MEILIN CHINN

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
Santa Clara University
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053
mchinn@scu.edu

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Chinese Philosophy, Aesthetics, Environmental Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Buddhism, Phenomenology

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2021-present	Santa Clara University, Associate Professor
2015-2021	Santa Clara University, Assistant Professor
2012-2014	University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, Lecturer
2012-2014	Hawai'i Tokai International College, Honolulu, Hawai'i, Lecturer
2006-07	Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing, China, Foreign Instructor
2005	Halawa Correctional Facility, Honolulu, Hawai'i, Instructor

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Philosophy, University of Hawai'i-Mānoa, 2015
M.A.	Social Sciences (Philosophy emphasis), University of Chicago, 1998
B.A.	Philosophy with honors, Justice and Peace Studies minor, Georgetown University, 1995

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Classical Chinese

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

2026 "Other Orients: Music and Orientalism." *Oxford Handbook on Asian American Philosophy.* David Kim, Ronald Sundstrom, & Maya von Ziegesar, Eds. Oxford University Press. (Under review).

2025 "Music in Early Chinese Philosophy." In *Routledge Companion to Chinese Philosophy*. Brook Ziporyn & Stephen Walker, Eds. Routledge.

2024 "On the Chariot of Earth." In *The Wandering Dance: Essays in Honor of Graham Parkes.* David Jones, Ed. Bloomsbury Press.

2021 "The Jade Casket Between the Heavens and Earth." *Journal of the Pacific Association for the Continental Tradition*, Vol. 4.

2021 "Representing the Great." *Philosophy East and West*, Vol. 71, No. 1, January, 173-192.

2021 "Making Way For Nothing." *One Corner of the Square: Essays by the Students of Roger T. Ames.* University of Hawaii Press.

2020 "Music With and Without Images." *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, Vol. 47, Issue 3-4, 137-153.

2019 "Race Magic and The Yellow Peril." *Journal of Aesthetics & Art Criticism*. Vol. 77, Issue 4, 423-433.

2018 "'Knowing the Music' (*zhi yin* 知音) and Other Feats of Understanding." *Journal of World Philosophies*. Winter, 102-105.

2017 "Only Music Cannot Be Faked." *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, Vol. 16, Issue 3, 341-354.

2016 "Persona: Resounding Selves and Empty Music." *On the True Sense of Art: A Critical Companion to the Transfigurements of John Sallis*. Northwestern University Press.

2013 "Sensing the Wind: The Timely Music of Nature's Memory." *Journal of Environmental Philosophy*, Vol. 10, No. 1, Spring.

2007 "Metaphilosophy and Chinese Thought," *Journal of the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy*, Vol. 23, No. 49, Fall.

2006 "The Distance to the Near Side," *Journal of the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy*, Vol. 23, No. 47, Fall. Winner of the Uehiro Foundation Essay Contest in East Asian Philosophy.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS

2022 "Comparative Aesthetics" curriculum module for Korean Academic Expansion Project.

2016 Asian Aesthetics. American Society for Aesthetics curriculum diversity project

IN PROGRESS

1. *Listening into the Distance* (monograph)
2. "Chinese Philosophy and the Environment" (article). *Philosophy Compass*.
3. "*Fengshui* Forests and *Ahupua'a*: The Winds and Waters of Chinese and Native Hawaiian Environmental Practices." Research project funded by Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University.
4. Chinese Philosophy of Music (article). *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Winter 2027.
5. Nourishing Life (*Yangsheng*) through Music (book chapter). *Oxford Handbook on Chinese Philosophy of Emotions*.
6. *The Subtle Wild* (monograph)
7. "Dark Skies and Silence" (co-authored article on dark skies and natural soundscapes)
8. "Singing in a Thicket of Questions: The Craft of Philosophy" (article on different types of philosophical questions and their uses)

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

1. "Subtle Perception of Body, Earth, and Human: An Eco-Phenomenology." Pacific Association for Continental Thought. Hilo, Hawai'i. Oct. 2026. Conference presentation.
2. "Thinking with Music." Aesthetic Agency in East Asian Philosophy workshop. University of British Columbia. May 2027. Invited talk.

