

Curriculum vitae

Name: Sunday Grève, Sebastian
Also known as: 王小塞 (WANG Xiaosai)
Date of birth: 21 January 1987
Nationality: German
Address: Department of Philosophy, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China
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Areas of specialisation

AI, epistemology, language, mind, Socrates, Wittgenstein

Employment

2019 – Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Peking University
2018–19 Stipendiary Lecturer in Philosophy, Christ Church, University of Oxford

Education

2018 DPhil in Philosophy, University of Oxford
Supervised by William Child and Timothy Williamson
2014 MPhil in Philosophy, Birkbeck, University of London
Supervised by Jennifer Hornsby, Marie McGinn, Alois Pichler
2011 BA in German and Philosophy, University of Göttingen
Supervised by Mario Brandhorst and Felix Mühlhölzer

Prizes and fellowships

2025 Innovative AI-Integrated Undergraduate Course Development, Peking University
2023 Outstanding Undergraduate Research Advisor, Peking University
2021 Outstanding Undergraduate Research Advisor, Peking University
2020–21 Berggruen China Fellow [link](#)
2019 – Faculty member, Institute of Foreign Philosophy at Peking University [link](#)
2014 Royal Institute of Philosophy Essay Prize [link](#)

Current professional activities

Associate Editor, *Inquiry*
Board of Curators, International Philosophy Festival, Portugal
Board of Directors, International Wittgenstein Research Centre, Shanxi University
Category Editor, 'Intuition', PhilPapers
Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Chinese Journal of Philosophy*
Co-Founder, Analytic Philosophy Forum, Peking University
Co-Founder, Anglophone Beijing Colloquium in Philosophy
Co-Founder, Philosophy Symposium, Peking University
Executive Editor, *Journal of Human Cognition*
Invited Scholar, High-End Foreign Expert Project, Beijing Normal University
Principal Investigator, Interdisciplinary Study of the Concept of Intelligence, Peking University

Project Member, Foundations of Contemporary Cognitive Science, Ministry of Education, China
 Special Issue Guest Editor, Foundations of Artificial Intelligence, *Philosophies*
 Special Issue Guest Editor, New Work on Wittgenstein's Philosophy of Religion, *Religions*
 Steering Committee, φ Workshops on Philosophy and AI
 Topical Advisory Panel, *Philosophies*
 Working Group, AI Safety and Governance Report, Committee for AI, World Internet Conference

Publications

- Forthc. (37) Fake Plastic Minds
Asian Journal of Philosophy, exp. 2026
- (36) Insurmountable Privacy of Thought
Philosophy and Literature, exp. 2025
- 2025 (35) Cognitivism about Religious Belief in Later Wittgenstein
 co-authored with Alois Pichler
International Journal for Philosophy of Religion 97, 61–76 [link](#)
- (34) Kripke and Wittgenstein on Proper Names
Philosophical Investigations (21 pp.) [link1](#) [2](#)
- (33) Method and Morality: The Elenchus from Socrates to Wittgenstein
Synthese 205, 117 (28 pp.) [link1](#) [2](#)
- (32) Paradox and Paradoxical Objects
 (in German) Die Paradoxie und paradoxe Objekte, trans. from the Engl. orig. by Peter Hintz
Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie (German Journal of Philosophy) 73, 451–76 [link](#)
- (31) Sense after Kripke
 (in Chinese), 克里普克之后的涵义, translated from the English original by LUO Shiman (罗诗曼)
 《清华西方哲学研究》 (Tsinghua Studies in Western Philosophy) 11 (2), 130–43
- (30) The Biological Objection against Strong AI
Inquiry (25 pp.) [link1](#) [2](#) (translated into Chinese, 《萃嶺》 [link](#))
- (29) Turing's Philosophy of AI
Journal for General Philosophy of Science 56, 513–29 [link1](#) [2](#) [3](#)
- (28) Wittgenstein on Private Thought and Private Language
 (in Chinese), 维特根斯坦论私人思想与私人语言, trans. from English by LI Meixuan (李美萱)
 《外国哲学》 (Foreign Philosophy) 49, 236–50
- 2024 (27) A Confucian Algorithm for Autonomous Vehicles
 co-authored with Tingting Sui
Science and Engineering Ethics 30 (52), 1–22 [link1](#) [2](#)
- (26) On the Nature and Logic of Paradox
 (in Chinese), 论悖论的本质与逻辑, trans. from the English original by QI Mengyuan (祁梦媛)
 《自然辩证法通讯》 (Journal of Dialectics of Nature) 46 (6), 28–38 [link](#)
- (25) Private Language in Plato and Wittgenstein
 In: Jakub Mácha and Herbert Hrachovec, eds, *Platonism*, De Gruyter, 321–31 [link](#)
- (24) Real Names
 In: Martin Gustafsson, Oskari Kuusela, and Jakub Mácha, eds, *Engaging Kripke with Wittgenstein*, Routledge, 28–59 [link](#)
- (23) Towards a Unified Theory of Intuition
 (in Chinese), 迈向整合的直觉理论, translated from the English original by LI Meixuan (李美萱)
 《科学技术哲学研究》 (Studies in Philosophy of Science and Technology) 41 (2), 17–25
 (reprinted in 《科学技术哲学》 (Philosophy of Science and Technology), July 2024, 12–20 [link](#))

