

## **Benedict Chan**

### *Curriculum Vitae*

Philosophy Department  
Tulane University  
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#### **Education**

PhD, Philosophy, University of Maryland, 2011

MA, Philosophy, University of Maryland, 2006

Postgraduate Student, Philosophy, University of Hong Kong, 2001-2003

BS, Philosophy and Economics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2001

#### **Employment**

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy Department and Asian Studies Program,  
Tulane University, 2011- Present

#### **Areas of Specialization**

Social & Political Philosophy, Applied Ethics & Moral Philosophy, Comparative  
Political Theory (Chinese and Western)

#### **Areas of Competence**

Chinese Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Mind, Critical Thinking,  
Introductory Logic

#### **Awards and Honors**

Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Humanities, Tulane University, 2011-  
Present

Jacob K Goldhaber Travel Grant Award, Graduate School, University of Maryland,  
2007

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Philosophy Department, University of Maryland,  
2003-2011

Postgraduate Studentship, University of Hong Kong, 2001-2003

Graduated with Distinction, University of Wisconsin Madison, 2001

Honors in the Philosophy Major, University of Wisconsin Madison, 2001

Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin Madison, Fall 1998, Spring 1998, 1999 &  
2000

## Research and Publications

### Doctoral Dissertation

*An East and West Debate on Human Rights* (Supervisor: Christopher W. Morris),  
University of Maryland, 2011

### Book Review:

*Beyond Liberal Democracy: Political Thinking for an East Asian Context*, by Daniel Bell, *Hong Kong Journal of Social Sciences*, 35 (Fall 2008): 215-222 [Written in Chinese]

### Introductory Chinese Book Chapters:

〈從基督教、羅爾斯到柯亨：簡述左翼政治與平等主義〉，《基督教與現代社會的爭論——道德、政治與「宗教右派」》，關啟文、蔡志森編（香港：天道出版社，2012年），73-88 [Translation: “From Christianity, John Rawls, to G.A. Cohen: An Introduction to Political Left and Egalitarianism,” in *Debates between Christianity and Modern Society—Ethics, Politics, and “Religious Right,”* eds. Kwan Kai Man & Choi Chi Sum (Hong Kong: Tien Dao Publishing House Ltd., 2012), 73-88]

〈從洛克的自然權利到諾齊克的最小國家：簡述一個政治哲學上的右派〉，《宗教右派》，羅永生、龔主人編（香港：Dirty Press, 2010年），19-36 [Translation: “From Locke’s Natural Rights to Nozick’s Minimal State,” in *Religious Right*, eds. Law Wing-sang & Kung Lap Yan (Hong Kong: Dirty Press, 2010), 19-36]

〈經濟學與倫理學互不相干？——從哲學的觀點看道德哲學對經濟分析的影響〉，《經濟商業生活與基督教倫理》，張國棟編（香港：FES出版社，2006年），113-130 [Translation: “Is Economics Irrelevant to Moral Philosophy?” in *Economic Life and Christian Ethics*, ed. Cheung Kwok-Tung (Hong Kong: FES Press, 2006), 113-130]

### Journal Articles

“An East and West Debate on Rights to Physical Security and Rights to Political Liberty” (under review)

“Universality and Relativity of Human Rights” (in progress)

“Developing an ‘Agreement Theory’ of Human Rights” (in progress)

“An East and West Debate on Human Dignity and Human Rights” (in progress)

### Newspaper and Magazines:

I have published extensively in public media. For the full list of my publication in public media, please see

<http://www.terpconnect.umd.edu/~bschan/Publication%20List.pdf>

**Academic Conferences (Referred)**

- “Are Civil and Political Rights Universal Rights? An East Asian Challenge and Reply,” *8th Annual Midwest Conference on Chinese Thought*, Indiana University, Bloomington, April 13-15, 2012
- “Are Human Rights Universal or Relative to Different Cultures? – A Minimal Account of Human Rights,” *2012 Philosophy Symposium*, Department of English, Classics, and Philosophy, University of Texas at San Antonio, March 30-31, 2012
- “An East and West Debate on Political Rights and Civil Rights,” group session in *American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese and Western Philosophy*, December 30, 2011
- “An East and West Debate on the Cultural Justification of Human Rights,” *Beijing International Conference on Human Rights*, Institute of Philosophy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, October 15-17, 2010
- “Confucianism and Human Rights,” *The Contemporary Significance of Confucianism: Implications for Harmonious Society, Sustainable Development, and World Peace*, Asian Division, Library of Congress, and Confucius Institute at the University of Maryland, January 24-25, 2008
- “Is Synaesthesia a Counterexample to Representationalism?,” *Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and MIND Association*, University of Bristol, U.K., July 8-10, 2007
- “Putting Synaesthesia into Representational Theories of Consciousness,” *Conference on Analytical Philosophy*, Soochow University, Taiwan R.O.C., June 20-23, 2007

**Public Presentations (Invited)**

- “The Problem of Global Justice,” Hong Kong Society of Humanistic Philosophy, July 13, 2006
- “Dialogue Between Christianity and Confucianism,” Hong Kong Society of Humanistic Philosophy, July 19, 2005
- “The Next Generation of Analytical Philosophy,” Hong Kong Society of Humanistic Philosophy, July 12, 2005