PAST PRESENTATIONS

1. "Musical Thinking." Pomona College. Nov. 13, 2025. Invited talk.
2. "The Subtle Wild: Pure Talk (*Qingtan*) and Ears Through the Ground." Pacific Association for Continental Thought. Homer, Alaska. Sept. 25-28, 2025. Conference presentation.
3. "Other Orients: Music and Orientalism." Asian American Philosophy Workshop. University of San Francisco. April 14-15, 2025. Invited presentation.
4. "The Musical Silence of *Dao* and Anima Mundi." Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle. Volcano, Hawaii. June 4-7, 2024. Conference presentation.
5. "The Art of Loss." East-West Philosopher's Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii. May 25-31, 2024. Conference presentation.

6. "The Highest Good is Like Water: On Becoming Apprentices to Nature." Pacific Association for Continental Thought. Hilo, Hawaii. Sept. 9-11, 2021. Conference presentation.
7. "Placing Korean Aesthetics Globally." Discovering Korean Arts and Philosophy Conference. Online Meeting. May 26, 2021. Invited presentation.
8. "Race Magic and the Yellow Peril." Annual Minorities and Philosophy Conference. Stanford University. May 1, 2020. Invited keynote speaker. *Cancelled due to COVID-19.
9. "The Highest Good is Like Water." Modern Languages Association Conference. Seattle, Washington. January 12, 2020. Invited presentation.
10. "The Way Back: Daoist Reversal and Phenomenological Reduction," Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle. Leiden, Netherlands. May 24, 2019. Conference presentation.
11. "Race Magic and The Yellow Peril," American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting. Denver, Colorado. February 21, 2019. Conference presentation.
12. "Daoist Inversion and Phenomenological Reduction." Pacific Association for Continental Thought. Yosemite Valley, California. October 4-7, 2018. Conference presentation.
13. "Singing in a Thicket of Questions." Prior Conference. Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California. May 5, 2018. Conference presentation.
14. "Singing in a Thicket of Questions." North Georgia Student Philosophy Conference. Kennesaw State University. Atlanta, Georgia, April 14, 2018. Invited keynote address.
15. "Musical Thinking." Kennesaw State University. Atlanta, Georgia, April 12, 2018. Invited speaker (Mike Ryan Lecture Series).
16. "Music With and Without Images." Bay Area Conference on Chinese Thought. UC Davis, California, October 14, 2017. Conference presentation.
17. "Lessons for Philosophy from the Frog in the Well." Exploring Truth and Beauty in Worlds of Color: A Conference on Race, Art, and Aesthetics in the 21st Century. Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, September 30, 2017. Invited presentation.
18. "Music With and Without Images." International Society for Chinese Philosophy Conference. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, July 4, 2017. Conference presentation.
19. "Singing in a Thicket of Questions." Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle. Phoenix, Arizona. March 31, 2017. Conference presentation.
20. "Lessons for Philosophy from Zhuangzi's Frog in the Well." American Philosophical Association Central Meeting. St. Louis, Missouri, March 2, 2017. Invited presentation.

21. "Socratic Sorcery, Daoist Alchemy, and Nietzsche's Sphnix." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Conference. Salt Lake City, Utah. October 21, 2016. Conference presentation.
22. "Space is the Place: Music as Place in Early Chinese Philosophy." East-West Philosopher's Conference. Honolulu, Hawai'i. May 29, 2016. Conference presentation.
23. "Space is the Place: Philosophy Musical Space and Thought." Prior Conference. Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California. May 21, 2016. Conference presentation.
24. "Only Music Cannot Be False." Music and Philosophy in Early China Conference. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. November 28, 2015. Invited presentation.
25. "Singing in a Thicket of Questions." Hawai'i Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. Honolulu, Hawai'i. April 2014. Invited keynote address.
26. "Sensing the Wind: Skilled Listening and the Virtuosity of Virtue." Kennesaw State University. Atlanta, Georgia, November 2012. Invited speaker (Mike Ryan Lecture Series).
27. "Life as Music in Chinese Philosophy." Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington, April 2012. Invited speaker.
28. "The Aesthetics of Chinese Philosophy." California College of the Arts, San Francisco, California, April 2011. Invited speaker.
29. "Why Melody at All? On Music and Emptiness." Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle Conference. Cork, Ireland, March 2011. Conference presentation.
30. Collegium Phaenomenologicum, Transcontinental Philosophy: Interpreting Philosophy Across Borders and Idioms. Città di Castello, Italy, July 2010. Participant.
31. "Persona: Resonant Selves and Empty Music." Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle Conference. Honolulu, Hawai'i, April 2010. Conference presentation.
32. "A Fidelity of Tendency: Listening to Sound, Listening to Music." Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle Conference. Pacific Grove, California, April 2009. Conference presentation.
33. "Chinese Philosophy, Confucianism, and Philosophical Daoism." University of Hawai'i, School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Honolulu, Hawai'i, January 2008. Invited lecture series.
34. "The Daoist Sense of Life as Music." Zhidao Guan Daoist Center. Oakland, California, May 2007. Invited speaker.
35. "Philosophia: Sense and Aesthetics." Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Conference. Pacific Grove, California, June 2007. Conference presentation.