- 2023
- (22) A Brief History of Turing's Work on AI
(in Turkish), Turing'in Yz Üzerine Olan Çalışmalarının Kısa Tarihi, trans. Özlem Derin
In: Özlem Derin, ed., *Labirent: Yapay Zeka Bir Devam mı Yoksa Çıkma mı?* (Labyrinth: Is Artificial Intelligence a Cure or a Dead End?), Kriter Yayınevi, 1–21
 - (21) A Complex Philosophical Oeuvre and Its Complex User Community: Reflections on the Past, Present, and Future Digitisation of Wittgenstein's Philosophical Writings
co-authored (co-first author) with Nivedita Gangopadhyay and Alois Pichler
Digital Humanities in the Nordic and Baltic Countries 5, 105–20 [link](#)
 - (20) Artificial Forms of Life
Philosophies 8 (89), 1–21 [link1](#) [2](#)
 - (19) Can Machines Be Conscious?
co-authored with Xiaoyue Yu
Philosophy Now 155, 24–5 [link1](#) [2](#) (translated into Portuguese, *Líder Magazine* 23 [link](#))
 - (18) Entertaining Unhappiness
In: Craig Fox and Britt Harrison, eds, *Philosophy of Film Without Theory*, Palgrave Macmillan, 253–69 [link1](#) [2](#)
 - (17) Intuitive Skill
Philosophia 51, 1677–1700 [link1](#) [2](#)
- 2022
- (16) AI's First Philosopher
Aeon [link](#) (incl. audio) [audio](#)
 - (15) Can a Machine Be Conscious?
(in Chinese), 机器能有意识吗?, co-authored with YU Xiaoyue (俞筱铜)
《认知科学》 (Cognitive Science) 6 (2), 233–8 [link](#)
 - (14) Lunacy and Scepticism: Notes on the Logic of Doubt Concerning the Existence of an External World
Topoi 41, 1023–31 [link](#)
 - (13) Moore and Wittgenstein on External World Scepticism
(in Chinese), 摩尔和维特根斯坦论外部世界怀疑论, trans. from English by LUO Shiman (罗诗曼)
《哲学门》 (Philosophy Gate) 46, 268–84 [link](#)
 - (12) Philosophy and Common Sense 2: Cultivating Curiosity
co-authored with Timothy Williamson
The Philosophers' Magazine 96, 24–30 [link1](#) [2](#) [3](#) (translated into Chinese, 《儒家網》 [link](#))
 - (11) Philosophy and Common Sense 3: Philosophy as a Science
co-authored with Timothy Williamson
The Philosophers' Magazine 97, 30–35 [link1](#) [2](#)
- 2021
- (10) Nietzsche and the Machines
The Philosophers' Magazine 93, 12–15 [link1](#) [2](#) [3](#) (reprinted at the Blog of the American Philosophical Association [link](#); translated into Chinese, 《儒家網》 [version1\(a\)](#), 《哲思学意》 [\(b\)](#), 《睿 》 [2](#), 《认知科学》 [3](#); translated into Portuguese, *Líder Magazine* 24 [link](#))
 - (9) Philosophy and Common Sense I: What Is Common Sense?
co-authored with Timothy Williamson
The Philosophers' Magazine 95, 24–30 [link1](#) [2](#) [3](#) (translated into Chinese, 《儒家網》 [link](#))
- 2019
- (8) Preface
co-authored with James Conant
In: James Conant and Sebastian Sunday, eds, *Wittgenstein on Philosophy, Objectivity, and Meaning*, Cambridge University Press, ix–xi [link](#)
 - (7) *Wittgenstein on Philosophy, Objectivity, and Meaning*
co-edited with James Conant
Cambridge University Press [link](#) (paperback published in 2021)