**Teaching Experience**

Instructor (Tulane)	Phil 3932 <i>Political Philosophy, East &amp; West</i>	Spring 2012
	Phil 2931 <i>Chinese Philosophy</i>	Fall 2011
Instructor (U. of Maryland)	Phil 236 <i>Philosophy of Religion</i> (Online)	Summer 2008, 2009, & 2010
	Phil 209A <i>Chinese Philosophy</i>	Spring 2007 & 2008
	Phil 140 <i>Contemporary Moral Issues</i>	Fall 2008
	Phil 170 <i>Introduction to Logic</i>	Summer 2005
Teaching Assistant (U. of Maryland)	Phil 236 <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>	Fall 2006, Fall 2007
	Phil 230 <i>Philosophy of the Arts</i>	Spring 2011
	Phil 170 <i>Introduction to Logic</i>	Fall 2004, Spring 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2008, Spring 2010, Fall 2010
	Phil 140 <i>Contemporary Moral Issues</i>	Fall 2003
	Phil 100 <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i>	Spring 2004, Fall 2005, Spring 2009, Fall 2009
Tutor (U. of Hong Kong)	Phil 1005 <i>Critical Thinking and Logic</i>	Fall 2002

**Language**

English, Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese)

**Service**

Management Committee Member, Roundtable Institute, Hong Kong, 2010-Present  
 Deputy Chief Campaigner, Roundtable Community, Hong Kong, 2008- Present  
 President, Hong Kong and Cantonese Student Association, University of Maryland,  
 2005-2006  
 Committee Member, Hong Kong Society of Humanistic Philosophy, 2001-Present  
 Student Representative of the Philosophy Department in the Arts Research  
 Postgraduate Student Committee, University of Hong Kong, 2001-2003  
 Vice-Chairperson of Hong Kong Students Association, University of Wisconsin  
 Madison, 1999-2000  
 Chief Editor of Hong Kong Mug Publisher (HKMUG), University of Wisconsin  
 Madison, 1999-2000  
 Vice-chairperson of Chinese Student Association, University of Wisconsin Madison,  
 1998-1999

**Graduate Courses at University of Maryland**

## Moral &amp; Political Philosophy

Phil 640 *Value Theory* (Patricia Greenspan)  
 Phil 688P *Politics, Philosophy and Public Policy* (Christopher Morris)  
 Phil 828 *Rousseau* (Andrew Levine)  
 Phil 848 *Global Justice and Order* (Christopher Morris)  
 Phil 808C *Social Choice* (Michael Morreau) [audited]

## Philosophy of Mind

Phil 688P *Philosophy of Psychology: Representation* (Georges Rey)  
 Phil 879C *Architecture of Mind* (Peter Carruthers)

## Philosophy of Science

Phil 651 *Philosophy of Science* (Jeffrey Bub)  
 Phil 688Q *Philosophy of Physics* (Jeffrey Bub)  
 Phil 858P *What is Information* (Jeffrey Bub)

## Metaphysics, Language &amp; Logic

Phil 660 *Metaphysics, Mind and Language* (Michael Morreau)  
 Phil 688Y *Logical Theory I* (Michael Morreau)  
 Phil 688T *20<sup>th</sup> Century Analytical Philosophy* (Michael Morreau)

**References**

Christopher Morris (Dissertation Supervisor) Department of Philosophy University of Maryland, College Park <a href="mailto:cwmorris@umd.edu">cwmorris@umd.edu</a>	Dan Moller Department of Philosophy University of Maryland, College Park <a href="mailto:dmoller@umd.edu">dmoller@umd.edu</a>
Chuan Sheng Liu Director of Confucius Institute University of Maryland, College Park <a href="mailto:cslu@umd.edu">cslu@umd.edu</a>	Allen Stairs (Teaching Reference) Department of Philosophy University of Maryland, College Park <a href="mailto:stairs@umd.edu">stairs@umd.edu</a>

**Dissertation Abstract**

Title: *An East and West Debate on Human Rights*

Committee:

Professor Christopher Morris (Supervisor)

Dr. David Crocker

Dr. Xiaorong Li

Professor Dan Moller

Professor Karol Soltan

In an East and West debate on human rights, scholars from different cultures disagree on whether all civil and political rights are human rights. While they generally agree that basic civil rights such as rights against torture and slavery (i.e., physical security rights) are human rights, some of them argue that traditional political rights in the West such as freedom of speech and political participation (i.e., liberal rights) are not human rights. Some scholars, such as Daniel A. Bell, argue that liberal rights are not human rights because liberal rights conflict with some East Asian cultures.

In my dissertation, I argue that both physical security rights and liberal rights are human rights, and explain the relationship between these rights and East Asian cultures. I argue that if liberal rights are not human rights because they conflict with some East Asian cultures, then physical security rights are also not human rights because physical security rights also conflict with some East Asian cultures.

I then discuss the idea from Bell and Michael Walzer that physical security rights are human rights because they are minimal values. Based on their idea, I explain what minimal values are, and why it is possible to develop maximal theories of them in East Asian cultures. I conclude that since physical security rights are minimal values, they are still human rights even they conflict with some East Asian cultures.

I then argue that similar to physical security rights, liberal rights are also minimal values, and it is possible to develop some maximal theories of them in East Asian cultures. Therefore, similar to physical security rights, liberal rights are also human rights even they also conflict with some East Asian cultures.

I also discuss other human rights debates, especially the debates between Bell and other philosophers. Charles Taylor argues for an overlapping consensus approach on human rights; Jack Donnelly argues for a Western liberalist approach on human rights. I explain the relationship between these approaches and my arguments, and how my arguments can help them to reply to the challenges from Bell.