Patrick H. Pan

patrick.pan@patrickpan.com · patrickpan.com · University of California, Berkeley

Research Areas

Specialization: Ethics of AI, Moral psychology (esp. responsibility), Normative ethics (esp. contractualism)
Competence: Logic, Formal epistemology and decision theory, Ancient Greek philosophy

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy · University of California, Berkeley — 2023–2028 (expected)
Dissertation: *Moral Responsibility and Artificial Agents*.
Advisors: R. Jay Wallace and Johann Frick.

B.A. (Hons), Philosophy · Wolfson College, University of Cambridge — 2020–2023
Dissertation: *A Theory of Normative Reasons for Artificial Intelligence*.
Advisor: Richard Holton. First-class honors in each year. Top marks in cohort (Craig Taylor Prize) and honors with distinction in year 2.

A.B., Computer Science · Harvard College — 2014–2018
Additional coursework in applied math, music theory and history, and philosophy.

M.M., Classical Piano Performance · New England Conservatory of Music — 2014–2019
Harvard–NEC Dual Degree Program. Studio of Wha Kyung Byun.

Publications

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

Other Papers

Attention, Agency, Morality — 2026
Ph.D. Candidacy Qualifying Paper · advised by R. Jay Wallace

Ex Ante Contractualism and Fairness — 2026
Ph.D. Candidacy Qualifying Paper · advised by Johann Frick

The Problem of Double Vision: Subjective and Objective Perspectives — 2026
Ph.D. Candidacy Qualifying Paper · advised by Shamik Dasgupta

Blame at the Margins: Two Objects of Anger — 2024
Recent Work on Blame and the Reactive Attitudes · taught by R. Jay Wallace

Getting Reflective Machines to Do Your Dirty Work — 2024
Moral and Political Philosophy of AI · taught by Adriano Mannino & Michal Masny

The Disturbance Problem: How Predictive AI Models Reshape Preferences — 2024
History of Automated Decision-Making · taught by Shamik Dasgupta & Ben Recht

Rescuing the PET FISH: Re-Composing Prototype Theories of Concepts using Large Language Models — 2024
Intentionality and the Psychology of Concepts · taught by Verónica Gómez Sánchez

Estimating Utility Functions for Predictably Irrational Agents with Preference Change — 2024
AI Alignment from the Perspective of Formal Philosophy · taught by Wes Holliday & Snow Zhang

Regret, Blame, and the Self — 2023
B.A. Extended Essay · supervised by Sophie Dandelet

Presentations

Grasping Moral Reasons: Could an AI Agent Be Morally Responsible? — November 2026
PhilForum, UC Berkeley

The Disturbance Problem — July 2026
16th Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy

To be an Ideal Theorist, Do Non-Ideal Theory — March 2026
PhilForum, UC Berkeley

Loving Attention is All We Need: Murdoch and the Foundations of Moral Practice — October 2025
Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley

Comments: Charles Green, "Phenomenal Properties as Real Patterns" — May 2025
Berkeley-London Conference

Comments: Rodrigo Garro, "The Format of Spatial Representation" — April 2025
APA Pacific

Epistemic Perspectives and Ex Ante Contractualism — March 2025
Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley

Non-Indexical Resistance: A Neo-Confucian Response to Political Oppression — November 2024
Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley

Presentations

Testimonial Injustice and Credibility Excess — April 2024
APA Pacific, Diversity Institute Alumni Program · Also presented at the Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley (March 2024) and PhilForum (February 2024).

Sleeping Beauty meets Descartes's Demon — September 2023
Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley

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

Employment

Founding Engineer (part-time) · Parenting-advice startup — 2026
Launched a voice-advisor app for first-time parents, built on hundreds of lectures by an early childhood education expert. Encoded her counseling method and tested LLM replies against her own transcripts.

Lead Engineer (contract) · Beaver Health — 2023–2025
Led a team of five to rebuild from scratch a platform delivering Cognitive Stimulation Therapy to dementia patients. Built a conversational agent strictly adhering to clinically approved scripts, with memory across sessions and RAG over NIH guidance.

Software Engineer Intern · Snapchat — Summers 2017 & 2018
2017: Built a self-serve tool that let the sales team launch ads themselves, restarting stalled revenue growth (projected +$500k a week). Built the *Snap to Store* dashboard estimating store visits driven by Snap ads, by demographic and time of week. 2018: Built search and the sidebar for Snap Map on the web.

Software Engineer Intern · Microsoft — Summer 2016
Microsoft Garage in Cambridge, MA.

Founding Team Member and Software Engineer · Gifs.com — 2015
Raised $1M+ of venture capital. Startup awarded Thiel Fellowship. Featured in Business Insider.

Teaching (as Assistant)

Student evaluations at Berkeley (aggregate)
Above the dept. mean on all eight rated questions. Overall effectiveness: 6.6/7 (dept. mean 6.3).
73 of 74 agreed the teaching enhanced their learning. Written feedback: 6.6/7 (dept. mean 6.1).

Ancient Philosophy · PHIL 25A · Prof. David Riesbeck — Fall 2026
Three weekly discussion sections, 50 undergraduates.

Individual Morality and Social Justice · PHIL 2 · Christian Nakazawa — Summer 2026
Two-hour weekly discussion section, 18 undergraduates.

Philosophical Methods · PHIL 100 · Prof. Geoffrey Lee — Spring 2026
Weekly tutorial-style individual meetings and extensive written feedback for 11 undergraduates.

Individual Morality and Social Justice · PHIL 2 · Prof. R. Jay Wallace — Spring 2025
Three weekly discussion sections, 50 undergraduates.

Individual Morality and Social Justice · PHIL 2 · Prof. Johann Frick — Fall 2024
Three weekly discussion sections, 50 undergraduates.
Guest lecture on Bernard Williams, "A Critique of Utilitarianism".

Introduction to Computer Science · CS50 (Harvard) · Prof. David Malan — Fall 2015
Led weekly section of 12 students from college first-years to Ph.D. candidates. Instructed hundreds of students at weekly office hours. Teaching evaluation: 4.6/5.

Service

Referee · Journal of Moral Philosophy — 2025

Referee · Synthese — 2024

Colloquium Organizer · UC Berkeley Philosophy — 2024–2025; 2025–2026

Wollheim Society Coordinator · UC Berkeley Philosophy — 2023–2024; 2026

Music

Prokofiev, Piano Concerto no. 3 in C Major, op. 26 — November 2022
Cambridge University Orchestra; Joshua Weilerstein, conductor.
Prizewinner, CUMS Concerto Competition.

Grieg, Piano Concerto in a minor, op. 16 — July 2019
Shanghai Youth Philharmonic Orchestra; Cao Peng, conductor.
Invited soloist, Music in Summer Air festival, Shanghai.

Languages

English (native), Mandarin Chinese (native), Spanish (fluent), Literary Chinese (intermediate), Ancient Greek (intermediate), German (basic reading), Russian (basic)