

# New Directions in Philosophy

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

October 11, 2024 | 9:30 am - 4 pm

Swan Hall, 154 Hoffman Room

*Breakfast and lunch will be served*



## Yi-Ping Ong

“The Hum of the Own:

Kierkegaard, Knausgaard, and Nelson on Existence in the Present Age”

What does it mean to reveal or disclose one’s self in our present age? For writers such as Kierkegaard, Knausgaard, and Nelson, the task of literature is to enact self-revelation in a world in which we are becoming unreal to ourselves and to each other.

**Yi-Ping Ong** (she/her) is Associate Professor of Comparative Thought and Literature at Johns Hopkins University. Her book *The Art of Being: Poetics of the Novel and Existentialist Philosophy* (Harvard University Press, 2018) examines authority, freedom, and self-knowledge in the history and theory of the novel and in existentialist thought. Other work on nineteenth- and twentieth- century philosophy and literature has appeared in *PMLA*, *Philosophy and Literature*, *Comparative Literature*, *Twentieth-Century Literature*, *Post45*, *nonsite*, and *The Harvard Review*. Her current project explores the power of literary form to illuminate structures of oppression, inauthenticity, and dehumanization.

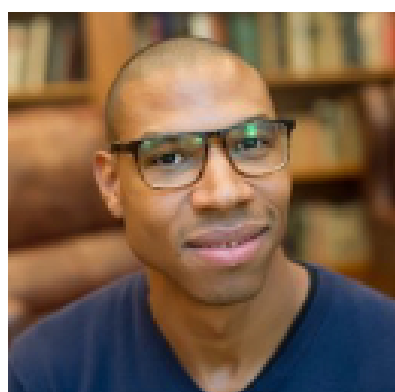


## Hannah Kim

“Fiction without Mimesis: a comparative philosophy of fiction”

Is ‘fiction’ a transhistorical and transcultural concept? If so, why has it been so difficult to come up with a satisfactory definition for it? I argue that fiction is a concept that responds to a philosophical culture’s given metaphysical framework, and that there is no unifying or general concept ‘fiction’ that applies across all frameworks. Observing how classical Chinese metaphysics affected their theories and practice of fiction shows us what the aims and methods should be for analytic philosophy of fiction.

**Hannah Kim** (she/her) is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Arizona. She works on aesthetics, metaphysics, and Asian philosophy.



## Amir Jaima

“Literary Analysis of the Man-Not *avant la lettre*:

Ishmael Reed’s and Richard Wright’s Early Contributions to Black Male Studies”

In this short piece, I will examine two works of fiction, which I propose to include within the developing canon of Black Male Studies literature and scholarship. Richard Wright’s short story, “Big Black Good Man,” and Ishmael Reed’s satirical novel, *Reckless Eyeballing* (1986). Ultimately, I will argue that Reed’s narrative performatively proffers two insightful and invaluable criteria for evaluating depictions of Black men. I characterize these criteria as truthfulness and beauty.

**Amir Jaima** Born in the Caribbean, archipelago nation of Antigua and Barbuda, Dr. Amir Jaima is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Texas A&M University (TAMU). He completed his doctoral studies in Philosophy at SUNY Stony Brook in 2014. His current research is on Black Aesthetics, which characterizes the convergence of Aesthetics and Africana Philosophy. Additionally, he is interested in Gender/Genre Theory (specifically Black Male Studies) and Continental Philosophy. Finally, Amir is a creative writer and has a number of working “literary” projects that both inform and are inspired by his philosophical work.

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