

**Colin J. Lewis**

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<https://philpeople.org/profiles/colin-lewis-1>

**Areas of Specialization:** Moral psychology, Asian philosophy, ethics, philosophy of education

**Areas of Competence:** Philosophy of cognitive science, philosophy of biology, world religions

**Education:**

**Ph.D.** in Philosophy: University of Utah (2012-2017)

Dissertation: "Ritual and Moral Education: A Confucian Contribution"

Advisory Committee: E. Hutton (Chair), E. Beeghly, S. Downes, F. Margonis, E. Millgram

**M.Phil.** in Philosophy: Hong Kong University (2010-2012)

Thesis: "*Li*: An Interpretation"

Advisory Committee: C. Fraser (Chair), T. Siufu, D. Wong

**B.A.** in Philosophy (graduation with distinction): Duke University, NC (2005-2009)

Honors thesis project: "Semantics in Confucianism: *Zhengming* and the Greater Scheme"

Advisory Committee: O. Flanagan, D. Wong

**Professional Appointments:**

2017-Present: Instructor with the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Dept. of Philosophy

2018: Visiting Assistant Professor with the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations

2018: Visiting Assistant Professor with the Colorado College Dept. of Philosophy

2012-2017: Graduate Teaching Assistant with the University of Utah Dept. of Philosophy

**Honors and Awards:**

University of Utah: University Teaching Assistant Fellowship (2016-2017)

Eligible: all graduate students attending the University of Utah; 12-15 offered annually

Award: \$17700

University of Utah: Steffensen Cannon Fellowship (2016-2017)

Eligible: all humanities graduate students attending the University of Utah; 12-15 offered annually

Award: \$17700 (declined to accept University Teaching Assistant Fellowship)

## **Publications:**

### **2019**

“Vygotsky and Moral Education: A Response to and Expansion of Tappan.” *Educational Philosophy and Theory* 51.1: 41-50.

### **2018**

“Ritual Education and Moral Development: A Comparison of Xunzi and Vygotsky.” *Dao* 17.1: 81-98.

“*Yu* in the *Xunzi*: Toward a Precise Understanding.” *Asian Philosophy* 28.2: 157-169.

## **Works in Progress:**

### **Under Contract**

*Confucian Ritual and Moral Education* (Lexington Books).

## **Presentations:**

November 2019 – “Xunzi’s Ritual Model and Modern Moral Education,” Confucianism, Rituals, and Modern Life, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, South Korea

April 2019 – “Xunzi’s Ritual Program: A Practice Model of Virtue,” 2019 Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

February 2019 – “Human Nature is Ugly: A Response to Schwitzgebel,” 2019 Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Denver, CO

April 2017 – “*Yu* in the *Xunzi*: Toward a Precise Understanding,” 2017 Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Seattle, WA

January 2017 – “Ritual Education and Moral Development: A Comparison of Xunzi and Vygotsky,” 2017 Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Baltimore, MD

April 2016 – “A Response to Machery: Weaknesses of the Nomological Account of Human Nature,” Texas Tech Philosophy Graduate Conference, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

March 2016 – “On the Nomological Account of Human Nature: Evaluating its Proposed Explanatory Utility,” 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Intermountain West Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

December 2011 – “*Li*: An Interpretation,” Hong Kong University, Hong Kong

March 2010 – “Semantics in Confucianism: the Project of *Zhengming*,” 2010 Uehiro Conference, University of Hawai’i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI

**Teaching Experience** (\* denotes course has been taught in traditional and online context):

*University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (2017-Present)*

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy\* (designed course for UCCS online curriculum)  
PHIL 1300: Introduction to Philosophies of Asia  
PHIL 3490: Philosophies of China  
PHIL 3500: Buddhist Philosophy

*Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand (2018)*

PHIL 209: Special Topic: Political Philosophy East & West

*Colorado College (2018)*

PH201: History of Modern European Philosophy

*University of Utah (2012-2017)*

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy  
PHIL 1001: Ethical Dilemmas\*  
PHIL 1003: Philosophy and Human Nature\*  
PHIL 3011: Philosophy and Moral Education (designed course as part of UTA Award)  
PHIL 3640: World Religions\*

*Hong Kong University (2011-2012)*

PHIL 2420: Chinese Philosophy – Metaphysics (as teaching assistant)

**Professional Service:**

Coordinator and developer for *Philosophy in the City* event series at UCCS Downtown, 2018-present

Reviewer for *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*

Reviewer for *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*

Department Representative to UCCS Heller Center for the Arts and Humanities, 2017-present

Reviewer and commentator for Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, 2017

Guest lecture at Brigham Young University: “Xunzi and Moral Education,” 2016

As PHIL 1000 instructor: instructor participant in “Arts & Advocacy” BlockU Program, <http://blocku.utah.edu/>, University of Utah, 2016

Lecturer for Tanner Humanities Center Gateway to Learning Educators’ Summer Workshop: “Survey of Ancient Chinese Civilization: Philosophical Foundations,” 2014

Co-organizer for Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference, University of Utah, 2014

**Dissertation Abstract:**

“Ritual and Moral Education: A Confucian Contribution”

This dissertation argues that the Confucian notion of ritual (*li* 禮), can make substantial contributions to contemporary work in moral education. Specifically, I argue that ritual provides a necessary supplement to Lev Vygotsky’s social learning theory, one of the most plausible theories of cognitive development currently available. According to Vygotsky, language is the primary tool by which we acquire knowledge and skills. From the perspective of moral development, however, this picture is too reductive: we do not learn to be good through discourse alone. We must also acquire prosocial habits and practices, and this is an end to which ritual can readily contribute.

**Professional References:**

Eric Hutton – Associate Professor, University of Utah, Philosophy; Director of Graduate Studies; eric.hutton@utah.edu, 801-581-7320

Stephen Downes – Professor, University of Utah, Philosophy; s.downes@utah.edu, 801-581-6094

Erin Beeghly – Assistant Professor, University of Utah, Philosophy; erin.beeghly@utah.edu, 801-581-8161

Frank Margonis – Professor, University of Utah, Education, Culture & Society; frank.maronis@utah.edu, 801-587-7814

Elijah Millgram – Professor, University of Utah, Philosophy; elijah.millgram@gmail.com, 801-581-7017

Matt Haber – Associate Professor, University of Utah, Philosophy; Department Chair; matt.haber@utah.edu, 801-585-3765

Sonja Tanner – Associate Professor, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; Department Chair; stanner@uccs.edu, 719-255-4085