

**Vida Yao**  
*Curriculum Vitae*

Philosophy Department  
Rice University  
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Houston, TX 77005  
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## EMPLOYMENT

*Rice University*  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy

## EDUCATION

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
**Ph.D., Philosophy** 2016  
Thesis: *Loving the Bad & Not Giving a Damn: A Defense of Psychic Disharmony*  
Committee: Susan Wolf (chair), Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, and Ryan Preston-Roedder

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
**M.A., Philosophy** 2012  
Thesis: "Owning up to Moral Luck"  
Committee: Susan Wolf (chair), Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, and Robert Adams

*University of British Columbia*  
**B.A., Philosophy** 2009

*University of California – Berkeley*  
Visiting Student (Killam Fellow) 2008-09

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Practical and normative ethics, moral psychology, moral theory, philosophy of action

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

meta-ethics, feminist philosophy, history of ethics

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## PUBLICATIONS

"Boredom & the Divided Mind", *Res Philosophica*, 92, 4 (2015) 937-957. (Special Issue on Virtues and the Emotions)

"Strong-Willed Akrasia," *Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility*, ed. David Shoemaker (forthcoming)

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

UNC Dean’s Distinguished Dissertation Award	2017
Florence Bullock Ragan Summer Research Fellowship	2015
UNC Graduate School Travel Grant	2015
Bertha Colton Williams Fellowship	2014-15
Mary Williams Fellowship	2009-10
Fulbright Canada Killam Fellow ( <i>held at UC-Berkeley</i> )	2008-09

## PRESENTATIONS

“The Refutation of Meaning” at the 2017 Pacific APA	04/17
“Despair and Meaning in Life” at Workshop for Women in Philosophy in the Chicagoland Area	12/16
“The Refutation of Meaning” in Cambridge, Conference on Williams & The Ancients	10/16
“Unpromotable Goods” at the 2016 Pacific APA Meeting	04/16
“Strong-Willed Akrasia” at the New Orleans Workshop on Agency & Responsibility	11/15
“Grace: Goodness in Loving the Bad” in Auckland, Conference on Neglected Virtues in Honour of Rosalind Hursthouse	08/15
“Goodness in Loving the Bad” in Albuquerque, SWPCA Conference	02/15
“Boredom and the Divided Mind” in London, KCL-UNC Philosophy Conference	05/14
“Another Moral of Moral Luck” in Chapel Hill, North Carolina Philosophical Association	02/14
“Bernard Williams on the Tedium of Immortality”, in Chapel Hill, UNC Philosophy Club	11/14
“Reasons and Resentment” in Chapel Hill, UNC-KCL Philosophy Conference	05/14

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### *Instructor of Record*

Death and Dying  
 Introduction to Ethics  
 Evil & the Meaning of Life (Graduate Level)  
 Making Sense of Ourselves (Intro Ethics, Metaphysics & Epistemology)  
 Feminist Philosophy  
 Existentialist Philosophy  
 Ancient Ethics  
 Bioethics

### *Possible Future Courses*

The History of Ethics  
 Introduction to Metaethics  
 Moral Responsibility  
 Akrasia & Weakness of Will  
 Wellbeing & the Meaning of Life  
 Philosophy of Emotions  
 Moral Philosophy & its Critics  
 The Philosophy of Bernard Williams

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

Organizer, Rice Workshop in Humanistic Ethics	2017-2021
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Member, American Philosophical Association	
Member, Canadian Philosophical Association	
Invited Panelist, Teaching Workshop on Lecturing vs. Active Learning	2016
Maynard Adams Symposium Committee, Graduate Student Representative	2015-16
Invited Panelist, Teaching Workshop on Teaching Sensitive Issues	2015
Pacific APA Session Chair	2015
Invited Panelist, Teaching Workshop on Fostering Discussion	2014
Hiring Committee, Graduate Student Representative	2014-15
Philosophy Graduate Student Grievance Chair	2014-15
UNC/KCL Annual Philosophy Conference, Co-organizer	2013
Graduate & Professional Student Federation, Senator for Philosophy	2012-13
UNC Chapel Hill Philosophy Colloquium, Committee Member	2012-13
UNC Prospective Student Committee, Organizer	2011

### **VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

National and Regional High School Ethics Bowl Judge	2014-16
NCSSM Ethics and Leadership Conference Ethics Bowl Judge	2014
Philosophy Outreach at Carol Woods Retirement Community	2013
Philosophy Outreach at Durham Academy	2012-2015
High school Ethics Bowl co-coach	2011-12
NCSSM Ethics and Leadership Conference Session Leader	2011

## REFERENCES

### **Susan Wolf**

*Edna J. Koury Distinguished Philosopher*

Phone: (919)-962-3315

Email: [susanw@email.unc.edu](mailto:susanw@email.unc.edu)

### **Thomas E. Hill Jr.**

*Kenan Distinguished Professor*

Phone: (919)-962-3326

Email: [thill@email.unc.edu](mailto:thill@email.unc.edu)

### **Geoffrey Sayre-McCord**

*Morehead-Cain Alumni Distinguished Professor*

Phone: (919)-627-1403

Email: [sayre-mccord@unc.edu](mailto:sayre-mccord@unc.edu)

### **Ryan Preston-Roedder**

*Associate Professor*

Email: [preston.roedder@gmail.com](mailto:preston.roedder@gmail.com)

### **Mariska Leunissen** (teaching reference)

*Associate Professor*

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