

Shelly Yiran Shi

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Area of Speciality	Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Physics, Metaphysics	
Area of Competence	Data Ethics, Feminist Epistemology, History of Science, Philosophy of Economics	
Employment	California Institute of Technology Postdoctoral Fellow in Philosophy of Science	Pasadena, CA, US 2026 – present
Education	University of California, San Diego PhD in Philosophy and Science Studies Oxford University Recognised Student in Philosophy (Assoc. Member, Oriel College) Columbia University MA in Philosophical Foundations of Physics London School of Economics and Political Science BSc (Hons) in Philosophy and Economics	La Jolla, CA, US 2020 – 2026 Oxford, UK Hilary 2026 New York, NY, US 2017 – 2019 London, UK 2014 – 2017
Publications	Nothing Matters in <i>Philosophy of Science</i> (2025) Winner of the Mary B. Hesse Award https://doi.org/10.1017/psa.2025.10144 Are Symmetry Principles Meta-Laws? in <i>Synthese</i> 205, 223 (2025) https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-025-05064-w	
Works in progress	Why Not a Gravitational Perpetual Motion Machine? Winner of the Clifton Memorial Award In Preparation Chien-Shiung Wu: Breaking Parity Against Disparity In Preparation Gravitational Waves in Vacuum Spacetimes Invited submission to a collected volume contracted with <i>Cambridge University Press</i> (eds. N. Martens, S. Vergouwen, A. Ferreiro) What's the Matter with Matter? Joint work with Eugene Chua. Invited submission to a collected volume contracted with <i>Cambridge University Press</i> (eds. N. Martens, S. Vergouwen, A. Ferreiro) Patchwork General Relativity Joint work with Craig Callender	
Talks	Patchwork Gravity	

European Society for the History of Science/History of Science Society (ESHS/HSS)	
Joint Meeting, Edinburgh, UK	Jul'26
Why Not a Gravitational Perpetual Motion Machine?	
Sigma Club Seminar, London School of Economics, UK	Mar'26
RCNP Colloquium, Radboud Universiteit, NL	Mar'26
Philosophy of Physics Graduate Lunch Seminar, Oxford University, UK	Feb'26
Philosophy of Logic-Math-Physics Conference, Western University, CAN	May'25
Caltech Philosophy of Physics Reading Group, Caltech, US	Apr'25
Chien-Shiung Wu: Breaking Parity Against Disparity	
UCSD Science Studies Colloquium, UCSD, US	Apr'26
Institute for Science in Society Colloquium, Radboud Universiteit, NL	Mar'26
Philosophy Speaker Series, NYU Shanghai, CN	Sep'25
Science Studies Graduate Symposium, UCSD, US	May'25
Feminist Philosophy of Physics Workshop, University of Michigan, US	Jun'24
Nothing Matters	
Spacetime Matters Conference, Utrecht University, NL	Sep'25
Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, New Orleans, US	Nov'24
British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference, York, UK	Jul'24
ILMPS Conference in Philosophy & Foundations of Physics, KCL, UK	Jun'24
Are Symmetry Principles Meta-Laws?	
European Conference on Foundations of Physics, University of Bristol, UK	Jul'23
Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Pittsburgh, US	Nov'22
Graduate Philosophy Colloquium, UCSD, US	Apr'22
Values and Statistics in Algorithmic Fairness	
Science, Values and Policy Workshop, Yosemite, US	Jun'23
Algorithmic Fairness: A Statistical Problem in Social Contexts?	
Philosophy, AI and Society Workshop, Stanford University, US	Jan'23

Awards and Grants

American Institute of Physics (AIP) Grants-in-Aid for History of the Physical Sciences (Project: C.S. Wu and the 20th-century Chinese Scientific Diaspora)	2026
Inter-Union Commission for the History and Philosophy of Physics Travel Grant for the 2026 ESHS/HSS Joint Meeting	2026
Asian Philosophy of Science Conference Travel Grant	2026
Clifton Memorial Award for best paper at the Philosophy of Logic-Math-Physics (LMP) graduate student conference, Western University, Canada	2025
International Institute Research Award (UCSD) for archival research	2025
Mary B. Hesse Award for the best graduate student essay at the Philosophy of Science Association (PSA) Biennial Meeting, New Orleans, US	2024
National Science Foundation (NSF) Travel Grant for PSA	2022, 2024
Dean of Arts and Humanities Travel Award (UCSD)	2023, 2024
Graduate Student Association Travel Award (UCSD)	2023, 2024
Graduate School of Arts and Science Scholarship (Columbia)	2017 – 2018
Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Fellowship Award (Columbia)	2018

