

# Min Tang

[mint12@live.unc.edu](mailto:mint12@live.unc.edu)

<https://mintinmich12.wixsite.com/mintang>

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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Mind, Language, Cognitive Science, Social Philosophy

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Critical Thinking, History of Philosophy, Classical Chinese Philosophy, Mathematical Logic, Philosophy of Mathematics

## EMPLOYMENT

Teaching Assistant Professor | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | 2020.8-present

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | 2014-2020

- Dissertation: *Learning a New Language as a Transformative Experience* (Successfully defended on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020)
- Committee: Gillian Russell (Chair, Dianoia Institute of Philosophy, Australia), L. A. Paul (Chair, Yale University), Ram Neta (UNC), Jennifer Morton (UNC), Markus Kohl (UNC), Carla Merino-Rajme (UNC)

Visiting Assistant in Research | Yale University | 2018-2019

M.A. in Philosophy | Western Michigan University | 2012-2014

Ph.D. in Philosophy of Science and Technology | Renmin University of China | 2008-2012

- Dissertation: *Mathematical Explanations in Mathematical Proofs: Fundamental Theorem of Algebra as a Case Study*
- Committee: Xiaoli Liu (Renmin), Feng Ye (Peking), Tong Wu (Tsinghua)

Visiting Student | Science, Philosophy, Belief Program | Hope College | 2009-2010

B.S. in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics | Lingnan Normal University | 2002-2006

- Thesis: *Explaining Allais' Paradox, Local Context, and Cyclic Preferences in the Skew-Symmetric Bilinear Theory*
- Committee: Ying Liang, Maohua Le

## PUBLICATIONS

“On Burgess’s Objections to Revolutionary Fictionalism,” *Philosophical Researches* (2011, Chinese) 5: 36-44 (*Philosophical Researches* is the highest-ranked analytic philosophy journal in China)

“Embodiment and Embodied Cognition,” (with XY Tao) *Mind and Computation*, (2008, Chinese) 3

## CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

### PROJECT I. *Language Attachment: Normative Features, Individual Differences, Implications for Value- and Self-Transformation*

This project further develops the conception of language attachment in my dissertation on *Learning A New Language as A Transformative Experience*. There are currently four papers under this project.

- A paper on being attached to a language and its relationship to personal transformation (under review)
- A paper on normative aspects of attachment (under review)
- A paper on a topology of attachment to a language (draft available upon request)
- A paper on measuring individual differences of attachment to language (drafting questionnaire surveys and interviews)

### PROJECT II. *Codeswitching, Narrative Intersectionality, Attachments to Cultures & Communities*

This project is another further development on the nature of attachment, focusing on attachments to culture and community based on the analysis of the phenomena of codeswitching. There are two papers under this project.

- A paper on narrative unity and codeswitching (draft available upon request)
- A paper on codeswitching, rational decision making, and transformative experience (draft available upon request)

### PROJECT III. *Translation as Testimony*

This new project investigates textual translation. There are three papers under this project.

- A paper on translation as testimony (preliminary literature review)
- A paper on thick translation (preliminary literature review)
- A paper on concepts, traditions, and translation: helping students appreciate classical Chinese philosophy

### PROJECT IV. *Aesthetic Appreciation*

This is another new project, focusing the epistemic barriers of appreciating literary and philosophical texts in some languages

- A paper on epistemic barriers and the opacity of appreciation (draft available upon request)

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS (selected)

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- UNC Royster Fellowship (2014-2020)  
*A merit-based, interdisciplinary, multi-year award that is the UNC Graduate School's most selective fellowship 0.5%-1%*
- UNC Diversity Fellowship (2018)
- UNC Graduate Student Opportunity Funds (2018-2019)
- UNC Transportation Funds (2018)
- Department of Philosophy Travel Fund (2019x3, 2018, 2017, 2015)
- Royster Travel Fund (2017, 2015)
- Graduate and Professional Students Federation (GPSF) Travel Fund (2015)

### Western Michigan University

- All-University Graduate Research and Creative Scholar Award (2014)

*A highly selective scholarship awarded to 5 out of all graduate students at WMU in 2014*

- Philosophy Department Graduate Research Award (2014)
- Heraclitean Society Annual Essay Award (2014)
- Graduate Assistantship Award (2012-2014)

Renmin University of China

- Doctoral Dissertation with High Pass (Five A) (2012)
- Graduate School Travel Fund (2011)
- Graduate Student Research Grants (2010)
- First-Class Graduate Fellowship Award (2008- 2012)

Lingnan Normal University

- Best Bachelor Thesis Award (2006)
- Student of the Year (2004)
- First-Class Academic Scholarship (2002-2006)
- National Mandarin Proficiency Test Certificate, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, A-level (2004)
- National Computer Rank Examination Certificate of Level 3 Database Technology (2004)

International Conferences

- 2<sup>nd</sup> International Spring School on Particle Physics and Philosophy, Travel Fund (2014)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, Travel Fund (2011)

