

## SUNGWOO UM

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### EMPLOYMENT

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- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**  
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, Department of Bioethics 2019 - present

### EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

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- **Duke University**  
PH.D., Philosophy 2019  
Dissertation: *The Virtues of Intimate Relationships*  
Committee: Owen Flanagan, Gopal Sreenivasan, David Wong, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Duke Center for Comparative Philosophy 2014 – 2019  
CERTIFICATE IN COLLEGE TEACHING 2019
- **Oxford University, Balliol College**  
B.PHIL., Philosophy, Thesis: *Virtue Ethics and the Self* (Supervisor: Roger Crisp) 2012
- **Yonsei University, South Korea**  
M.A., Philosophy, Thesis: *Virtue, Person, and Action: Aristotle and Kant on Virtue* 2010  
B.A., (High Honors), Philosophy 2007

### AREAS OF INTEREST

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AOS Ethics, Applied Ethics (esp. Bioethics), Social and Political Philosophy  
AOC History of Western Ethics, Chinese and Comparative Philosophy

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (peer-reviewed)

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#### *Journal Article*

- “Solving the Puzzle of Partiality” (forthcoming) *Journal of Social Philosophy*  
“What is a Relational Virtue?” (2020) *Philosophical Studies* DOI: [10.1007/s11098-020-01422-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-020-01422-1)  
“Gratitude for Being” (2020) *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* Vol. 98 Issue 2  
“Modesty as an Executive Virtue” (2019) *American Philosophical Quarterly* Vol. 56 Issue 3

#### *Book Review*

Matt Stichter, *The Skillfulness of Virtue*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy* (forthcoming)

### WORKS IN PROGRESS

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- “Duty, Virtue, and Filial Love” (under review)  
“Autonomy and Self-Dictatorship: A Virtue-Ethical Approach to Advance Directives” (under review)

“Friendly Hope and Epistemic Partiality” (under review)

“Kant on Virtue and Moral Pleasure”

“Friendship and Relational Virtue”

#### TRANSLATIONS

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Crisp, Roger. 2007. *Mill on Utilitarianism* (Routledge) into Korean (2014, 철학과 현실사)

#### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (all refereed)

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“Vices in Autonomous Paternalism: The Case of Advance Directives and Dementia”

World Congress of Bioethics (WCB)\* 2020

[\*Winner of **Mark S. Ehrenreich Prize** in Healthcare Ethics Research for the best paper (Asia)]

“Grieving Virtuously: Zhuangzi-ist Views and Beyond”

American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific Division Meeting (accepted) 2020

Korean Society of Ethics 2019

“The Value of Filial Love”

North Carolina Philosophical Society 2019

“Gratitude for Being and Filial Piety”

APA Eastern Division Meeting 2019

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME), University of Colorado, Boulder 2018

“Against Duty to Love”

APA Pacific Division Meeting 2018

“What is a Relational Virtue?”

Korean Society for Analytic Philosophy

Korean Society for Philosophy East-West 2018

APA Eastern Division Meeting (accepted) 2018

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Graduate Philosophy Conference 2017

“Solving the Puzzle of Partiality”

Florida Philosophical Association 2016

“Friendship and Epistemic Partiality”

APA Central Division Meeting 2016

North Carolina Philosophical Society 2016

Illinois Philosophical Association 2015

“Virtue, Virtuous Activity, and Moral Self-Indulgence”

Jubilee Center Annual Conference: Varieties of Virtue Ethics, Oxford 2015

South Carolina Society for Philosophy 2015

“Trustfulness as a Risky Virtue”

Korean Philosophical Association, Seoul 2015

Indiana Philosophical Association (Fall) 2014

Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium 2014

“The Virtue of Modesty and Self-Evaluation”

North Carolina Philosophical Society 2014

Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Moral Psychology 2014

Understanding Value Conference, University of Sheffield	2013
Joint Session of Aristotelian Society & Mind Association, Postgraduate Session	2013

**COMMENTS**


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Mica Rapstine (U of Houston), "No One You Kill Is a Stranger" <i>Central APA</i>	2020
Carissa Phillips-Garrett (LMU), "Honor and Virtue" <i>RoME</i>	2018
Paul Bloomfield (UConn), "Humility Is Not a Virtue" <i>Central APA</i>	2018
Sukaina Hirji (Virginia Tech), "Aristotle on Virtue and Happiness" <i>CCP Workshop, Duke</i>	2016
Caleb Perl (USC), "Consequentialism in Reflective Equilibrium" <i>Eastern APA</i>	2016
Teresa Britton (Eastern Illinois U), "Apology and Empathy" <i>Illinois PA</i>	2015
Max G. Parish (U of Oklahoma), "Neo-Aristotelian Ethical Naturalism" <i>Indiana PA</i>	2014

