

**David Machek**  
Curriculum Vitae, January 2024

Institut für Philosophie  
Universität Bern  
Länggassstrasse 49a  
3012 Bern, Switzerland  
[david.machek@philo.unibe.ch](mailto:david.machek@philo.unibe.ch)  
<https://sites.google.com/view/davidmachek/>

Institute of Philosophy and Religious Studies  
Charles University  
nám. Jana Palacha 1/2  
116 38 Praha 1, Czech Republic  
[david.machek@ff.cuni.cz](mailto:david.machek@ff.cuni.cz)

## **FIELDS OF EXPERTISE**

AoS: Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy; Early Chinese Philosophy  
AoC: Normative Ethics

## **EDUCATION**

2021            Habilitation (*venia docendi*) in Philosophy, Universität Bern  
2015            Ph.D. University of Toronto (Chinese and Comparative Philosophy)  
2008            M.A. Charles University, Prague (Philosophy and Sinology)  
                         five-year, double-major program

## **EMPLOYMENT**

09/23–            Principal Investigator, “Role Ethics in Ancient and Contemporary  
                         Philosophy”, Charles University  
01/23–            Lecturer, Philosophy, University of Berne  
01/19–12/22    Research Fellow, Philosophy, University of Berne (SNSF-Ambizione)  
01/16–12/18    Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy, University of Berne  
09/09–06/15    Teaching Assistant & Course Instructor, East Asian Studies, University of  
                         Toronto

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Monographs**

Forth.            *Self-Cultivation in Greek and Chinese Philosophy*. London: Bloomsbury  
                         Press.  
2023            *The Life Worth Living in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy*. Cambridge:  
                         Cambridge University Press.  
                         Reviewed by Rick Benitez, *The Classical Review* (2023, [online first](#))  
2016            *Chinese Thought From Within: An Anthology of Traditional Chinese  
                         Commentaries on the Zhuangzi*. Faculty of Arts, Charles University.  
                         (In Czech)

## Edited Volumes

- Forth. *Plato's Gorgias. Proceedings of the Twelfth Symposium Platonicum Pragense.*  
Leiden - Boston: Brill. (co-edited with Vladimír Mikeš)
- 2021 *Attention in Ancient Philosophy.*  
Special Issue of *Rhizomata* 9.2 (co-edited with Máté Veres)

## Articles and Volume Chapters

- Forth. "Warum ist Unrechtun für den Unrechttuenden schlimmer als Unrechtleiden Unrechtleiden?" In *Plato's Gorgias (Proceedings of Symposium Platonicum Pragense)*, ed. by D. Machek and V. Mikeš.  
Leiden - Boston: Brill.
- 2023 "Die Vier-personae-Theorie in *De Officiis*." In *Cicero: De Officiis* (series *Klassiker Auslegen*), ed. by P. Brüllmann and J. Müller. De Gruyter, 107–122.
- 2023 "Expert Impressions in Stoicism." *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 105.2: 241–64. (equally co-authored with Máté Veres)
- 2022 "Vice and Impoverishment: Two Perfectionist Bads." *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, online-first version.
- 2022 "Aristotle on the Goodness of Unhappy Lives." *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 60.3: 359–83.
- 2022 "Aristotle on How Pleasure Perfects Activity (*Nicomachean Ethics* x.5, 1175a29-b14): The Optimising-View." *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 104.3: 448–467.
- 2022 "Can One Become Wise by Learning to Catch Cicadas? Analogies between Crafts and Wisdom in Daoism and Stoicism." In *Skill in Ancient Ethics* ed. by T. Angier and L. Raphals. London: Bloomsbury Press, 307–328.
- 2021 "Mengzi on Nourishing the Heart by Having Few Desires (7B.35)." *Philosophy East and West* 71.2: 393–413.
- 2021 "Freunde aufgrund des Lebens: Eine aristotelische Theorie der Freundschaft zwischen Eltern und Kindern." *Zeitschrift für praktische Philosophie* 8.1: 37–60.
- 2021 "Is the life of a mediocre metaphysician better than the life of an excellent cobbler? Aristotle on the value of activity in *Nicomachean Ethics* x." *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, online-first version.
- 2021 "Introduction." In *Attention in Ancient Philosophy*, ed. by D. Machek and M. Veres. Special Issue of *Rhizomata* 9.2, 151–156.
- 2020 "Aristotle on Enkratic Ignorance." *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 58.4: 655–678.
- 2020 "Two Stoic Accounts of Psychological Conflict." *Ancient Philosophy* 40.2: 389–409.
- 2020 "Pozdější tradiční čínské komentáře k Zhuangzi (Cheng Xuanying, Lin Xiyi, Wang Fuzhi)" ["Later Traditional Commentaries on the Zhuangzi"]. In

