GORDON B. MOWER

Curriculum Vita

801.422.6514 4091 JBSB, BYU, Provo, UT gmower@byu.edu

EDUCATION

PhD, Philosophy, University of Utah, Summer 2007
MA, Political Science (Political Theory), University of Utah, 1994
Graduate Certificate in Political Thought, University of Utah, 1994
BA, Economics, University of Utah, 1988
BS, Political Science, University of Utah, 1988
Baccalaureate Certificate in International Relations, University of Utah, 1988

Additional Training:

Attended KOREAN 441, Hanmun (classical Sino-Korean characters), Fall 2016

SPECIALIZATION

Areas of Specialization:

Moral and political philosophy
Early modern philosophy
Asian Philosophy (classical Chinese philosophy, Korean philosophy, neo-Confucian philosophy)

Areas of Competence:

Philosophy of religion
Applied ethics
Philosophy of social science/history
Philosophy of law

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Brigham Young University

Associate Professor 2021- present

Assistant Professor	2014-2021
Visiting Assistant Professor	2011-2014
Adjunct Instructor	2008-2011

Other Appointments

Utah Valley University, Instructor	2002
	2008-2011
Weber State University, Instructor	2007 – 2011
University of Utah, Teaching Assistant, Instructor	2002 – 2005
Salt Lake Community College, Instructor	1996 - 2002
	2005 – 2008

SCHOLARSHIP

Publications

Books

1. *The Conduit of Modernity: Montaigne as a Skeptical Linkage from the Modern Political Philosophy of Machiavelli to the Modern Philosophy of Descartes*. Riga, Latvia: Lambert Academic Publishing. ISBN 978-613-9-88195-6. Dissertation.

Books in Progress

1. *Peeping Fledglings: Zhuangzi, Montaigne, and Hume finding something to say and a way to live.*

Peer Reviewed Articles

1. Battin, Margaret P., Gordon B. Mower. "The Columbia Shuttle Disaster: Should We Have Told the Astronauts the Truth?" *Teaching Ethics* 4.1 (2003): 89-92.
2. "The Confucian Conception of Persons." *Appraisal* 9.12 (2012): 29-32.
3. "Soldiers and Heroes." *Teaching Ethics* 13.2 (2013): 121-135.
4. "Hume on Suicide." *The European Legacy* 18.5 (2013): 563-575.
5. "Confucianism and Civic Virtue." *Social Philosophy Today* 29 (2013): 75-87.

6. “Mengzi and Hume on Extending Virtue.” *Philosophy East and West* 66.2 (2016): 475-487.
7. “Doubts about Liberal Forms of Civic Education.” *Social Philosophy Today* 32 (2016): 59-72.
8. “The Skeptical Imagination: Zhuangzi and Hume,” translated into Chinese as “Huáiyí de xiàng: Zhuāngzi yǔ xiūmó (怀疑的象: 庄子与休谟), *Journal of Shangqiu Normal University* 33 (April 2017).
9. “Property as Place, East and West.” *International Communication of Chinese Culture* 4.3 (August 2017) 361-372.
10. “Does Han Fei Have a Conception of Justice?” *Asian Philosophy* 28.2 (2018).
11. “Risks for Angels: Doubts about Political Resistance in Montaigne and Hume.” *Kritikos* Volume 15 (Summer 2018), ISSN 1552-5112.
12. “Transmitting Rather than Innovating: Confucius as Skeptical Conservative.” *International Communication of Chinese Culture* 6.3 (September 2019) 379-394.
13. “Mozi and the Family.” *The Philosophical Forum: A Quarterly* 51.1 (Spring 2020), 67-80.
14. “Make Way for Women: Philosophical Adaptation of Confucian Property Practices.” *Culture and* Dialogue 8.2 (Fall 2020), 323-341.
15. “Dasan’s Philosophy of Law.” *Journal of Confucian Philosophy and Culture* 39 (2023), 129-156.
16. “Hume’s Philosophy of Religion Broadly Conceived.” *The European Legacy, 29*(7–8), 815–832. (2024).