**HONORS AND AWARDS****▪ Duke University**

Katherine Goodman Stern Dissertation Fellowship [Tuition + 23,370 USD]	2018 - 2019
Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Finalist	
Summer Research Fellowship [16,000 USD]	2014, 2015, 2017
Kenan Institute for Ethics Graduate Fellowship [5,000 USD]	2014 - 2015
Conference Travel Award [5,359 USD]	2013 - 2018

**▪ National Humanities Center**

Triangle University Internship Program [A six-week pedagogical training program]	2018
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**▪ University of Chicago (Institute for Virtue, Happiness, and the Meaning of Life)**

"Virtue and Happiness" Summer Seminar Participant	2016
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**▪ Oxford University**

Balliol Graduate Bursary	2011, 2012
Balliol Junior Maintenance Grant	2011

**▪ Yonsei University**

Teaching Assistantship	Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009
Non-BK21 Scholarship	Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009
Korea Research Foundation Scholarship	Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009
A Certificate of Merit in honor of advancing the academic field of humanities	2009

**TEACHING****▪ Sole Instructor (Duke)**

Chinese Philosophy	Summer 2019
Applied and Environmental Ethics	Summer 2018, Summer 2019
Logic	Spring 2017, Fall 2017
Introduction to Philosophy	Summer 2016, Fall 2016, Summer 2017, Spring 2018

**▪ Teaching Assistant***Duke University*

Chinese Philosophy (David Wong)	Spring 2016
Introduction to Philosophy (Alex Rosenberg)	Fall 2015

Composing the Internship Experience (Denise Comer), (Full-online course) Summer 2015  
 History of Ancient Philosophy (Michael Ferejohn) Spring 2015  
 Information, Society and Culture (Orlin Vakarelov) Fall 2014

*Yonsei University*

Contemporary Ethics (Hyung Chul Kim) Spring 2009  
 Applied Ethics (Hyung Chul Kim) Fall 2008  
 Ethics (Hyung Chul Kim) Spring 2008  
 History of Western Ethics (Myung-shin Kang) Fall 2007

▪ **Guest Lecturer**

“The Principles of Bioethics” at The Spritiual Care Department (NIH) Spring 2020  
 “Confucianism in Korea” in *Religion&Culture in Contemporary Korea* (Duke) Spring 2017

▪ **Writing Tutor**, *Duke Thomson Writing Program* Fall 2014 - Spring 2015

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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- **Board of Faculty** Honors Thesis by Shane Wilson (Duke) 2019
- **Refereeing** *Australasian Journal of Philosophy; Res Philosophica; Synthese; Philosophical Studies; Journal of Business Ethics; American Philosophical Quarterly; Journal of Value Inquiry; Organon F; Inquiry*
- **Editorial Board** *Asian-Pacific Journal of Social Quality*, 2015-
- **Research Works** RA with Allen Buchanan (Duke) 2014  
 RA with Clement Dore (Vanderbilt, retired) 2013-2014  
 RA with Owen Flanagan (Duke) 2013-2014; 2017; 2019
- **Organizing Work**  
 Organizer, Political Philosophy Reading Group, Duke University 2015  
 Co-organizer, Summer Ethics Reading Group, Duke University 2014  
 The Ockham Society Committee Member, Oxford University 2012  
 Press Assistant, XXII the World Congress of Philosophy, Seoul 2008

**REFERENCES**

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**Owen Flanagan**

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 Duke University  
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**Gopal Sreenivasan**

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**Thomas E. Hill, Jr.**

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**Roger Crisp**

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## Dissertation Abstract

### *The Virtues of Intimate Relationships*

Having good relationships with our intimates such as family members and friends is an important part of human flourishing. My dissertation aims to shed light on the importance and distinctive nature of intimate relationships by developing my own version of a virtue-ethical approach to this topic. For this purpose, I analyze ideal intimate relationships in terms of what I call “relational virtues,” which are virtues required for the participants of such relationships. The paradigmatic examples of relational virtue include filial piety (a good child’s virtue) and the virtue of friendship (a good friend’s virtue).

Many philosophers have attempted to capture the ethical value and normative significance of intimate relationships (at least ‘healthy’ ones) in terms of duty. I argue that the theories based on duty fail to capture appropriate inner attitudes that are partly constitutive of filial piety such as love and gratitude toward our parents. I then argue that the idea of a duty to love fails to capture the value and normative significance of our love for our loving parents (or ‘filial’ love) and show how a virtue-ethical approach can make better sense of it.

To improve on existing theories, I introduce the relational virtue approach to filial piety. First, a relational virtue involves a special attitude toward particular individuals, which is distinguished from love for humanity in general. Second, a relational virtue is reciprocal because its content may vary with the degree to which the other member is relationally virtuous. For example, the content of filial piety may vary with the virtuousness of the parents. Third, a relational virtue is dependent in the sense that its internal goal of engaging in a good intimate relationship cannot be achieved unless the other member is relationally virtuous as well. I proceed to show how my relational virtue view can explain some important features of filial piety suggested by Confucianism: filial piety in early childhood, the close relationship between self-cultivation and filial piety, and filial piety after parents’ decease. I then show how a relational approach to filial piety is distinguished from the traditional Confucian role-based approach.