- 2018 (6) Logic and Philosophy of Logic in Wittgenstein
Australasian Journal of Philosophy 96, 168–82 [link1](#) [2](#)
- 2017 (5) Logic
In: Anat Matar, ed., *Understanding Wittgenstein, Understanding Modernism*, Bloomsbury Publishing, 205–16 [link1](#) [2](#)
- 2016 (4) The Good, the Bad and the Creative: Language in Wittgenstein’s Philosophy
co-authored with Jakub Mácha
In: Sebastian Sunday Grève and Jakub Mácha, eds, *Wittgenstein and the Creativity of Language*, Palgrave Macmillan, 3–25 [link1](#) [2](#)
- (3) *Wittgenstein and the Creativity of Language*
co-edited with Jakub Mácha
Palgrave Macmillan [link](#) (paperback published in 2018)
- (2) Wittgenstein on Gödelian ‘Incompleteness’, Proofs and Mathematical Practice: Reading *Remarks on the Foundations of Mathematics*, Part I, Appendix III, Carefully
co-authored with Wolfgang Kienzler
In: Sebastian Sunday Grève and Jakub Mácha, eds, *Wittgenstein and the Creativity of Language*, Palgrave Macmillan, 76–116 [link1](#) [2](#)
- 2015 (1) The Importance of Understanding Each Other in Philosophy
Philosophy 90, 213–39 [link1](#) [2](#) (awarded the Royal Institute of Philosophy Essay Prize)

Talks (since 2023)

Invited and non-departmental unless otherwise indicated:

* = departmental

† = refereed

- 2025 Robot existentialism; Philosophy & Technology Group, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands, 25 Nov.
- 2025 AI, nouphilia, and Confucian algorithm; 14th Songshan Forum, Dialogue Between Chinese and Other World Civilizations, Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies, Peking University, Beijing, China, 22 Nov.
- 2025 Opening address; The Domain of Genesis: Being and Manifestation under Technical Mediation; 3rd ‘Life and Civilization’ Doctoral Forum; Peking University, Beijing, China, 16 Nov.
- 2025 Fake plastic minds; Beijing Normal University, China, 14 Nov.
- 2025 Robot existentialism; Beijing Forum, Subforum on Philosophical Perspectives on Civilization in the Age of Digital Intelligence, Beijing, China, 7–9 Nov.
- 2025 Kripke and Wittgenstein on proper names; Chinese Wittgenstein Society, conference, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, 8–9 Nov.
- 2025 Panel discussion; International Frontier AI Safety and Governance Forum, Beijing Institute of AI Safety and Governance, Beijing, China, 30 Oct.
- 2025 Film talk, ‘Her, written, co-produced, and directed by Spike Jonze’; Peking University, Beijing, China, 28 Oct.
- 2025 Roundtable, ‘On Education: What Does It Mean to Be Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence?’; Exchange Café, Peking University, Beijing, China, 23 Oct.
- 2025 The Turing test, Chinese room, and imitation world; The University of Hong Kong, China, 11 Sep.
- 2025 AI and nouphilia; Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China, 2–3 Sep.
- 2025 Opening address ‘Philosophy and AI: Steering towards utopia’; Beyond Intelligence: Repositioning Philosophy and Reopening the Question of Being Human; 1st ‘Life and Civilization’ Doctoral Forum; Peking University, Beijing, China, 28 Jun.
- 2025 Comment on Peter Hylton’s lecture ‘Quine’s Philosophical Projects’; Wuhan University, Beijing, China, 27 Jun.
- 2025 Infinity and AI: the mathematical objection; Chinese Philosophy Workshop, Peking University, Beijing, China, 24 Jun.
- 2025 Vagueness, open texture, and family resemblance; Workshop on Semantic Indeterminacy, Peking University, Beijing, China, 21–22 Jun.