Book Chapters

1. Battin, Margaret P., Gordon B. Mower. “The Columbia Shuttle Disaster: Should We Have Told the Astronauts the Truth?” Joanne B. Ciulla, Clancy Martin, Robert Solomon. *Honest Work: A Business Ethics Reader*. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007: 82-84.
2. “Han Feizi and the Presidential Bubble.” Book chapter in *Adventures in Realism: Classic Philosophy Applied to Contemporary Issues*. Eirik Lang Harris and Henrique Schneider, eds. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2022: 25-43.
3. “Classical Chinese Legalism and Global Justice,” in *Bloomsbury Handbook of Global Justice and East Asian Philosophy*. Hsin-wen Lee and Janusz Salamon,eds. New York: Bloomsbury,2024: 199-218.

Book Chapters Under Review

1. "Creating an Agent: Huang-Lao Daoism and Agency." For *Moral and Public Agency in Chinese Thought*. Eirik Lang Harris and Henrique Schneider, eds.
2. "Where am I? Or What? Two Skeptics, Zhuangzi and Hume, Go Looking for the Self" in *Comparative Essays on Hume*, Rico Vitz, ed. Forthcoming.

Professional Presentations

1. "Socrates and the Laws: Making Sense of the Crito Using Confucius' *Li* Centered Understanding." *Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference*. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah. February 2004.
2. Lighty, JoAnn S., Margaret P. Battin, Angela R. Harris, Gordon B. Mower. "Engineering Ethics A Collaboration between Engineering and Philosophy." *American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference & Exposition*. Salt Lake City, Utah. June 2004.
3. "Three Mistakes that Distort our Understanding of Early Modern Philosophy and How Their Correction Broadens our Historical Understanding." *Philosophical-Methodological Seminar*. Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City, Utah. February 2007.
4. "Soldiers and Heroes." *Fourth Annual Intermountain Philosophy Conference*. Utah State University, Logan, Utah. November 2009.
5. "Realism and Virtue: Han Feizi, Machiavelli, and Confucianism." *The American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Eighty-Fourth Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, CA. April 2010.
6. "Hume's Conception of Belief." *Presentation to the Faculty of the Department of Philosophy*. Brigham Young University. Provo, Utah. August 2010.
7. "Montaigne's Skepticism of History." *Fifth Annual Intermountain Philosophy Conference*. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah. November 2010.
8. "The Confucian Conception of Persons." *Eleventh Annual International Conference on Persons*. Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. August 2011.
9. "What would it take to Convert Locke from a Property Libertarian to a Social Welfare Liberal?" *Sixth Annual Intermountain Philosophy Conference*. Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. November 2011.
10. "A Progress of Doubt: Descartes as Skeptic." *Ninth Annual Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*. Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. June 2012.
11. "Confucianism and Civic Virtue." *Twenty-Ninth International Social Philosophy Conference*. Northeastern University, Boston, MA. July 2012.
12. "Four Kinds of Certainty in Descartes." *Seventh Annual Intermountain Philosophy Conference*. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah. October 2012.

13. "Mengzi and Hume on Extending Virtue." *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Eighty Seventh Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, CA. March 2013.
14. "Food and Property in the Early Modern Natural Law Tradition." *Thirtieth Annual International Social Philosophy Conference*. Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT. July 2013.
15. "Lockean Mixed Modes, Humean Causality, and the Emergence of Social Science." *Eighth Annual Intermountain Philosophy Conference*. Utah Valley University, Orem, Utah. November 2013.
16. "Confucius as Skeptical Conservative." (Presented on my behalf by Dr. Travis Anderson). *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Eighty Eighth Annual Meeting*. San Diego, CA. April 2014.
17. "Risks for Angels: Skeptical Doubts about Political Resistance from Montaigne and Hume." *Thirty-First Annual International Social Philosophy Conference*. Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR. July 2014.
18. "Hume on Property." *Ninth Annual Intermountain Philosophy Conference*. Utah State University, Logan, Utah. November 2014.
19. "Education and Civic Engagement." *Thirty-Second Annual International Social Philosophy Conference*. William Jewell College, Liberty, MO. July 2015.
20. Mozi's Anti-Democratic Insights." *Nineteenth Annual International Conference For the Society for Chinese Philosophy*. The Chinese University of Hong Kong. July 2015.
21. "Four Stages in Locke's State of Nature." *Tenth Annual Intermountain Philosophy Conference*. Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho. November 2015.
22. "Does Han Feizi Have a Conception of Justice?" *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Ninetieth Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, CA. April 2016.
23. "Darkening Counsel by Words without Knowledge: Zhuangzi and Montaigne Finding Something to Say and a Way to Live." *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Ninetieth Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, CA. April 2016.
24. "Property as Place, East and West." *Eleventh East-West Philosopher's Conference*. Honolulu, HI. May 2016.
25. "The Skeptical Imagination: Two Approaches, Zhuangzi and Hume." *Forty-Eighth Annual Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Conference*. Honolulu, HI. June 2016.
26. "Han Feizi and the Problem of Dirty Hands." *Eleventh Annual Intermountain Philosophy Conference*. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah. November 2016.
27. "Han Feizi and the Presidential Bubble." *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Ninety First Annual Meeting*. Seattle, WA. April 2017.

