Yafeng Wang

Areas of Research

AOS   Philosophy of Engineering, Philosophy of Science.
AOC   Logic, Applied Ethics, Engineering Education.

Employment

2022-   **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Institute of Philosophy, Chinese Academy of Sciences.
2020-2021   **Postdoctoral Fellow in Engineering Ethics**, Rock Ethics Institute, Penn State University.

Education

2013–2020   **PhD in Philosophy**, Stanford University.
2018–2019   **Graduate Certificate in Computer Science Education**, Stanford University.
2010–2013   **MA in Philosophy**, Tufts University.
2006–2010   **BA in Philosophy**, Wuhan University.

Dissertation

Title: **Reconstructing Past Events: A Study of Engineering Failure Investigations**.

Description: I develop an account of the epistemology and methodology of engineering failure investigations based on five case studies of major aviation disaster investigations. The first part of my account examines a family of methods for determining the causes of a failure event. The second part of my account examines how questions arise and are resolved within an investigation, and how the question-and-answer process contributes to the construction and justification of narratives of failure events.

Committee: Helen Longino (advisor), George Smith (Tufts), David Hills, Thomas Icard.

Publication

Feature Dependence: A Method for Reconstructing Actual Causes in Engineering Failure investigations.

2022   Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Volume 96, 100-111.

Notes on Mathematical Modal Logic.

2016   ILLC Technical Report, with Johan van Benthem.

Presentations

Event Reconstruction in Engineering Failure Investigations: A Question-Oriented Approach.

2022   The Future of the Past: Philosophical Issues in the Historical Sciences, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (online).

Crisis Investigation, Trust, and Responsibility Attribution.

2022   The Ethics of Trust and Expertise, American University of Armenia (online).

Does Gaming Addiction Exist? A Case Study of Values in Psychiatric Research.

2022   First Conference on Games and Cognitive Science, Renming University (online).

How to Design a Crisis Investigation.

2021 Bioethics Colloquium, Penn State University.

How to Distribute Moral Responsibilities After Engineering Disasters.

2021 Rock Ethics Colloquium, Penn State University.

Reverse Causal Inference in Engineering Failure Analysis.

2020 Causation and Reduction: From Metaphysics to the Sciences, UIUC (online).

Process Tracing in the Social Sciences.

2017 Philosophy Department Colloquium. City College of New York.

Qualitative Comparative Analysis as Causal Inference.

2017 Sixth CSLI Workshop on Logic, Rationality, and Intelligent Interaction. Stanford University.

Comments on Thomas Icard: Normality and Actual Causal Strength.

2017 Varieties of Agency Workshop. Stanford University.

Teaching Experience

Primary Instructor

2018 Introduction to the Philosophy of Science, Stanford.

2017 Introduction to Philosophy, City College of New York.

Teaching Assistant

2019 Great Ideas In Computer Science, Stanford.

2019 Environmental Ethics, Stanford.

2019 Mind, Matter and Meaning, Stanford.

2018 Introduction to Philosophy of Science, Stanford.

2017 Justice and Climate Change, Stanford.

2015 Minds and Machines, Stanford.

2015 Philosophy of Mathematics, Stanford.

2015 Modal Logic, Stanford.

2015 Meta-Logic, Stanford.

2014 Mathematical Logic, Stanford.

2012 Rational Choice, Tufts.

2011 Logic, Tufts.

Awards and Fellowships

2019 **Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship**, Stanford.

2018 **Preparing Future Professors Fellow**, Stanford.

2017 **Stanford/CCNY Graduate Teaching Exchange Fellow**, Stanford/CCNY.

2016 **Centennial Teaching Assistant Award**, Stanford.

2016 **Ric Weiland Graduate Fellow in the Humanities and Sciences**, Stanford.

Services

2022 Judge, 2021-22 CTB Research & Innovation Global Finals Team Showcase.

2022 Organizer, The "Science and Values" Reading Group at CASIP.

2021 Created educational content and co-led a workshop on how to incorporate ethics into engineering design courses for the Leonhard Center for Enhancement of Engineering Education at Penn State.

2021 Published an opinion piece on Anti-Asian racism on Lancaster Online.

2018   Participated in the "Robot Scientist" outreach event for children at the Western Virginia Museum of Science.

2017   Reviewer, Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Student Philosophy Conference.

2016   Coordinator, graduate admit visit at Stanford Philosophy Department.

2015   Organizer, The 4th CSLI workshop on Logic, Rationality and Intelligent Interaction.

2014   Organizer, The 3rd CSLI workshop on Logic, Rationality and Intelligent Interaction.