

Yichen Liu

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Education

The London School of Economics and Political Science

Sept. 2020 – July 2021

MSc Philosophy of Science; Double Distinction

- Core Modules: Philosophy of Science; Genes, Brains and Society; Philosophy, Morals and Politics; Philosophy of Gender and Race
- Dissertation thesis: Nagelian Reduction in Cognitive Science: Philosophy of Mind and Bridge Law
- Mentee of Philosophy of Science Association

University of Cambridge

Sept. 2019 – Aug. 2020

Advanced Diploma in Research Theory and Practice - Philosophy

- Research thesis: Moral Turing Test
- Core Modules: Collaborative research; Research design; Thinking like a researcher

University of Sheffield

Sept. 2018 – July 2020

BA Philosophy; Dean's List; 2:1

- Awarded Scholarship for Academic Achievement in my second and third year
- Core Modules: Formal Logics; Philosophy of Language; Philosophy of Mind; Philosophy of Science; Political Philosophy; Ethics; Epistemology; Phenomenology; Philosophy of Psychology; Moral Theory and Moral Psychology
- Took 3 research modules and produced independent research articles under supervision.

Additional Training:

- Boolean tech academy: full-stack software development course (April 2022 - October 2022)
- Summer School in Philosophy of Science– LSE/Tsinghua (July 2019)
- Summer School in Psycholinguistics– UCL (July 2018)

Research Interest

Philosophy of Cognitive Science, AI Ethics

Research Experience

A pluralist account of mental imagery in non-human agents

Nov. 2022

Research proposal for *Episodic Memory: Uniquely Human Project* (LSE), intended Supervisor: Ali Boyle

- Drawing inspiration from cases of aphantasia to explore the functions of mental imagery in episodic memory.
- Developing a pluralist account of mental imagery and arguing for conscious and unconscious mental imagery as distinctive natural kinds through empirical evidence. Critically evaluating and modifying arguments from the perceptualism and anti-perceptualism debate about mental imagery.
- Arguing for pluralist theory's application to mental imagery in animals, as a method of identifying empirically examinable behavioural cues.
- Evaluating current attempts of AI implementation to mental imagery and finding solutions that accommodate the above account.

Nagelian Reduction in Cognitive Science: Philosophy of Mind and Bridge Law

Sept. 2020 – July 2021

8000-word Master's Dissertation, Supervisors: Prof. Roman Frigg and Dr. Marius Backmann, Grade: 70

- Adopted an interdisciplinary approach to evaluating the Nagelian model of reduction in the context of contemporary cognitive science.
- Defended the explanatory power of the Nagelian model from a descriptive, historical perspective, analysing the derivation of philosophical conclusion from empirical data.

- Identified relevant empirical literature in the mental imagery debate, and examined their findings through a case study.

Evaluating ethical machines – A moral Turing test

Sept. 2019 – Aug. 2020

5000-word Diploma Research Thesis, Supervisor: Dr. Alex Carter

- Conducted a thorough literature review on both top-down and bottom-up approaches in the engineering design of artificial moral agents (AMAs).
- Examined existing research and empirical experiments on AMAs, such as MIT's Moral Machine.
- Compared and contrasted different research methodologies and defended a mixed method approach, which incorporates both quantitative and qualitative methods.

The imagery debate: an iconic language of thought?

Feb. 2019 – May 2019

5000-word Bachelor's Thesis, Supervisor: Dr. Andrea Blomkvist, Grade: 78

- Reconstructed arguments from two sides of the debate: pictorial and propositional.
- Proposed a re-examination of Fodor's position in the imagery debate through a textual analysis of *Language of Thought*.
- Highlighted flaws in Fodor's pseudo-pictorialist account of mental imagery: (1) failure to be integrated into a computational theory of mind such as the Language of Thought Hypothesis; (2) failure to accommodate adjustments without transforming into a propositional account.

Teaching Experience

International Volunteer HQ, Rabat, Morocco

Nov. 2018 – Dec. 2018

English Teacher

- Prepared instructions and teaching materials for English lessons tailored to students' needs.
- Taught conversational and vocabulary classes to groups of university students and women from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Skills

Languages: English (Fluent), Chinese (Native), German (Intermediate – TestDaf)

Technical: SQL database, LaTeX, Python, Javascript, React.js, Node.js, HTML, CSS, Microsoft