Teaching
employment

Instructor of Record	Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Caltech	
	Hum/PI 17: Science and Pseudoscience	Fall'26
	HPS/Pl 124: Philosophy of Space and Time	Spring'27
Instructor of Record	Department of Philosophy, UCSD	
	PHIL 24: Science and Pseudoscience	Summer'25
Teaching assistant	Department of Philosophy, UCSD	
	PHIL 24: Science and Pseudoscience (Craig Callender)	Winter'25
	PHIL 55: Living in a Digital World (David Danks)	Fall'24
	PHIL 27: Ethics and Society (Reuven Brandt)	Spring'24
	PHIL 12: Scientific Reasoning (Karen Kovaka)	Fall'23
Teaching assistant	Department of Data Science, UCSD	
	DSC 215: Statistical Thinking and Experimental Design (Yoav Freund)	Winter'24
Teaching assistant	Culture, Art, and Technology program, UCSD	
	CAT 3: AI Narratives (Romain Delaville)	Spring'23
	CAT 2: Asian Diasporas in Film and Media (Nguyen Tan Hoang)	Winter'23
	CAT 1: Un/Natural Environments (Phoebe Bronstein)	Fall'22
	CAT 3: Our Future Climate (Adam Burgasser)	Spring'22
	CAT 2: The Process of Music (Joe Bigham)	Winter'22
	CAT 1: Origins (Guillermo Algaze)	Fall'21
Instructor of record	Veritas China	
	Philosophy of Physics: Spacetime	Summer'19/20/21
Teaching associate	Department of Physics, Columbia University	
	PHYS1111: Origins and Meaning (Brian Greene)	Fall'19

Service and other
participation

Reviewer	<i>Philosophy of Science</i> (×2)	
Reviewer	<i>British Journal for the Philosophy of Science</i>	
Reviewer	<i>European Journal for Philosophy of Science</i>	
Reviewer	<i>Journal for General Philosophy of Science</i>	
Reviewer	Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT) (×2)	2024, 2026
Reviewer	European Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness (×2)	2024, 2025
Judge	California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science (COSMOS)	
	Student Ethics Competition (×3)	2024, 2025, 2026
Organizer	UCSD Philosophy of Physics Reading Group	2024 – 2026
Instructor	<i>Corrupt the Youth</i> , University City High School, San Diego (×3)	2025
Participant	Athena in Action, University of Notre Dame	2024
Co-organizer	First Feminist Philosophy of Physics Workshop, UMich	2024
Commentator	Society for the Metaphysics of Science Annual Conference	2023
Participant	Minorities and Philosophy COMPASS workshop, UMich	2019
Volunteer	A Night of Philosophy and Ideas, Brooklyn Public Library	2019

Graduate
coursework

Philosophy of Science and Philosophy of Physics		
	Advanced Philosophy of Physics* (Sam Fletcher and Adam Caulton)	Winter'26
	Philosophy of Cosmology* (James Weatherall and Chris Smeenk)	Fall'24

(* denotes audited courses)

Philosophy of the Biology of Sex* (Karen Kovaka)	Fall'24
Philosophy of Space and Time* (Craig Callender)	Spring'23
Philosophy of Science (Nancy Cartwright)	Winter'22
Philosophy of Climate Change* (Karen Kovaka)	Fall'22
Philosophy of Science: Rethinking Laws (Eddy Chen)	Spring'21
Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics (David Albert)	Spring'18
The Direction of Time (David Albert)	Fall'17
Science Studies	
Environmental Communication (Christo Sims, Communication)	Spring'23
Science Studies III (Nydia Pineda De Avila, History)	Spring'23
Science Studies II: Sensory Studies (David Serlin, Communication)	Spring'22
Science Studies I (Catherina Gere, History)	Fall'21
Metaphysics and Epistemology	
Metaphysics: Grounding (Eric Watkins)	Spring'21
Epistemology: Truth, Value, and Knowledge (Gila Sher)	Spring'21
Formal Epistemology (Jennifer Carr)	Winter'21
Ethics	
Bioethics (Reuven Brandt)	Winter'22
Data Ethics (David Danks)	Fall'21
History of Philosophy	
Greek Philosophy (Monte Johnson)	Spring'22
Leibniz (Donald Rutherford)	Fall'20
Philosophy of Mind	
Philosophy of Pain (Matthew Fulkerson)	Winter'21
Physics	
Cosmology (George Fuller)	Spring'25
Compact Objects* (Raphael Flauger)	Spring'25
General Relativity III (Raphael Flauger)	Spring'24
General Relativity II (Raphael Flauger)	Spring'23
General Relativity I (Raphael Flauger)	Winter'23

References

Craig Callender

Tata Chancellor's Professor
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University of California, San Diego
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Nancy Cartwright

Distinguished Professor
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Eddy Keming Chen

Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy

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Kerry McKenzie

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David Albert

Frederick E. Woodbridge Professor
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Karen Kovaka (for a teaching letter)

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