

CURRICULUM VITAE

Michael Dufresne

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EMPLOYMENT

- 2025–2027 Postdoctoral Research Fellow
- School of Philosophy, Wuhan University
- 2024–2025 Kiriya Postdoctoral Fellow
- Center for Asia Pacific Studies, University of San Francisco

EDUCATION

- 2024 Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
- 2016 M.A. in Philosophy, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
- 2014 B.A. in Philosophy, University of North Florida

Areas of Specialization: Chinese Philosophy, Comparative Philosophy, Aesthetics,
Decolonial Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Continental Philosophy, Alternative Epistemologies, Feminist
Philosophy, Philosophy of Education

PUBLICATIONS

Research Articles

Dufresne, Michael. Forthcoming (2026). “Negative Capability, Poetic Knowledge and the Epistemic Value of Praxis.” In *Routledge Handbook of Comparative Epistemology*, edited by Aaron Creller and Ethan Mills. New York: Routledge.

Dufresne, Michael. 2026. “Art as Consolation: On Wang Guowei’s Theory of Addiction.” *Journal of Aesthetic Education* 60(2): 1–25. DOI: [10.5406/15437809.60.2.01](https://doi.org/10.5406/15437809.60.2.01).

[Translation] Du Maizhe 杜麦哲. Forthcoming (2026). “Yishu zuowei yizhong weijie: Lun Wang Guowei de shihao lilun 艺术作为一种慰藉：论王国维的嗜好理论.” In *TBD*.

Dufresne, Michael. 2025. “The Formal Beauty of Formal Beauty: On Wang Guowei’s Theory of Ancient Elegance.” *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 24(4): 689–705. DOI: [10.1007/s11712-025-10016-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11712-025-10016-9).

Dufresne, Michael. 2017. "The Illusion of Teaching and Learning: Zhuangzi, Wittgenstein, and the Groundlessness of Language." *Educational Philosophy and Theory* 49(12): 1207–1215. DOI: [10.1080/00131857.2017.1350560](https://doi.org/10.1080/00131857.2017.1350560).

Reprinted in *Cultivation of Self in East Asian Philosophy of Education*, edited by Ruyu Hung, 39–47. New York: Routledge, 2020. ISBN: [978-0-367-35934-8](https://doi.org/978-0-367-35934-8).

Edited Collections

Dufresne, Michael and Pavel Stankov, eds. 2023. *Comparative Reflections on Persons and Selves*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. ISBN: [978-1-5275-0220-8](https://doi.org/978-1-5275-0220-8).

Translations

Wang, Guowei. Forthcoming (2027). "Four Essays on Philosophy and Learning." Translated by Michael Dufresne. *Philosophy East and West* 77(4).

Preprint available on *Project MUSE*: <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/991087>.

Under Review

"Positive Obsession and Obsessive Positivity: Lessons from Ming-Qing Aesthetics" (research article – under review at *The British Journal of Aesthetics*)

Works in Progress

"Purity and Color: On Wang Guowei's Theory of *Jingjie* 境界" (article)

"From Cognitivism to Foundationalism: On the Epistemic Value of Aesthetic Experience" (article)

"Poetry and Knowing: A Ruist Approach to Aesthetic Cognitivism" (article)

Thinking "Aesthetic" Foundations: Quality, Harmony, Coalition (monograph)

Wang Guowei: Selected Philosophical Writings (collection of translated essays)

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed

"Positive Obsession and Obsessive Positivity: Lessons from Ming-Qing Aesthetics"

- APA Central Division (Chicago), 2026
- 57th Annual Meeting of SACP, Leiden University (Leiden), 2025 (accepted, unable to attend)

"Purity and Color: On Wang Guowei's Theory of *Jingjie* 境界"

- 56th Annual Meeting of SACP, Charles University (Prague), 2024

"The Worlds of Wang Guowei: A Philosophical Case Study in Coloniality"

- Philosophy Graduate Conference, "Hidden Figures in Philosophy," Marquette University (Milwaukee), Online, 2023

“Placing Oneself, Facing Others: A Study of Personhood and Identity in the Chinese Tradition”

- International Young Scholar Forum, East China Normal University (Shanghai), 2017

“Love and Contemplation: Exploring Human Dignity in Renaissance Philosophy”

- Uehiro Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (Honolulu), 2017

“Abstraction and Narration: Interpreting Sagacity in the Confucian Tradition”

- 11th East-West Philosophers’ Conference, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (Honolulu), 2016

