Patrick H. Pan

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Philosopher, classical pianist, former software engineer

Areas of Interest

Ethics (rational agency, reactive attitudes, moral responsibility, AI), philosophy of digital technology, personhood, aesthetics (music, photography), Bayesian epistemology and decision theory.

Education

University of California, Berkeley — 2023–
Ph.D., Philosophy (in progress).

Wolfson College, University of Cambridge — 2020–2023
B.A. (Hons), Philosophy. First-class honors[1] overall and in each year. Top marks in cohort and first-class honors with distinction in Part IB (year 2).

Harvard College — 2014–2018
A.B., Computer Science. Admitted at age 15.

New England Conservatory of Music — 2014–2019
M.M., Piano Performance (Harvard–N.E.C. Dual Degree Program).

Papers and Publications

Sleeping Beauty meets Descartes's Demon: An Argument Against The 1/3 Answer — *in progress*
UC Berkeley term paper for "Bayesian Epistemology", taught by Snow Zhang.

Blame at the Margins: Two Objects of Anger — 2024
UC Berkeley term paper for "Recent Work on Blame and the Reactive Attitudes", taught by R. Jay Wallace.

Estimating Utility Functions for Predictably Irrational Agents with Preference Change — 2024
UC Berkeley term paper for "AI Alignment from the Perspective of Formal Philosophy", taught by Wes Holliday and Snow Zhang.

Getting Reflective Machines to Do Your Dirty Work — 2024
UC Berkeley term paper for "Moral and Political Philosophy of AI", taught by Adriano Mannino and Michal Masny.

Disturbance: The Third Problem of Machine Learning — 2024
UC Berkeley term paper for "History of Automated Decision-Making", taught by Shamik Dasgupta and Ben Recht.

Rescuing Fodor and Lepore's Floundering PET FISH: Re-composing Prototype Theories of Concepts using Large Language Models — 2024

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[1] A first-class degree is comparable to a 4.0 GPA in the U.S.

UC Berkeley term paper for "Intentionality and the Psychology of Concepts", taught by Verónica Gómez Sánchez.

From Resentment and Forgiveness to Acceptance: A Confucian Response to Structural Inequality   2023
UC Berkeley term paper for "Chinese Philosophy", taught by Kwong-Loi Shun.

A Theory of Normative Reasons for Artificial Intelligence   2023
Dissertation at Cambridge, supervised by Richard Holton.

Regret, Blame, and the Self   2023
Extended Essay at Cambridge, supervised by Sophie Dandelet.

Credibility Excess as Testimonial Injustice   2023
Extended Essay at Cambridge, supervised by Sophie Dandelet.

A Waltonian Account of Originality   2022
Extended Essay at Cambridge, supervised by Jon Phelan.

Music and the Emotions: A Linguistic Analogy   2022
Extended Essay at Cambridge, supervised by Alex Fisher.

"Deepfakes" and the End of the Photographic Age   2021
Published in *Aporia* (St Andrews), vol. XXI. Top paper prize.

Teaching

GSI[2] for *Individual Morality and Social Justice*, UC Berkeley   Fall 2024
Lead instructor: Johann Frick. Led three weekly discussion sections and provided feedback on assignments for 50 undergraduates. Hour-long guest lecture on Bernard Williams's "A Critique of Utilitarianism".

Teaching Fellow for *Introduction to Computer Science* (CS50), Harvard   Fall 2015
Lead instructor: David Malan. Led weekly section of 12 students from college first-years to PhD candidates. Instructed hundreds of students at weekly office hours. Teaching evaluation: 4.6 / 5.

Talks

Non-Indexical Resistance: A Neo-Confucianism Response to Political Oppression   Nov 2024
UC Berkeley Wollheim Society

Testimonial Injustice and Credibility Excess
APA Pacific, Diversity Institute Alumni Program   April 2024
UC Berkeley Wollheim Society   March 2024
UC Berkeley Undergraduate PhilForum   Feb 2024

Sleeping Beauty meets Descartes's Demon   Sep 2023
UC Berkeley Wollheim Society

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[2] Graduate Student Instructor

Plato's Theory of Music and the Soul: The Value of Music Education   May 2019
      Two-hour English/Mandarin bilingual lecture and Q&A at Tsinghua
      University conference for rural school principals and music educators.

Heidegger's Aesthetics and Philosophy of Music   May 2019
      Hour-long presentation at New England Conservatory introducing
      Heidegger's philosophy to audience of music graduate students.

Conferences and Summer Programs

APA[3] Pacific   April 2025
      Commentator on *The Format of Spatial Representation: Analog Constituents in Polar*
      Coordinate Format

APA Pacific   April 2024
      Speaker: *Testimonial Injustice and Credibility Excess*

APA Eastern (postponed to 2024)   Jan 2023
      Speaker: *Can Deepfakes Be Art?*

Representation in Art and Science (Vienna)   July 2022

Interspecies Comparisons of Welfare Conference (LSE)   April 2022

Pittsburgh Summer Program (Center for Philosophy of Science, Pittsburgh)   July 2021

The Biopolis: Biology, Urbanism, and Social Innovation (Harvard / Paris V)   Summer 2015

Service

Reviewer, *Synthese*   2024

Colloquium Organizer, UC Berkeley Philosophy   2024–2025

Wollheim Society Coordinator, UC Berkeley Philosophy   2023–2024

Academic Representative, University of Cambridge   2020–2021
      Elected to represent Philosophy undergraduates at Staff–Student Committee
      meetings, especially regarding exams during COVID.

