

YAO YU

yao_yu@berkeley.edu

(As of 03/2026)

EDUCATION

Ph.D in Philosophy

University of California, Berkeley

Aug 2025 - present

B.A. in Philosophy, minor in General Biology

University of California, San Diego

Overall GPA 4.0

Honors Thesis (Advisors: Eric Watkins and Rick Grush): On the Irreversible Order of Perceptions in Kant's Second Analogy of Experience

Sep 2021- June 2025

PRESENTATIONS

“On the Irreversible Order of Perceptions in Kant's Second Analogy of Experience.”

2025 Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, April 2025

Accepted to Prometheus Undergraduate Philosophy Journal

HONORS AND AWARDS

Eric Paul Allison Memorial Prize Fellowship, 2025, UC San Diego, awarded to one graduating senior in the Philosophy Department.

Carol Lee Price Fellowship, 2025, UC Berkeley, awarded to at most one incoming PhD student each year who holds citizenship outside of the U.S. and Canada

Berkeley Fellowship, 2025, UC Berkeley, prestigious award for highly qualified entering doctoral students

Phi Beta Kappa, 2024, UC San Diego

UC Scholars, 2023, UC San Diego, selected as one of the eight scholarship recipients in 2023 cohort, awarded \$3,000 for research in philosophy of mind

BioScholars (Honors Society for Biology Majors), 2021 - 2023, UC San Diego

TEACHING

At UC Berkeley (as GSI Graduate Student Instructor)

PHILOS 3: The Nature of Mind (for John Campbell; Fall 2026)

At UC San Diego (as UGIA Undergraduate Instructional Apprentice)

BILD 3: Organismal & Evolutionary Biology (for Sarah Stockwell; Spring 2023)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

History of Philosophy

Plato (Lea Shroeder; Fall 2026)

Kant (Daniel Warren; Spring 2026)

Independent Study on Kant's Philosophy of Mind (Daniel Warren; Spring 2026)

Mind, Epistemology, and Metaphysics

Explaining Action (Seth Yalcin; Spring 2026)

Philosophy of Language (Seth Yalcin; Fall 2025)

Normativity and its Relation to Reasons (Hannah Ginsborg; Fall 2025)

Metaphysics (Rick Grush; Spring 2024)

Others

Moral Psychology (Olivia Bailey; Fall 2026)

Intermediate Logic (Wes Holliday; Spring 2026)

First-year Graduate Seminar (Shamik Dasgupta & Mike Martin; Fall 2025)

SERVICES

Gareth Evans Reading Group Organizer, UC Berkeley, Feb 2025 - present

Kant Reading Group Organizer, UC Berkeley, Aug 2025 - Dec 2025

Student Reviewer for Undergraduate Philosophy Journal, UC San Diego, April 2025
- May 2025

STEM Outreach, Preuss School UCSD, Jan - Mar in 2021 and 2022

LANGUAGES

English (proficient)

German (reading knowledge)

Mandarin Chinese (proficient)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Research Assistant in the Jackrel Lab, Section of Ecology, Behavior and Evolution in Division of Biological Sciences, UC San Diego, Jan 2022 - Feb 2024 | Principal Investigator: Prof. Sara Jackrel

Assisted in ecological assessment of the riparian forest management strategies implemented in [Washington T3 Watershed Experiment](#). Procedures include sorting and drying leaves, recording dry mass, and digitalizing data. The results are reported quarterly, through written reports or lab presentations.

Other tasks include assisting graduate students in their projects, by preparing solutions, autoclaving flasks, handling high-pressure gas, running PCR and gel electrophoresis, etc.

HHMI Undergraduate Researcher in Microbiology, advised by Dr. Joe Pogliano and Dr. Gary Heussler, Howard Hughes Medical Institute & UC San Diego, Sep 2021 - June 2022 (Exclude Jan - Mar 2022)

The research is completed as a part of the [Phage Genomics Research Initiative](#).

The research consists of two projects. The first project consists of sampling and purifying a bacteriophage extracted from soil. The second project is to evolve *Bacillus subtilis* by growing it with jumbo phage 2ø1. I purified a mutant resistant to the phage and identified CheA truncation in the mutant's genome. Then I tested the costs of resistance by designing plasmids and performing experiments (growth assays, biofilm assays, motility assays, etc.) on *Pseudomonas chlororaphis*. The cost of resistance is found to be a reduction in motility.