Foundation Fellowship

- John Templeton Foundation, Visiting Student Fellowship Award (2009-2010)

### PRESENTATIONS (selected)

“Phenomenal Transformation and Language Attachment”

- Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, Vancouver, Canada (2021, *forthcoming*)
- 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Meeting (2020)
- Alumni Speaker at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Michigan University Graduate Philosophy Conference (2020)

“Aesthetic Transformation”

- British Society of Aesthetics Annual Conference, St Anne’s College, Oxford University, UK (2021, *forthcoming*)
- Symposium, Central APA Conference, Chicago, Illinois (2020)

“Concepts, Traditions, and Translation: Helping Students Appreciate Classical Chinese Philosophy”

- Multicultural Philosophy, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK (2019)

“Narrative and Experience: The Narrative Self and Beyond”

- Philosophy in 15 Minutes, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2020)

“A Non-Deflationary Account of Empathy and Varieties of Perspective Taking”

- 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Meeting (2019)

“The Heavenly, the Human, and Wandering in the *Zhuangzi*”

- Asian Philosophical Texts Conference, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium (2018)

“Poetry, Aesthetic Truths, and Transformative Experience”

- Asia Scholar Network Conference, UNC (2018)
- Kent State University Philosophy Conference, Kent, Ohio (2018)

- American Society for Aesthetics, The Rocky Mountain Division, Santa Fe, New Mexico (2018)
- “Subjectivity and Epistemic Transformation in a New Language”
- Pacific APA Pre-conference, Seattle, Washington (2017)
  - Society of Philosophy and Psychology 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, John Hopkins University (2017)
- “Mathematics in Structural Explanation”
- 15<sup>th</sup> Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, Helsinki, Finland (2015)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> International Interdisciplinary Summer School, University of Tübingen, Germany (2014)
- “Enhanced Indispensability Argument and Structural Explanation”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> International Spring School on Particle Physics and Philosophy, University of Wuppertal, Germany (2014)
  - 2014 Syracuse University Graduate Student Conference, Syracuse University (2014)
- “Two Responses to Burgess’s Objections on Revolutionary Fictionalism”
- The 2010 OSU Philosophy Conference, Ohio State University (2010)
  - Philosophy Colloquium, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China (2010)

#### Comments

Rene Jagnow, “A Phenomenal Contrast Argument in favor of Twofold Pictorial Experience”

- Symposium, Central APA Conference, Denver, Colorado (2019)

Joseph McCaffrey, “Does the Brain Respect Basic Emotion Theory? Correspondence and Pattern Classification in fMRI Research” (2017)

- 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Meeting

Jordan Bohall, “Mathematical Rigor, Purity and Informal Provability”

- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Conference, Western Michigan University (2013)

Zheng Fu, “Computational Functionalism Revisited”

- Beijing Graduate Students Seminar of Philosophy of Science, Beijing (2011)

Conference Attendances (Only for Accepted Participants)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> International Summer School in Philosophy of Physics: Probabilities in Physics (2014)
- Summer School on the Foundations of Quantum Mechanics dedicated to John Bell (2014)

### SUMMARY OF DISSERTATION AND THESIS RESEARCH

Dissertation Research at UNC-Chapel Hill and Yale University | 2018-2020

- Conducted in-depth case analyses of adults’ language learning experiences, including native English speakers learning classical and modern Chinese, deaf adults learning ASL, and indigenous groups learning modern English
- Analyzed positive, negative, and traumatic transformative effects of language learning based on conceptual investigations and empirical studies on childhood and adulthood attachments
- Developed a rigorous concept of language attachment to understand the connections between attachment behaviors and language learning experiences
- Applied philosophical theory of transformative experience, psychological studies of attachment, and second language learning to analyze and influence language learning experiences in real life

## Dissertation Research at Renmin University of China | 2010-2012

- Conducted in-depth analyses of thirteen historical and modern proofs of the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra
- Analyzed analytic, algebraic, geometrical, and topological methods and techniques used in the thirteen proofs
- Proposed four forms of explanatoriness—rigorousness, simplicity, primitiveness, and conceptual novelty
- Improved philosophical theorization of mathematical explanation by articulating diverse epistemic virtues of the thirteen proofs and using these virtues as a guide to explore further virtues in other proofs

## Bachelor Thesis Research at Lingnan Normal University | 2005-2006

- Explained conflicts between the Independence and Weak Order Axioms in Subjected Expected Utility Theory and two types of decision-making phenomena in real life—local context and cyclic preference
- Applied Skew-Symmetric Bilinear (SSB) Theory to explain local context and cyclic preference based on SSB's explanation of Allais's paradox