28. “Han Feizi and the Problem of Dirty Hands.” *Invited Lecture Presentation to the Faculty of the Department of Public Policy*. City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. May 2017.
29. “Conspiracy Theory: Han Feizi and Machiavelli Contriving a Theory about Conspiracies.” *Invited Lecture Presentation to the Faculty of the College of Confucian Studies and East Asian Philosoph*y. Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea, May 2017.
30. “What is the Voice of Lisi doing in Han Fei’s Book?” for *Workshop on Legalism*. Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea. May 2017.
31. “Han Feizi and the Presidential Bubble.” *Twentieth International Conference of the International Society for Chinese Philosophy.* Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, July 2017.
32. “The Problem of Empathic Contagion and a Four-Seven-Style Response to It.” *Fourth Annual North American Korean Philosophy Association Meeting*. Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea. Oct. 2017.
33. “Re-Thinking Hume’s Double Relation.” *Twelfth Annual Intermountain Philosophy Conference*. Brigham Young University, November 2017.
34. “Dasan’s Transformation of Truth and Reality.” *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Ninety Second Annual Meeting*. San Diego, CA. March 2018.
35. “Dasan and the Northern Constellation,” *Fourth Annual North American Korean Philosophy Association Meeting*. Stanford University, CA. Oct. 2018.
36. “Mozi and the Family.” *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Ninety Third Annual Meeting*. Vancouver, BC April 2019.
37. “The Voice of Han Feizi in the Conversation on an Original Situation,” Ch. 1 of *The Voice of Han Feizi in the World’s Philosophical Conversation*. Presented to the Intermountain Early Modern Philosophy Group. Riverton, Utah. July 2021.
38. “Skeptical Religion.” *LDS Philosophy Project*, September 2021.
39. “Han Fei and Structural Realism.” *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Ninety Sixth Annual Meeting*. Vancouver, BC April 2022.
40. “Legalism in Korea: The Case of Dasan and *Admonitions on Governing the People*.” *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Ninety Sixth Annual Meeting*. Vancouver, BC April 2022.
41. “Aristotle’s Presence in Locke’s *Second Treatise*.” *Essays in Honor of Daniel W. Graham*. Delivered at Brigham Young University, October 2022.
42. “Where am I? Or What? Two Skeptics, Zhuangzi and Hume, Go Looking for the Self.” *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Ninety Ninth Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, CA. Forthcoming.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

At BYU

1. UNIV 101 Foundations for Student Success
2. PHIL 150 Reasoning and Writing
3. PHIL 110 Introduction to Philosophy
4. PHIL 201 History of Philosophy I
5. PHIL 202 History of Philosophy II
6. PHIL 205 Deductive Logic
7. PHIL 217 Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy
8. PHIL 249 Philosophy Lecture Series
9. PHIL 300 Philosophical Writing
10. PHIL 313R History of Ethics (Modern Moral Philosophy) (Also Taught as PHIL 413R)
11. PHIL 313R History of Ethics (Classical Moral Philosophy)
12. PHIL 416 Philosophy of Law
13. PHIL 340R Hume
14. PHIL 340R Descartes
15. PHIL 340R Locke and Berkeley
16. PHIL 340R Continental Rationalism
17. PHIL 340R British Empiricism
18. PHIL 350R Contemporary Political Theory
19. PHIL 350R Philosophy & Literature
20. PHIL 360R Classical Chinese Philosophy(Also Taught as PHIL 320R and CHIN 346)
21. PHIL413R Ethical Reasoning
22. PHIL 413R Moral Sentimentalism
23. PHIL 413R Moral Philosophy of Hume
24. PHIL 413 Virtue Theory
25. PHIL 501R Readings in Buddhism
26. PHIL 495R Readings in Korean Philosophy
27. PHIL 495R Readings in the Philosophy of Law
28. PHIL 495R Readings in Theory of Criminal Law
29. PHIL 495R Readings in Stoicism

