

Mingyi Xiao

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EDUCATION

- 2023-** **University of California, Santa Barbara**
Ph.D., Comparative Literature Program
Dissertation: “African Influencers Going Viral in China: Toward a Theory of Racialized Over-Performance.”
Committee: Hangping Xu (chair), Yunte Huang, Sabine Frühstück, Ayo A. Coly (external member; Dartmouth College)
- 2020-2023** **Tsinghua University**
MA, Literary Theory, Department of Chinese Literature
- 2016-2020** **Peking University**
BA, Philosophy
BA, Chinese Literature (Double major)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Modern and contemporary Chinese literature and culture; Africa-China connections in literature and digital media; Media theories; Critical race studies; Postcolonial theory and Global South; Francophone literature; Chinese philosophy; Continental philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Articles

- 2024** “Emptiness and Otherness: A Comparison Between the ‘Gift Debate’ in French Postmodern Thought and Dāna Pāramitā in Mahāyāna Buddhism.” *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*, [ISSN 1076-9005](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1076900524000000), vol. 31, 2024, pp. 369-95.
- 2026** “Buddhism Reconfigured Through Language: Reflection from a Chinese Temple in Tanzania.” [Global China Pulse](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1076900524000000), Sep 22, 2026.
- Forthcoming** “‘Becoming a Chinese Wife’: Digital Subjectivity, Platform Geopolitics, and the Aesthetics of Ugandan Influencer Rose Adikin’s Media Ecology.” *Cultural Studies*.
- Under review** “Sanmao’s Multi-Mediated Homesickness, For Sahara and China.” *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*.

Translation Project

Jean Hyppolite, *Genèse et Structure de la Phénoménologie de l’Ésprit de Hegel*. 2 volumes, from French into Chinese, with a contract to be published within 3 years. (让·伊波利特：《黑格尔<精神现象学>的发生与结构》) 西北大学出版社 (Northwest University Press)

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- 2026** “Chinese Affect Authenticated: Rwandan Covers of Nostalgic Sinophone Songs.” AAS-Henry Luce Foundation Dissertation Workshop, Shanghai, Oct 3-5, 2026.
- 2025** “[Resistance, Revival, and Reinvention: How the Global South Imagines the Future](#).” Invited roundtable speaker, organized by Chongqing University, Jul 2025. Published in *Tianya Magazine* (《天涯》), Jan 2026.
- 2025** “Rearticulating Affective Infrastructure—Exploring Narratives of Africa in Chinese Podcasts.” Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network Conference and Symposium, Hong Kong, May 15-16, 2025.
- 2025** “Rearticulating Affective Infrastructure—Exploring Narratives of Africa in Chinese Podcasts.” Berkeley-Stanford Graduate Student Conference on Modern Chinese Humanities, San Francisco, Apr 11-12, 2025.
- 2024** “Emptiness and Otherness: A Comparison Between the ‘Gift Debate’ in French Postmodern Thought and Dāna Pāramitā in Mahāyāna Buddhism.” World Congress of Philosophy, Rome, Aug 4, 2024.
- 2024** “Beyond Auto-Deconstruction: Exploring Gift and Gratitude in Baudelaire’s Counterfeit and Zhou Zuoren’s ‘Relation-Tying Beans.’” ACLA Annual Meeting, Montréal, Mar 15, 2024.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Comparative Literature, UC Santa Barbara

2025 “Literature of Paris,” Fall 2025

Teaching Assistant, Comparative Literature and East Asian Studies, UC Santa Barbara

2026 “Asian Literature,” Spring 2024, Spring 2026

2026 “Global Humanities,” Winter 2026

2026 “Advanced Chinese in Practice,” Spring 2026

2025 “Major Works of European Literature: Renaissance Literature,” Winter 2025

2024 “Major Works of European Literature: Classical Literature,” Fall 2024

2024 “Major Works of European Literature: Modern Literature,” Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant, Santa Barbara Chinese School

2026 Beginning- through advanced-level Chinese courses for K–12 and adult learners, Fall 2026

Teaching Assistant, Tsinghua University

2022 “Introduction to Western Moral Philosophy,” Fall 2022

2021 “The Way of Academics,” Spring 2021

AWARDS AND HONORS

2026	China Studies Kwang Research Accelerator Award, UCSB
2026	Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Comparative Literature, UCSB
2026	Dissertation Fellowship, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UCSB
2025	Center for Taiwan Studies Graduate Research Award, UCSB
2023	Max Kade Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara
2021	Tsinghua University Foreign Study Supplement
2020	Outstanding Graduate of Beijing (second place in major)
2020	Outstanding Graduate of Peking University (second place in major)
2019, 2017	National Scholarship (first place in major)

PARTICIPATED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Jul-Aug 2025	French Immersion Program, Middlebury College Summer school, in Vermont
Jul 2024	The Institute for World Literature, Harvard University Summer school, in Nicosia, Cyprus
Aug 2022 - Jan 2023	Exchange Semester, Sorbonne University Department of Philosophy, in Paris, France

SERVICE AND PUBLIC HUMANITIES ENGAGEMENT

Aug-Oct 2026	Social Media Fellow, State of Mind Café
Jul 2026	Creator, Africa-China Soundmap
2025, 2026	Editor, Comparative Literature Newsletter

LANGUAGES

Mandarin: native; **English:** near-native; **French:** high proficiency, DALF C1 certificate