36. “The Distance to the Near Side.” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Conference. Pacific Grove, California, June 2006. Conference presentation.
37. “Meta: Listening into the Distance.” University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa Graduate Philosophy Conference. Honolulu, Hawai‘i, April 2006. Conference presentation.

HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

1. Hackworth Grant ($4000). The Markkula Center for Applied Ethics. 2024-25
2. Curriculum Diversification Grant, American Society for Aesthetics, 2016 & 2020
3. Charles Fu-International Society for Chinese Philosophy Award, Biannual Winning Essay by a Junior Scholar, 2017 (“Music With and Without Images”)
4. Dean’s Arts and Sciences Grant, Santa Clara University, 2016, 2017, 2019
5. Mansfield Freeman Doctoral Dissertation Award, 2012
6. University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa Arts and Humanities Dissertation Research Award, 2012
7. University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa Arts and Sciences Graduate Award, Summer 2011
8. Huayu Enrichment Scholarship, Ministry of Education, Taiwan, 2011
9. Dai Ho Chun Fellowship, University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa, 2009-10
10. Honolulu Chinese Women's Club, 80th Anniversary Graduate Award, 2008
11. Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (Chinese), 2007-08
12. Wing-tsit Chan Graduate Fellowship in Chinese Philosophy, 2006-08
13. Peking University – University of Hawai‘i Scholar Exchange, 2006-07
14. Uehiro Award for Best Graduate Essay in Comparative Philosophy, 2006
15. Excellence in Chinese Studies Award, University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa, 2006
16. John Young Scholarship in the Arts, University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa, 2005-6
17. Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (Chinese), Summer 2005
18. Graduate Scholarship, University of Chicago, 1997-8

TEACHING

Santa Clara University (2015-current)
- Chinese Philosophy
- Chinese Philosophy After Buddhism
- Buddhist Philosophy
- Philosophy of Music
- Ethics and The Environment
- Introduction to Ethics in Chinese Philosophy
- Cultures & Ideas: Beauty, Truth, and Goodness

University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu (2012-2014)
- Environmental Ethics
- The Religious Dimension of Experience
- Asian Philosophy
- Buddhist Philosophy
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Philosophy of Law
- Contemporary Philosophy: Aesthetics
- Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy
- Social and Political Philosophy

Hawai'i Tokai International College (2012-2014)
- Asian Philosophy
- Introduction to Social Theory
- Introduction to Philosophy

Beijing Foreign Studies University (2006)
- Classics of Chinese Philosophy

Halawa Correctional Facility (2005)
- Introduction to Philosophy

SERVICE

- Director of Asian Studies, SCU, 2025 – present
- Associate Editor, *Comparative and Continental Philosophy*, 2024 – present
- Climate Committee, Philosophy Department, SCU, 2017 – 2024. Chair 2024 – present.
- University Research Committee, SCU, 2025 – present.
- Faculty Senate Council Representative, SCU, 2023 – 2025

Center for Arts and Humanities Advisory Council, SCU, 2023 – 2025
Advanced Writing Core Committee, SCU, 2021 – 2023
Student Research & Writing Committee, SCU, 2021 – 2024
Faculty Mentor for Women in Philosophy, SCU, 2021 – 2022
Social Media Committee, SCU, 2021 – 2022
First Generation Student Mentorship Program, SCU, 2020-2021
Co-director, Austin J. Fagothey Annual Conference, SCU, 2018 & 2019
Philosophy Department Library Liason, SCU, 2017 – 2020
Faculty Senate Council Representative, SCU, 2017
Curriculum Committee, Department of Philosophy, SCU, 2015-16

MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association
American Society for Aesthetics
Continental and Comparative Philosophy Circle
Pacific Association for Continental Thought
Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy
Society for Teaching Asian and Comparative Philosophy
International Society for Chinese Philosophy