Digital Literacy Program   2014
      Volunteer program teaching fundamentals of computer programming to
      underprivileged 5th-grade students in Dorchester, MA.

Accolades

Craig Taylor Prize, University of Cambridge   2022
      Top marks out of 52 students in Part IB of Philosophy Tripos.

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[3] American Philosophical Association

Jennings Prize, Wolfson College, University of Cambridge   2021, 2022, 2023
    Awarded each year for achieving first class honors.

Top Paper, *Aporia* (St Andrews), vol. XXI.   2020

U.S. Presidential Scholar   2014
    One of 141 U.S. high school graduates invited to the White House.

Coursework

UC Berkeley   Fall 2024
    Recent Work on Blame and the Reactive Attitudes (R. Jay Wallace)
    AI Alignment from the Perspective of Formal Philosophy (Wes Holliday, Snow Zhang)
    Leviathan (Kinch Hoekstra)
    Teaching for First-Time GSIs (Katharina Kaiser)

UC Berkeley   Spring 2024
    Moral and Political Philosophy of AI (Adriano Mannino, Michal Masny)
    History of Automated Decision-Making (Shamik Dasgupta, Ben Recht)
    Intentionality and the Psychology of Concepts (Verónica Gómez Sánchez)

UC Berkeley   Fall 2023
    First-Year Seminar (Shamik Dasgupta, John MacFarlane)
    Recent Work on Rational Agency (R. Jay Wallace)
    Bayesian Epistemology (Snow Zhang)
    Chinese Philosophy (Kwong-Loi Shun)

Cambridge (Philosophy Tripos, Part II)   2022–2023
    Metaphysics
    Ethics (extended essays)
    Philosophical Logic
    Political Philosophy
    Dissertation
    Philosophy of Mind (audited)
    Wittgenstein and his Successors (audited)

Cambridge (Philosophy Tripos, Part IB)   2021–2022
    Knowledge, Language, and World
    History of Analytic Philosophy
    Epistemology and Metaphysics of Science
    Aesthetics (extended essays)

Cambridge (Philosophy Tripos, Part IA)   2020–2021
    Metaphysics
    Ethics
    Meaning

Set Texts: Plato, Descartes, Mill
Formal Methods

New England Conservatory of Music
      MHST 620B: *Selected Readings in Philosophy of Music*   Spring 2019

Harvard
      Phil 136: *Phenomenology of Lived Experience* (audited)   Spring 2019
      Phil 138: *Heidegger's Being and Time* (audited)   Spring 2019
      Phil 156: *Philosophy of Mind* (audited)   Spring 2019
      Phil 34: *Existentialism in Literature and Film*   Fall 2018
      Phil 129: *Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*   Fall 2018
      Phil 8: *Self and World: An Introduction to Early Modern Philosophy*   Spring 2018

MIT
      24.200: *Ancient Philosophy* (audited)   Spring 2019

Selected Musical Performances

Piano Concerto with Cambridge University Symphony Orchestra ([link])   Nov 2022
      Prokofiev: *Piano Concerto no. 3*; prize-winner of CUSO concerto competition.

Mary Bevan Recital, Wolfson College, Cambridge   June 2022
      Remunerated recital for winners of CUSO concerto competition.

Piano Concerto with Shanghai Youth Orchestra   July 2019
      Grieg: *Piano Concerto*; invited to perform at 'Music in Summer Air' festival.

Piano Concerto with Harvard Bach Society Orchestra   Feb 2017
      Bartok: *Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra.*

Piano Concerto with East Texas Symphony Orchestra   April 2016
      Beethoven: *Choral Fantasy*; grand prize winner of Juanita Miller piano competition.

Piano Concerto with River Charles Ensemble   Nov 2014
      Mozart: *Piano Concerto no. 17*; winner of inaugural Harvard College Piano Society–
      River Charles Ensemble competition.

From The Top, episode 277 ([link])   Sep 2013
      NPR radio show featuring young musicians; interview and piano performance.

Piano Concerto with Houston Symphony   July 2013
      Prokofiev: Piano Concerto no. 3, mvt. I; Houston Symphony's centenary concert.

Work Experience

Snapchat   Summer 2017
      Software Engineer Intern (2017: Foot Traffic Insights; 2018: Snap Map).   Summer 2018

Microsoft	Summer 2016

Software Engineer Intern (Microsoft Garage in Cambridge, MA).

Gifs.com	2015

Founding Team Member and Software Engineer. Raised $1M+ of venture capital. Startup awarded Thiel Fellowship. Featured in *Business Insider* ([link](#)).

Other

I represented Wolfson College on the 53rd series (2023–2024) of University Challenge.

At Cambridge, I was a choral scholar and the accompanist scholar for the Wolfson College choir.

From 2014 to 2018, I was a classical music DJ for WHRB, Harvard's student-run radio station. In addition to playing recordings and announcing during afternoon concerts, I scripted special evening programs dedicated to topics including the following: classical music of the Soviet Union, piano transcriptions, the representation of mental illness in music, and a celebration of Arnold Schoenberg.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, photography, playing chess, running, cycling, bouldering, backpacking, cooking, and making coffee. I am natively fluent in English and Mandarin Chinese and fluent in Spanish (even according to Cuban police—ask me about it!), and I have limited working proficiency in Russian.