

Vida Yao
Curriculum Vitae

Philosophy Department
Rice University
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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

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

Thomas E. Hill Jr.

Kenan Distinguished Professor

Phone: (919)-962-3326

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Geoffrey Sayre-McCord

Morehead-Cain Alumni Distinguished Professor

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Ryan Preston-Roedder

Associate Professor

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Mariska Leunissen (teaching reference)

Associate Professor

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