

Patrick H. Pan

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Philosopher, classical pianist, former software engineer

Areas of Interest

Ethics (normative reasons, AI, animals), philosophy of digital technology, personhood and personal identity, aesthetics (music, photography), philosophy of science, pragmatism.

Education

University of California, Berkeley	2023–
Ph.D., Philosophy (in progress).	
Wolfson College, University of Cambridge	2020–2023
B.A. (Hons), Philosophy. 1 st -class honors overall and in each year. Top marks in cohort and 1 st -class honors with distinction in Part IB.	
Harvard College	2014–2018
A.B., Computer Science. Admitted at age 15.	
New England Conservatory of Music	2014–2019
M.M., Piano Performance (Harvard–N.E.C. Dual Degree Program).	

Papers and Publications

<i>A Theory of Normative Reasons for Artificial Intelligence</i>	2023
Dissertation at Cambridge. Supervisor: Richard Holton.	
<i>Regret, Blame, and the Self</i>	2023
Extended Essay at Cambridge. Supervisor: Sophie Dandelet.	
<i>Credibility Excess as Testimonial Injustice</i>	2023
Extended Essay at Cambridge. Supervisor: Sophie Dandelet.	
<i>A Waltonian Account of Originality</i>	2022
Extended Essay at Cambridge. Supervisor: Jon Phelan.	
<i>Music and the Emotions: A Linguistic Analogy</i>	2022
Extended Essay at Cambridge. Supervisor: Alex Fisher.	

“Deepfakes” and the End of the Photographic Age 2021
Published in *Aporia* (St Andrews), vol. XXI. Top paper prize.

Conferences and Summer Programs

Representation in Art and Science (Vienna) July 2022
Interspecies Comparisons of Welfare Conference (LSE) April 2022
Pittsburgh Summer Program (Center for Philosophy of Science, Pittsburgh) July 2021
The Biopolis: Biology, Urbanism, and Social Innovation (Harvard / Paris V) Summer 2015

Accolades and Service

Diversity Institute Alumni Program at APA Eastern 2024
1-hour paper session: “Testimonial Injustice and Credibility Excess” (originally 2023)
Diversity Institute Alumni Program at APA Eastern (postponed to 2024) 2023
1-hour paper session: “Can Deepfakes Be Art?”
Craig Taylor Prize, University of Cambridge 2022
Top marks out of 52 students in Part IB of Philosophy Tripos.
Jennings Prize, Wolfson College, University of Cambridge 2020–2023
Awarded each year for achieving first class honors.
Academic Representative, University of Cambridge 2020–2021
Elected to represent Philosophy undergraduates at Staff–Student Committee meetings, especially regarding exams during COVID.
Top Paper, *Aporia* (St Andrews), vol. XXI. 2020

Talks and Teaching

Plato’s Theory of Music and the Soul: The Value of Music Education 2019
English/Mandarin bilingual lecture at Tsinghua University conference for principals and music educators from rural schools around China.
Heidegger’s Aesthetics and Philosophy of Music 2019
Hour-long presentation at New England Conservatory of Music.
Teaching Fellow, Harvard CS50 (Introduction to Computer Science) 2015
Led weekly section of 12 students, from college first-years to PhD candidates. Instructed hundreds of students at weekly office hours.
Teaching evaluation: 4.6 / 5.

Digital Literacy Program	2014
Volunteer program teaching fundamentals of computer programming to underprivileged 5th-grade students in Dorchester, MA.	

Coursework

Cambridge (Philosophy Tripos, Part II)	2022–2023
Metaphysics	
Ethics (extended essays)	
Philosophical Logic	
Political Philosophy	
Dissertation	
Philosophy of Mind (audited)	
Wittgenstein and his Successors (audited)	
Cambridge (Philosophy Tripos, Part IB)	2021–2022
Knowledge, Language, and World	
History of Analytic Philosophy	
Epistemology and Metaphysics of Science	
Aesthetics (extended essays)	
Cambridge (Philosophy Tripos, Part IA)	2020–2021
Metaphysics	
Ethics	
Meaning	
Set Texts: Plato, Descartes, Mill	
Formal Methods	
New England Conservatory of Music	
Selected Readings in Philosophy of Music (MHST 620B)	Spring 2019
Harvard	
Self and World: An Introduction to Early Modern Philosophy (Phil 8)	Spring 2018
Existentialism in Literature and Film (Phil 34)	Fall 2018
Kant's <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> (Phil 129)	Fall 2018
Phenomenology of Lived Experience (Phil 136; audited)	Spring 2019
Heidegger's <i>Being and Time</i> (Phil 138; audited)	Spring 2019
Philosophy of Mind (Phil 156; audited)	Spring 2019
MIT	
Ancient Philosophy (24.200; audited)	Spring 2019

Work Experience

Snapchat	2017–2018
Software Engineer Intern (2017: Foot Traffic Insights; 2018: Snap Map).	
Microsoft	2016
Software Engineer Intern (Microsoft Garage in Cambridge, MA).	
Gifs.com	2015
Founding Team Member and Software Engineer. Raised over \$1M of venture capital funding. Startup awarded Thiel Fellowship. Featured in <i>Business Insider</i> .	

Other

In my free time, I enjoy reading, photography, playing chess, running, cycling, bouldering, cooking, and coffee.

I remain active as a classical concert pianist, with frequent solo and concerto performances. During my time at Cambridge, I was a choral scholar and the Brian Moore accompanist scholar for the Wolfson College choir.

I represented Wolfson College on the 53rd series (2023–2024) of University Challenge.

In 2014, I was named one of 141 U.S. Presidential Scholars.

I am natively fluent in English and Mandarin Chinese and fluent in Spanish (even according to Cuban police—ask me about it!), and I have limited working proficiency in Russian.