

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	
Education	University of California, San Diego	La Jolla, CA, US
	PhD in Philosophy and Science Studies	2020 – present
	Oxford University	Oxford, UK
	Visiting Graduate Student in Philosophy	2026
	Columbia University	New York, NY, US
	MA in Philosophical Foundations of Physics	2017 – 2019
	London School of Economics and Political Science	London, UK
	BSc (Hons) in Philosophy and Economics	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	
	Chien-Shiung Wu: Breaking Parity Against Disparity	
	In Preparation	
	Approximation Methods in General Relativity	
Talks	Nothing Matters	
	Spacetime Matters Conference, Utrecht University, Netherlands	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
	Chien-Shiung Wu: Breaking Parity Against Disparity	
	Philosophy Speaker Series, NYU Shanghai, China	Sep'25
	Science Studies Graduate Symposium, UCSD, US	May'25
	Feminist Philosophy of Physics Workshop, University of Michigan, US	Jun'24
	Why Not a Gravitational Perpetual Motion Machine?	
	Philosophy of Logic-Math-Physics Conference, Western University, Canada	May'25
	Caltech Philosophy of Physics Reading Group, Caltech, US	Apr'25

Awards and scholarships	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
	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
	NSF Travel Grant Award 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
Research employment	Research assistant Department of Philosophy, UCSD		Jul'23 – Sep'23
	The Nature of Scientific Explanations (Eddy Keming Chen)		
	Research assistant Department of Philosophy, UCSD		Jul'22 – Sep'22
	<i>Laws of Physics</i> , book project (Eddy Keming Chen)		
Teaching employment	Research assistant Department of Philosophy, UCSD		Jul'21 – May'22
	“Governing without a Fundamental Direction of Time: Minimal Primitivism about Laws of Nature” and “Strong Determinism” (Eddy Keming Chen)		
	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** *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Science***Instructor** *Corrupt the Youth*, University City High School, San Diego (×3) 2025**Reviewer** European Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness (×2) 2024, 2025**Judge** California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science (COSMOS)

Student Ethics Competition (×2) 2024, 2025

Reviewer Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT) 2024**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**

(* denotes audited courses)

Philosophy of Science

Philosophy of Cosmology* (James Weatherall and Chris Smeenk) Fall'24

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, Columbia) Spring'18

The Direction of Time (David Albert, Columbia) 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

Core Course in Epistemology (Jennifer Carr) Winter'21

Ethics

Core Course in Ethics (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
Department of Philosophy
University of California, San Diego
ccallender@ucsd.edu

Nancy Cartwright

Distinguished Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of California, San Diego and Durham University
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Eddy Keming Chen

Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of California, San Diego
eddykemingchen@ucsd.edu

Kerry McKenzie

Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of California, San Diego
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David Albert

Frederick E. Woodbridge Professor
Department of Philosophy
Columbia University
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Karen Kovaka (for a teaching letter)

Assistant Professor
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