- Čínský, japonský korejský taoismus [*Chinese, Japanese and Korean Daoism*], ed. by J. Beran and O. Král, Praha: Argo, 153–167.
- 2019 “Skills and Emotions in the Zhuangzi.” In *Skill and Mastery. Philosophical Stories from the Zhuangzi*, ed. by K. Lai and Waiwai Chiu. Rowman & Littlefield.
- 2018 “Did Seneca Accede to μετριοπάθεια in His Consolatory Texts?” *Ancient Philosophy* 38.2: 383–408.
- 2018 “Carving, Taming, or Gardening? Plutarch on Emotions, Reason and Virtue.” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 26.2: 255–275.
- 2018 “Stoics and Daoists on Freedom As Doing Necessary Things.” *Philosophy East and West* 68.1: 174–200.
- 2016 “Using Our Selves: An Interpretation of the Stoic Four-personae Theory in Cicero’s De Officiis I.” *Apeiron: A Journal of Ancient Philosophy and Science* 49.2: 163–191.
- 2015 “Emotions That Do Not Move: Zhuangzi and Stoics on self-emerging feelings”. *Dao: Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 14.4: 521–544.
- 2011 “The Doubleness of Craft: Motifs of Technical Action in the Life Praxis according to Aristotle and Zhuangzi”. *Dao: Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 10.4: 507–526.
- 2011 “Tao Yuanming: *Tělo, duch, stín*. Filosofická reflexe smrti ve středověké čínské lyrice. Překlad a Interpretace” [“Tao Yuanming: *Body, Soul and Spirit*. A Philosophical Reflection on Death in Medieval Chinese Poetry. Translation and Interpretation]. In *Acta Universitatis Carolinae, Orientalia Pragensia XVI*, ed. by Olga Lomová. Prague: Charles University, 57–78. (In Czech)

### Book Reviews

- 2023 “Ancient Philosophy Today”, *Classical Review*. (Triple review of *Living Toward Virtue* by P. Woodruff; *Living for Pleasure: An Epicurean Guide to Life* by E. Austin; *Learning to Live Naturally: Stoic Ethics and its Modern Significance* by C. Gill.)
- 2017 Review of *The Ethical Foundations of Early Daoism: Zhuangzi’s Unique Moral Vision*, by Jung Lee. *Dao: Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 17.1: 129–132.
- 2009 Review of *Konfucius v zrcadle sebraných výroků* by Jaromír Vochala. *Reflexe* 38. (In Czech)

### Commissioned Work (in progress)

“Stoics on Badness and Weakness and the Chinese Parallels”. Commissioned for *Patterns of Evil in Chinese and Greco-Roman Antiquity*, ed. by P. Kontos and R. King.

“Ethics of Vitality in the Zhuangzi and Plotinus.” Commissioned for *Green Antiquity: Sino-Hellenic Environmental Philosophy*, ed. by J. Torres, Y. Suzuki and R. King.

## LANGUAGES

Native	Czech, Slovak
Excellent	English, German, Classical Chinese (reading)
Good	Modern Chinese, Classical Greek (reading), Latin (reading)
Intermediate	French

## GRANTS

2023–2027	Charles University Prague, PRIMUS funding scheme Research group <i>Role-Ethics in Ancient and Contemporary Philosophy</i> 11'500'000 CZK (= US\$ 470'000)
2019–2022	Swiss National Science Foundation, <i>Ambizione</i> Career Funding Scholarship Project <i>Carving Up Moral Motivation in Greek and Chinese Thought</i> 620'000 CHF (= US\$ 630'000)
2011–2014	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Canada, <i>Canada Graduate Vanier Scholarship</i> Can\$ 150'000

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2023	<i>Teaching Excellence Award</i> (“Anerkennung der hervorragenden Leistungen in Lehre”), Universität Bern
2015	<i>Best Essay Contest</i> , US\$ 3'000 Charles Fu Foundation and International Society for Chinese Philosophy
2014–2015	<i>Julia Ching Memorial Fellowship in Chinese Thought and Culture</i> , Can\$ 24'000 University of Toronto
2009–2010	<i>Avie Bennett Scholarship</i> , Can\$ 20'000 University of Toronto

## CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

2019	<i>Moral Psychology of Attention in Ancient Philosophy</i> University of Berne, 2–3 September.
2017	<i>The Good Life and the Art of Feeling: Emotions as Skills in Chinese and Graeco- Roman ethics.</i> University of Berne, 7–9 June.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2024 “Stoics on social roles and happiness.” *Modelling Happiness* project, University of Oslo, Jan 29.
- 2023 “Some Remarks on the Confucian *li* 禮 and the Stoic *decorum*.” Conference *How Important is the Philosophical Canon? Concrete Applications from Greek and Chinese Philosophies*, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, October 31.
- 2023 “The desire for activity in *De Finibus* 5.” Department of Philosophy, University of Fribourg, October 16.
- 2023 “Aristotle on Knowledge and Pleasure.” *Ancient Philosophy Professorship Appointment Symposium*, Technische Universität Nürnberg, August 14.
- 2023 “Stoics on Badness as Weakness.” Workshop *Theories of Evil in Greek and Chinese Philosophy*, University of Patras, 7-8 July.
- 2022 “Roles and Names in Ancient Greek and Chinese Philosophy.” Symposium on *zheng ming*. Charles University, Prague, November 18.
- 2022 “Aristotle on the Goodness of Unhappy Lives.” Departmental Talk, Universität Leipzig, 30 June.
- 2022 “Die Theorie der Vier-Personae (*Off.* i.107-122).” Workshop *Cicero’s De Officiis: Ein kooperativer Kommentar*. Munich School of Ancient Philosophy, LMU Munich, 10 June.
- 2022 “Das gute Leben als ein gelungenes Rollenspiel.” Ringvorlesung *Themen in der Antiken Philosophie* Universität Erlangen, 18 January.
- 2021 “Zhuangzi’s Ethics of Vitality.” Conference *Sino-Hellenic Environmental Philosophy* University of Berne, 11 December.
- 2021 “Aristotle on How Pleasure Completes Activity.” GAPh Workshop *Pleasure and Pain in Ancient Philosophy* Universität Erlangen, 16 April.
- 2021 “Vice and Impoverishment: Two Perfectionist Bads.” Departmental Talk, Lingnan University, 22 March.
- 2020 “Aristoteles über die Freundschaft zwischen Eltern und Kindern.” Departmental Talk, University of Berne, 26 March.
- 2019 “Warum ist Unrechtun schlimmer als Unrechtleiden?” *Twelfth Symposium Platonicum Pragense* Czech Plato Society, Prague, 15 November.
- 2019 “Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics viii.12.” Meeting of *The Southeast-European Association for Ancient Philosophy*. Charles University, Prague, 15 October.
- 2019 “Xunzi on Emotions.” 3rd Biennial Conference, *European Association for Chinese Philosophy*. Gent University, 4–7 September.
- 2019 “Expert Impressions in Stoicism.” (with Máté Veres) Workshop *Moral Psychology of Attention in Ancient Philosophy* University of Berne, 2 September
- 2019 “Stoics and Daoists on Doing Things Well.”