Additional Course Taught Elsewhere

1. Personal and Social Ethics, Ethics and Values

2. Introduction to Humanities
3. World's Religions
4. Philosophy of Religion
5. Philosophy in Literature
6. Philosophy of Work
7. Ethics
8. Critical Thinking
9. Ethics for Engineers
10. Western Civilization I
11. Western Civilization II
12. Symbolic Logic

Honors Theses Supervised

1. Evans, Trevor. "A Theory of Political Compromise." 2013.
2. Collier, Abraham. "Beyond Justice: Revising Modern Liberal Democracy with Communitarian Role Pluralism." 2015.
3. Engle, Jonathan. "What Role Should Philosophy Play in the Public Sphere? The intrinsic value of public philosophy." 2020.
4. McNairy, Matthew, "How Fundamental Limitation Impacts My Human Experience." 2024.

Other

ORCA Grant Advisor

1. McMurray, William. "Korean Drama as a Critique of Classical Chinese Philosophy." 2015.

Teaching Assistants

1. High impact training for seventeen Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants. 2011 – 2025.

Awards

1. Outstanding Teaching Assistant of the Year, University of Utah, Philosophy Department, 2003.
2. Departmental Candidate for the Ramona W. Cannon Award for Graduate Student Teaching Excellence in the Humanities, University of Utah, Philosophy Department. 2004.

CITIZENSHIP

Professional Service

Book Reviews

1. Rev. of *Introduction to Chinese Philosophy*, by Bryan W. Van Norden. *Teaching Philosophy* 36.1 (2013): 96-100.
2. Rev. of *Locke's Moral Man*, by Antonia Lolordo. *Essays in Philosophy* 16.1 (2015): 101-105.
3. Rev. of *Against Autonomy: Justifying Coercive Paternalism*, by Sarah Conly. *Philosophical Investigations* 38.4 (2015): 393-397.

Commentary

1. "When is Revolution Justified?" by Shiying Li. *The American Philosophical Association Central Division One Hundred Twentieth Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO, Feb. 2023
2. "Social Metaphors of Yi Ik: An Innovative Approach to Emotion" by So-jeong Park. *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Ninety-Eighth Annual Meeting*, Portland, OR, March 2024.

Journal Referee Responsibilities

1. *Korea Journal. 2017.*
2. *Philosophy East and West. 2018.*
3. *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy. 2020.*
4. *Philosophy Compass. 2021.*
5. *Journal of East Asian Philosophy. 2021.*
6. *Chinese Literature and Thought. 2023.*
7. *Philosophical Forum. 2023.*
8. *Journal of Confucian Philosophy and Culture. 2023.*
9. *British Journal for the History of Philosophy. 2024.*
10. *Element. 2024.*
11. *The Hume Society. 2024.*
12. *Philosophy East and West. 2025.*

Book Referee Responsibilities

1. Routlege. 2023.
2. Rowman and Littlefield. 2023.

Organizing Responsibilities

1. Arranged visit of Eirik Lang Harris from City University of Hong Kong to deliver three lectures at BYU. 2016.
2. Co-site Organizer with Katie Paxman of the 2023 Hume Society Conference held in Provo, Utah, July 2023. July 2022 - July 2023.
3. Co-site Organizer with David Jensen of the 2024 Intermountain Philosophy Conference to be held at BYU, March 2024. Nov. 2023 - March 2024.