“Structuring Patterns of Change: Examining Hierarchy through Cosmology in Neo-Confucianism and the *Yijing*”

- APA Eastern Division (Washington, D.C.), 2016

Invited

“Aesthetics, Aesthemas, Aesthesis: On Normativity, Power and Decoloniality”

- School of Philosophy, Wuhan University, 2026

“Positive Obsession and Obsessive Positivity: Lessons from Aesthetics in Ming-Qing China” ([Link](#))

- Center for Asia Pacific Studies, University of San Francisco, 2025

“Heaven Within, Human Without: Some Thoughts on the *Zhuangzi*”

- Brown Bag Lecture, Department of Philosophy, University of San Francisco, 2025

“The Worlds of Wang Guowei: A Philosophical Case Study in Coloniality.”

- Ellen C. Wagner Lecture at 25th Annual Northeast Florida Student Philosophy Conference, University of North Florida, 2023
- “Student Voices: Research in Chinese Art and Philosophy,” Center for Chinese Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 2023

“Gengsangchu” (co-presented w/ Dr. Brook Ziporyn)

- “Zhuangzi: Beyond the Inner Chapters” Workshop, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 2017

Comments

Commentator for “Confronting the Daoist Challenge: A McDowellian Elaboration of Mencius’ Ethical Naturalism” (Thomas Slabon)

- APA Pacific Division (Vancouver), 2019

AWARDS

Kiriyama Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of San Francisco, Center for Asia Pacific Studies, 2024–2025 (\$60,000 + research and relocation support)

Departmental Merit Scholarship (M.A. & Ph.D.), University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM), Department of Philosophy, 2014–2024 (\$43,500)

CALL Uehiro Dissertation Fellowship, UHM, College of Arts, Languages and Letters, 2022 (\$3,500)

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, 2021 (\$2,500 + tuition)

Eliot Deutsch Ph.D. Merit Award, UHM, Department of Philosophy, 2021 (\$2,500)

Joint Research Ph.D. Fellowship (中外合作培養博士項目), Fudan University, 2021
(cancelled due to COVID-19)

Chung-Fong and Grace Ning Graduate Student Prize for Excellence in Chinese Studies,
UHM, Center for Chinese Studies, 2020 (\$500)

Keith Whittingslow Essay Prize, UHM, Department of Philosophy, 2019 (\$2,000)

Wing-tsit Chan Fellowship, East-West Center, 2016–2018 (\$9,960)

Presidential Platinum Scholarship (BA), University of North Florida, 2010–2014 (\$40,000)

COURSES

Instructor

PHIL 399: Directed Reading & Research (*Zhuangzi*)

- University of San Francisco, Spring 2025

PHIL 220: Asian Philosophy

- University of San Francisco, Spring 2025

PHIL 480: Topics in Contemporary Philosophy (On “Human Nature”)

- University of San Francisco, Fall 2024

PHIL 110: Introduction to Deductive Logic

- University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Fall 2020

PHIL 211: Ancient Philosophy

- University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Summer 2020

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy

- University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant

PHIL 101: Morals and Society

- University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Spring 2019

PHIL 111: Introduction to Inductive Logic

- University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Fall 2018 (co-instructor w/ Dr. Masato Ishida)

PHIL 111: Introduction to Inductive Logic

- University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Spring 2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Coordinator for Asia Bridge Graduate Fellowship Program

- University of San Francisco, Center for Asia Pacific Studies, Fall 2024–Spring 2025

Exchange Student/Visiting Scholar with New Chinese Studies Program

- Fudan University, Fall 2021–Spring 2022 (admitted but unable to attend due to COVID-19)

Inter-University Program at Tsinghua University

- Tsinghua University (online), Summer 2021

Assistant Editor for *Journal of World History*

- University of Hawai'i Press, Spring 2021–Summer 2021

Managing Editor for *China Review International*

- University of Hawai'i Press, Spring 2021–Summer 2021

Program Coordinator for 12th East-West Philosophers' Conference

- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Spring 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19)

Co-organizer of Uehiro Graduate Philosophy Conference

- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2017 & 2018

Co-organizer of “Zhuangzi: Beyond the Inner Chapters” Workshop

- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2017 (w/ Dr. Franklin Perkins)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Board Membership

Treasurer – Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy (SACP), 2025–present

Reviewer

Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews (CLEAR)

Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy

Modern Chinese Literature and Culture

The Journal of Aesthetic Education (x2)

LANGUAGES

English (native), Classical Chinese (proficient), Mandarin Chinese (intermediate)