- 2025 Comments on the zero draft ‘Advancing a Global Framework of AI Safety and Governance for the Well-being of Humanity’; Seminar on Exploring Frameworks for Global AI Safety and Governance, World Internet Conference, Beijing, China, 20 Jun.
- 2025 Fake plastic minds; Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China, 10 Jun.
- 2025 Fake plastic minds; Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea, 27 May
- 2025 LLMs and intelligence; 2nd Philosophy and AI Workshop, Peking University, Beijing, China, 26–27 Apr.
- 2025 Philosophy and AI; MDPI, Beijing, China, 24 Apr.
- 2025 The biological objection against strong AI; Capital Normal University, Beijing, China, 11 Apr.
- 2025 Fake plastic minds; Fenghua Lecture Series, Peking University, Beijing, China, 28 Mar.
- 2025 Can machines acquire human mindedness?; Conference on Frontier Issues in Cognition, Language, and Consciousness, Chengdu, China, 8–9 Mar.
- 2025 Steering towards utopia: the importance of the medium term in AI; Symposium on Seth Lazar’s philosophy of AI, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China, 17 Jan.
- 2024 Imitation game 2.0; Shanxi University, Taiyuan, China, 5 Dec.
- 2024 Can machines acquire human mindedness?; 1st Philosophy and AI Workshop, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China, 7 Nov.
- 2024 Comment on A. W. Moore’s lecture ‘The Infinite in Mathematics’; Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China, 1 Nov.
- 2024 Turing’s test and Searle’s; The University of Hong Kong, China, 12 Sep.
- 2024* Comment on Anton Alexandrov’s lecture ‘The Dialectic Between the Methods of Explication and Abduction’; Peking University, Beijing, China, 27 Jun.
- 2024 Can machines acquire human mindedness?; 21st Conference on Mind and Machine, Shanxi University, Taiyuan, China, 15–16 Jun.
- 2024 Can machines acquire human mindedness?; Royal Asiatic Society, Beijing, China, 22 May
- 2024 A Confucian algorithm for autonomous vehicles (joint presentation with Tingting Sui); XPHI UK Workshop Series, The University of Manchester, UK, 10 Apr.
- 2023 A Confucian algorithm for autonomous vehicles (joint work with Tingting Sui); Ethics of Science and Technology Summit, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, 16 Dec.
- 2023 Wittgensteinian psychological contextualism; Wittgenstein and the Future of Philosophy, conference, Shanxi University, Taiyuan, China, 11–12 Nov.
- 2023† Turing’s philosophy of AI; Philosophy of Science Around the World, conference, Philosophy of Science Association, 11 Nov.
- 2023 Can machines acquire human mindedness?; Leadership Summit Portugal, Estoril, Portugal, 26 Oct. [video](#)
- 2023 Comment on Juliet Floyd’s lecture ‘Wittgenstein, Turing, and “Surveyability”’; Wuhan University, China, 6 Sep.
- 2023 Turing’s philosophy of AI; The University of Hong Kong, China, 6 Sep.
- 2023 Gödel vs Wittgenstein; Philosophy of Mathematics Seminar, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan, 28 Jul.
- 2023 AI, Nietzsche, and the evolution of morality; CAPE Lecture Series, Center for Applied Philosophy and Ethics, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, 26 Jul.
- 2023 Can machines acquire human mindedness?; Tokyo Forum for Analytic Philosophy, talk series, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, 21 Jul.
- 2023 Intuitive skill; Cognition, Language, and Consciousness, conference, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, 1–2 Apr.
- 2023* Realism *tout court*; Philosophy Symposium, Peking University, Beijing, China, 15 Mar.
- 2023† The digitisation of Wittgenstein (joint presentation with Nivedita Gangopadhyay, James Matthew Fielding, and Alois Pichler); Digital Humanities in the Nordic and Baltic Countries, conference, online, 8–10 Mar.

Course teaching

2020 –

Peking University

All levels unless otherwise indicated:

* = undergraduate only

† = graduate only

AI ethics (with Julius Schönherr, Yuzhou Wang), 2023, '26

Analytic philosophy, 2020

Introduction to philosophy (w. J. Schönherr), 2023*, '24*, '25*, '26*

Introduction to philosophy (w. Arthur Schipper, J. Schönherr), 2021*

Modern Western philosophy, 2026

Nietzsche, 2021*

Philosophical methods (w. Anton Alexandrov), 2025

Philosophical methods, 2022

Philosophy of AI, 2021, '25

Philosophy of philosophy, 2021

Philosophy workshop (w. J. Schönherr), 2020, '24

Philosophical research and writing, 2022†, '23†, '24†, '25†, '26†

Peking Colloquium, 2025 (w. Jennifer Nagel)

Reading German philosophy in the original German, 2024

Wittgenstein (w. Xing Nan), 2022

External

Summer school, philosophy of AI, Shanxi University, China, 22–26 Aug. 2023

Summer school, philosophy of AI, Inner Mongolia University, China, 9–15 Aug. 2021

2014–19

University of Oxford

First-year undergraduate

Classes and tutorials

Introduction to ethics, 2017, '18, '19

Introduction to logic, 2015, '16, '17, '18

Introduction to philosophy, 2016, '17, '18, '19

Upper-year undergraduate

Lectures

Wittgenstein, 2018

Classes and tutorials

Early analytic philosophy, 2019

Epistemology, 2016, '17, '18, '19

Ethics, 2019

Metaphysics, 2016, '17, '18, '19

Philosophical logic, 2016

Philosophy of logic and language, 2018, '19

Philosophy of mind, 2016, '17, '18

Wittgenstein, 2014, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19

Languages

Fluent (C2*): English, German

Reading (B2): French, Italian, Latin

Basic (A2): Mandarin Chinese

* According to the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#)