Finally, I argue that the virtue of friendship understood as a relational virtue can make sense of the nature and value of ideal friendship. I focus on how my view of friendship differs from and improves the Aristotelian view. In particular, I argue that friendship as a relational virtue is distinguished from general virtues like benevolence or generosity. I also show how my relational view can help us better understand friendship by avoiding the sharp dichotomy between egoism and altruism.

There are two important differences between friendships and parent-child relationships: the former are more voluntarily chosen and non-hierarchical. Thus, by developing my account of relational virtue with respect to both examples, I show that the idea of relational virtue does not essentially involve either the presence or absence of choice or the presence or absence of hierarchy.

**[Post-]Graduate Coursework** (\* = audited)

**Ethics (including moral psychology, applied ethics, and metaethics)**

Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research, 2019 Fall [NIH]  
\*Well-being (Jennifer Hawkins), 2017 Spring  
\*Virtue and Emotion (Gopal Sreenivasan), 2016 Fall  
\*Attitudes in Interpersonal Relationships (Thomas Hill Jr.), 2016 Spring  
Metaethics (Simon Blackburn and Geoffrey Sayre-McCord), 2014 Fall  
Faith, Hope, and Trust (Thomas Hill Jr. and Ryan Preston-Roedder), 2014 Spring  
Freshmen Seminar (Ralph Wedgewood & Paul Lodge; half course), 2010 Michaelmas  
Individual Tutorial on Moral Philosophy (Krister Bykvist), 2010 Michaelmas  
Methodology of Ethics (Hyung Chul Kim), 2009 Spring  
Kant's Moral Philosophy (Hyung Chul Kim), 2007 Spring [taken as an undergrad student]

**Social and Political Philosophy and Philosophy of Law**

Moral Disagreement (David Wong), 2014 Fall  
Pro-seminar: Ethics and Political Philosophy (Wayne Norman), 2014 Spring  
Topics in Early Modern Political Thought: Rousseau (Ruth Grant), 2013 Fall  
Individual Tutorial on Political Philosophy and Philosophy of Law (Cécile Fabre), 2011 Trinity  
Studies in Social Ethics (Hyung Chul Kim), 2009 Spring  
Society and Ethics (Hyung Chul Kim), 2007 Fall

**Chinese and Comparative Philosophy**

\*Geography of Morals (Owen Flanagan), 2017 Fall  
\*Eastern & Western Conceptions of Human Nature, Ethics, and Politics (Owen Flanagan), 2015  
Spring  
Chinese Ethics and Western Moral Psychology (David Wong), 2013 Fall  
Comparative Ethics (Hyung Chul Kim), 2008 Spring

**History of Philosophy**

Plato: *Theaetetus* (Michael Ferejohn), 2015 Fall  
\*Mill's Utilitarianism (Cecile Fabre), 2012 Michaelmas  
Individual Tutorial on Aristotle (Ursula Coope), 2011 Hilary  
Problems of Philosophy of Hegel (Byeong Tae Yoon), 2007 Fall  
Problems of Scholastic Philosophy (Jaekyung Lee), 2008 Spring

**Philosophy of Mind and of Action**

Philosophy of Memory (Felipe de Brigard), 2013 Fall  
\*BPhil Seminar in Philosophy of Action (John Hyman & Erasmus Mayr), 2012 Michaelmas  
\*Seminar in Philosophy of Mind: Mental Events (Hwan Sunwoo), 2007 Spring

**Logic and Philosophy of Science**

Symbolic Logic (Carlotta Pavese), 2016 Spring  
Method of Empirical Science (Robert Brandon), 2015 Spring  
Informal Fallacies (Hwan Sunwoo), 2008 Fall  
Problems of Modern Logic: Conditionals (Hwan Sunwoo), 2007 Fall

**Metaphysics and Epistemology**

Pro-seminar: Metaphysics & Epistemology (Alex Rosenberg and Felipe de Brigard), 2014 Fall  
Freshmen Seminar (John Hawthorne and Oliver Pooley; half course), 2010 Michaelmas  
Problems of Analytic Philosophy: Causation (Hwan Sunwoo), 2008 Spring  
\*Philosophy of Time (Hwan Sunwoo), 2007 Spring

**Others**

Dissertation Seminar (Robert Brandon), 2017 Spring, 2018 Spring  
Teaching Philosophy (Felipe de Brigard), 2016 Spring  
Oral Communication for ITAs (Brad Teague), 2015 Fall  
[parallel course to Fundamentals in College Teaching]  
Philosophy and Literature (Owen Flanagan), 2014 Spring