- 21st International Conference, *International Society of Chinese Philosophy*. University of Berne, 4 July.
- 2018 “Aristotle’s *Rhetorics* i.6.”  
Meeting of *The Southeast-European Association for Ancient Philosophy*. Charles University, Prague, 23 November.
- 2018 “Roles and the self behind the roles: A difficult relationship?”  
Symposium *Comparing Virtues, Roles, Duties in early China and Graeco-Roman antiquity*. Renmin Universität, Beijing, 5–8 July.
- 2017 “Mengzi, Zhuangzi and Xunzi on the structure of the self.”  
2nd Biennial Conference, *European Association for Chinese Philosophy*. University of Basel, 8 September.
- 2017 “Aristotle on akrasia and eating sweets in theatre.”  
Conference *The Good Life and the Art of Feeling: Emotions as Skills in Chinese and Graeco-Roman ethics*. University of Berne, 7 June.
- 2016 “Feelings Without Desires: Art of Feeling in Mengzi and Zhuangzi.”  
Department of Oriental Languages, University of Oslo, 6 December.
- 2016 “Stoics on the Recalcitrance of Emotions.”  
*Thymos* Group, University of Geneva, 17 November.
- 2016 “China Warring States views about self-cultivation and role-defined self.”  
Conference *Ancient Chinese and Greek perspective on cultivation*. University of New South Wales, Sydney, 15–18 January.
- 2014 “The craft of living according to Zhuangzi and Stoicism.”  
Conference *Analogies, Models and Images in early Chinese and Greco-Roman Ethics*. University of Berne, 11 December.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- In Berne “Methodenkurs: Philosophisches Schreiben”  
BA Proseminar, Spring & Fall 2023
- “The Epicurean Happiness”  
MA Seminar, Fall 2022 (In German)
- “Klassiker I: Introduction to Ancient and Medieval Philosophy”  
BA Introductory Lecture, Fall 2021 (In German)
- “Self-Cultivation in Ancient Greece and Early China”  
MA Seminar, Fall 2021
- “The Value of Life in Ancient and Contemporary Philosophy”  
BA Seminar, Spring 2021
- “Klassiker I: Introduction to Ancient Philosophy”  
BA Introductory Lecture, Fall 2020 and 2019 (In German)
- “Plato’s *Gorgias*”  
BA Seminar, Spring 2020 (In German)
- “Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*”  
BA Seminar, Spring 2019 (In German)
- “Akrasia in Ancient and Contemporary Thought”  
BA Seminar, Spring 2018
- “Virtues and Duties in China and Greece” (with R. King)  
MA Seminar, Fall 2016

- In Toronto    “Chinese Philosophy”  
                   BA Introductory Course, Fall 2014  
                   “Classical Daoism”  
                   BA Seminar, Fall 2013  
                   “History of Chinese Philosophy”  
                   BA Introductory Course, Summer 2012
- In Prague      “Freedom in Continental Philosophy”  
                   BA Seminar, Fall 2008 (In Czech)

## **GRADUATE SUPERVISION & MENTORSHIP**

Post-doc:

Dr. Laura Fearnley  
     “Role Ethics” project, Charles University, since 09/23

Ph.D. students:

Leonard Bregenzner  
     “Art of Living in Seneca”, Department of Philosophy, University of Berne  
     the main supervisor, since 09/21

Václav Valtr,  
     “Structure and Temporality of the *Guanzi*”, Charles University, co-supervisor

Filip Váňa,  
     “Normativity of Nature: To the roots of ethical naturalism”, Charles  
     University, co-supervisor

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

Referee for    Cambridge University Press, Bloomsbury Press, *Australasian Journal of  
                   Philosophy, Inquiry, Journal of the History of Philosophy, British Journal for  
                   the History of Philosophy, Philosophy East and West, Dao: Journal of  
                   Comparative Philosophy, Philosophy Compass, Journal of East Asian  
                   Philosophy*

## **EXTRA TRAINING**

2003–4        9-month intensive training in modern and classical Chinese, Sichuan  
                   University, Chengdu

2021           Certification in University Didactics, University of Berne

## **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

2023           “What’s a life worth living? For the ancients, it depends”. A popularizing  
                   piece for *Psyche* blog (*Aeon* magazine)

2007–9        high school teacher of Philosophy, Gymnázium Jana Keplera, Prague

## REFERENCES

Brad Inwood  
William Lampson Professor of Philosophy and Classics  
Department of Classics, Yale University  
344 College Street  
New Haven CT 06520-8266  
brad.inwood@yale.edu

Philipp Brüllmann  
Professur für Antike Philosophie  
Philosophisches Seminar  
Universität Heidelberg  
Schulgasse 6  
69 117 Heidelberg, Germany  
Philipp.bruellmann@uni-heidelberg.de

Richard King  
Chair of the History of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy, Universität Bern  
Länggassstrasse 49a  
3012 Bern, Switzerland  
[richard.king@philo.unibe.ch](mailto:richard.king@philo.unibe.ch)

Karyn Lynne Lai  
Professor of Philosophy  
School of Humanities and Languages  
University of New South Wales  
326 Morven Brown  
Sydney NSW 2052, Australia  
k.lai@unsw.edu.au

Karel Thein  
Professor of Ancient and Early Modern Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies  
Faculty of Arts, Charles University  
Nám. Jana Palacha 1-2  
116 38 Prague, Czech Republic  
karel.thein@ff.cuni.cz

David Chai  
Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Fung King Hey Building  
Hong Kong  
david.chai@cuhk.edu.hk