Editorial Work and Other Service

1. Text Proofer for *Xunzi: The Complete Text*. Eric L. Hutton, trans. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014.
2. Text Editor of the "Montaigne" section of *The Ethics of Suicide*, ed. Margaret P. Battin. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2015.
3. Extensive chapter editorial work on *Moral and Public Agency in Chinese Thought*, Eirik Lang Harris and Henrique Schneider, eds.

University, College, and Department Service

Committee Assignments

1. Department Assessment Committee. 2011-2013.
2. Department Assessment Coordinator. 2013-2017.
3. University College Dean Search Committee. 2014.
4. Department Search (Hiring) Committee. 2014-2020, 2022-present.
5. College GE Civ Committee. 2017.
6. Social Science Internship Advisor. 2017-2019.
7. Department Executive Committee. 2019-present.
8. Department AIM (Advising, Internships, and Mentoring) Committee Chair. 2019-present.
9. Defacto Internship Coordinator (in connection with being AIM committee chair). 2019-present.
10. Department Rank and Status Committee. 2021-2022.
11. College Rank and Status Committee. 2022-present.

Local and Campus Lectures

Philosophy Lecture Series

1. "Whatever the Social Responsibility of Business Is, It is not Merely to Increase Its Profits." Winter 2008.
2. "The Moral Philosophy of David Hume: A Primer." Fall 2009.
3. "Rationalists and Empiricists." Winter 2012.
4. "Mengzi and Hume on Extending Virtue." Winter 2013.
5. "Hume's Philosophy of Family." Fall 2014.

6. “Four Stages in Locke’s State of Nature.” Fall 2015.
7. “Han Feizi and Justice.” Winter 2016.
8. “Han Feizi and the Problem of Dirty Hands.” Fall 2016.
9. “Han Feizi and the Presidential Bubble.” Winter 2017.
10. “Re-Thinking Hume’s Double Relation.” Fall 2017.
11. “Truth and Reality in the Philosophy of Dasan.” Winter 2018.
12. “Dasan and the Northern Constellation.” Fall 2018.
13. “Hume on Political Legitimacy.” Winter 2019.
14. “A Crash Course in the Philosophy of Property.” Winter 2020.
15. “Han Feizi and Structural Realism.” Fall 2020.
16. “The Fourth Good.” Winter 2021.
17. “Skeptical Religion.” Fall 2021
18. “Han Feizi and Structural Realism.” Winter 2022
19. “Dasan’s Philosophy of Law.” Fall 2022
20. “When is a Revolution Justified.” Winter 2023.
21. “Huang-Lao Daoism and Agency.” Fall 2023.
22. “Hume’s Philosophy of Religion Broadly Conceived.” Winter 2024.
23. “Two Skeptics, Zhuangzi and Hume, Go Looking for the Self.” Fall 2024
24. “What's Wrong with Cruelty: Montaigne on Law, Virtue, Relativism, and Cruelty.” Winter 2025.

Presentations for BYU Philosophy Club

1. “Women of Early Modern Philosophy.” Winter 2014
2. “Citizenship: An East Asian Perspective.” Fall 2015.
3. “Montaigne and Colonialism.” Fall 2020

Other Presentations

1. “Whatever the Social Responsibility of Business Is, It is not Merely to Increase Its Profits.” *Weber State Philosophy Club*. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah. Oct. 2007.
2. “Nature as a Gentle Guide.” *Presentation to the University of Utah Honor’s College*. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah. Dec. 2010.
3. “Nature as a Gentle Guide.” *Presentation to the BYU Honor’s Seminar*. Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. March 2011.
4. “David Hume’s 300th Birthday Anniversary.” *Thinking Aloud.* KBYU Radio, Provo, Utah. May 2011.
5. Guest Lecturer on Logic. MED 6000, Introduction to Graduate Studies, Weber State University, Summer 2018.
6. “Empathic Contagion and a Four-Seven Solution to It.” *Presentation to the BYU Honor’s Program Chocolate Milk Discussion*. Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, February 2019.
7. Guest presentation classical characters used in classical Chinese philosophy for CHIN 440, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, Fall 2021.
8. Guest lecture on Mengzi to Pre-service teachers at Shanghai Normal University, Shanghai, China, June 2024.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. American Philosophical Association
2. The Hume Society
3. Royal Asiatic Society Korea Branch
4. North American Korean Philosophy Association
5. Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy