (Daniel Singer and Errol Lord)

Formal Logic (Scott Weinstein)

Research Paper Writing (John Cotton)

REFERENCES

Michael Weisberg (Supervisor)

Professor and Chair of Philosophy

University of Pennsylvania

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weisberg@phil.upenn.edu

Quayshawn Spencer

Robert S. Blank Presidential Associate Professor of Philosophy

University of Pennsylvania

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Associate Professor of Biology

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Professor of Philosophy and Education

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