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

## Instructor of Record at UNC-Chapel Hill

- IDST 89 -- Language we live by: Language in Cognition, Education, and Organization  
*An interdisciplinary, first-year seminar that I co-designed and co-taught with two Ph.D. candidates*
- PHIL 213 -- Asian Philosophy (online and in-person)  
*Intermediate undergraduate course on Asian philosophy*
- PHIL 110 -- Great Works in Philosophy (online and in-person)  
*Introductory undergraduate course on western philosophy*
- PHIL 154 -- Philosophy of Social Science  
*Introductory undergraduate course on philosophy of social science*
- PHIL 155 -- Mathematical Logic  
*Introductory undergraduate course on mathematical logic*
- PHIL 101 -- Introduction to Philosophy (online)  
*Introductory undergraduate course on metaphysics, ethics, and epistemology*

## Teaching Assistant

- Central Problems, Great Minds, Big Ideas  
(Supervised by Ram Neta, *Introductory course on the meaningful and good life*)
- Critical Thinking  
(Supervised by Ram Neta, *Introductory undergraduate course on critical reasoning and informal logic*)
- Mathematical Logic  
(Supervised by John T. Roberts, *Introductory undergraduate course on mathematical logic*)

## Instructor of Record at Western Michigan University

- PHIL 2200 -- Critical Thinking  
*Introductory undergraduate course on critical reasoning and informal logic*

## Mathematics Teacher at Affiliated High School of Lingnan Normal University

- Taught algebra and geometry to 63 freshmen, designed curriculum and tests
- Collaborated with specialists, diversified teaching techniques and learning tools for students with different ability levels

#### Courses Prepared to Teach (Syllabi Available Upon Request)

Introductory	Intermediate	Advanced
Historical Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of Analytic Philosophy</li> <li>• History of Chinese philosophy</li> </ul> Topic-based Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metaphysics</li> <li>• Epistemology</li> </ul> Philosophical Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thought Experiments</li> <li>• Formal Methods</li> </ul>	Non-Western Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classical Chinese Philosophy</li> <li>• Buddhism Philosophy</li> </ul> Comparative and Applied Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastern and Western Ethics</li> <li>• Mind, Machine, and Ethics</li> </ul> Logic and Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intermediate Logic</li> <li>• Language, Proof, and Logic</li> </ul>	Metaphysics and Cognitive Science of the Mind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience and the Nature of the Self</li> <li>• Perception and Speech</li> </ul> Language, Linguistics, and Logic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meaning, Translation, and Logic</li> <li>• Language and Thought</li> </ul> Aesthetics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philosophy of Art</li> <li>• Aesthetic Appreciation and Translation</li> </ul>

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

#### University and Departmental Service

Mentor, Carolina Covenant Program (2016-2020)

- Advised undergraduate students on graduate school application
- Met with first-generation students regularly to dispense study and career advice and provide guidance for graduate school applications (One student I worked closely with got accepted by the Philosophy Department at University of California at Berkeley)

Senator, Graduate and Professional Students Federation at UNC (2015-2017)

- Reviewed and escalated the concerns of graduate students at the Philosophy Department

#### Conference and Workshop Organization

Assistant and Participant, Royster Global Conference (2017)

Grant Writing Workshop Co-Organizer, Royster Society at UNC (2015)

- Cooperated with five Royster fellows and invited speakers to give lectures on grant writing

Lecture Series Organizer, Monthly Lecture Series in Forum of Science, Society and Humanities (2008-2009, 2010-2011)

- Invited presenters and commentators one to two times per month, arranged accommodation, meals, and transportations for presenters and commentators, designed posters and flyers

Budget Manager, Institute of Modern Logic and Philosophy of Science (2008-2009, 2010-2011)

- Authored funding budget every semester that results in 15,000.00 ¥ (~\$2461.88) to fund the lectures and conferences held by the *Institute of Modern Logic and Philosophy of Science*

Conference Organizer, 4<sup>th</sup> Philosophy of Natural Science Conference (2011)

- Invited four presenters and four commentators, arranged accommodations, meals, and transportation for presenters and commentators, designed posters and flyers

Conference Co-Organizer, 1<sup>st</sup> Harvard-Renmin on Philosophy of Psychology (2010)

- Authored funding budget 21,710.00 ¥ (~ \$3563.15)

- Assisted Dr. Xiaoli Liu at Renmin in inviting Dr. Sean Kelly at Harvard University, translated Dr. Kelly's lecture notes into Chinese, arranged accommodations, meals and transportation, designed posters and flyers

Conference Organizer, Beijing Action and Perception Conference (2010)

- Authored funding budget 14, 200.00 ¥ (~ \$2330.57)
- Invited presenters and commentators in Beijing area, arranged accommodations, meals, and transportations for presenters and commentator, designed posters and flyers

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Society for Philosophy and Psychology

American Society for Aesthetics

British Society of Aesthetics

The International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese and Western Philosophy

### LANGUAGES

#### Natural

English (Fluent)

Mandarin (Native)

Cantonese (Native)

Classical Chinese (Fluent in advanced reading)

German (Basic)

#### Non-Natural

Python, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, SQL, SPARQL, OWL, MATLAB