

CURRICULUM VITAE

Mieke Matthyssen

Mobile: +32 (0)474 260 880

Personal webpage: <https://research.flw.ugent.be/en/mieke.matthyssen>

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2005-present **Lecturer/teaching assistant/postdoctoral researcher** (50-60%)
Department of Languages and Cultures – Chinese Studies, Ghent University
Teaching responsibilities:
Modern Chinese in BA2, BA3 and MA: listening and reading comprehension (BA2); translation and contextualization of administrative, official, media and juridical sources (BA3); critical analysis of media and literary sources (MA1).
Research responsibilities and service:
- Reading commissioner and co-supervisor of MA and PhD dissertations (since 2012)
 - Collaborator in Consortium “Beyond Psyche: Indigenous Psychology and Alternative Psychological Care” (2023-2030) funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2023-2030)
 - Co-organizer of the departmental doctoral seminars and reading sessions (2009-2011; 2023-2024)
 - Collaborator curriculum and course design for the Modern Chinese courses (BA and MA)
 - Organizer International Conference on fate and ageing (2024); organizer Summer School “Cross-cultural explorations into the role of fate, destiny, and predestination as agents for health and wellbeing” (2024); Co-organizer Taiwan Chair Conference (2023); China-Europe Forum at Ghent University (2007) and at Zhejiang University (2010)
 - Buddy for newly arrived Chinese PhD students and postdoctoral researchers
- 2020-2024 **Principal Researcher – Research project funded by the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)** (50%)
Department of Languages and Cultures – Chinese Studies, Ghent University
Project: “Self-actualization and self-transcendence in China. The paradoxical role of fate (*ming*) as an agent for spiritual and psychological wellbeing.”
- 2015 - 2019 **Postdoctoral researcher/project manager** for the Huoshen Foundation, a platform for body-based health practices rooted in Asian health concepts (40%)
Department of Special Needs Education / Orthopedagogics – Ghent University
Projects:
- “Body-based working with youth in Flanders, China and Taiwan”
 - “Chinese philosophy in its contemporary practices. Transformations in the spiritual and psychological sphere” (still ongoing)
- Responsibilities: *qualitative research based on interviews and fieldwork; coordinator of a series on ‘Body-based working with youth’ by GARANT (in Dutch); guest lecturer in the course “Orthopedagogics of behavioral and emotional disorders”; organizing conference on bodywork with youth (2018); co-promoter of 8 MA dissertations*

- 2014 - 2016 **Guest lecturer in the course ‘Dealing with China: Intercultural Management Issues’** (12 hours) at the Brussels Diplomacy Academy / Brussels Institute of Contemporary Chinese Studies (VUB)
Responsibilities: course design, lecturing, paper supervision and assessment
- 2013-2015 **Coordinator – Interviewer for the “Oral Histories of Chinese Studies in Belgium”** project (National Taiwan University and the National Science Council of Taiwan)

FURTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2006 - 2011 **Policy Advisor China Platform** - International Relations Office (Ghent University (assignments for 30% and 20%)
Responsibilities: organizing and assisting in delegations; maintaining contacts with Chinese partners, Ministries, Embassies, and the Chinese Student Association Ghent; establishing Chinese alumni-network; logistic assistance to professors and new Chinese students; information dissemination
- 2000 - 2010 **Freelance Cross-cultural Trainer and Interpreter Chinese-Dutch / French**
e.g. for governmental bodies (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration Agency), multinationals (Bayer, BASF, Alcatel...), and socio-cultural institutes (Babel, Medicine for the People)
- 2004 - 2005 **Bayer Antwerp**
Cross-cultural consultant and interpreter for Chinese training groups; cultural relocation assistance
- 2001 - 2004 **Chief Representative Netherlands Business Support Office – Shenyang, China** (Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs)
Responsibilities: final responsibility for regional market scans and other reports; representation at fairs and network events; organize delegations and workshops in the Northeastern area; facilitate networking and negotiations
- 2001 **China Shipping Agency (Antwerp)**
Export and Customer Service
- 2000 - 2001 **Centre for Adults Education - Languages (Antwerp)**
Teacher evening courses Modern Chinese (advanced level)
- Koning Aap Reizen (Netherlands)**
Travel guide to and in China (freelance)

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- 2008 - 2012 **PhD: *Nande hutu* 难得糊涂 and ‘The Art of Being Muddled’**
Ghent University – Department of Oriental Languages and Cultures
Public defense: December 14, 2012
Supervisor: Prof Bart Dessen
Examination Commission: Prof Ann Heirman (Ghent University), Prof Rik Pinxten (Ghent University), Prof Karl-Heinz Pohl (Trier University), Prof Jana Rošker (University of Ljubljana).

- 1998 - 1999 **Specialization Year “Modern Chinese”**
Sichuan University, Chengdu
- 1994 - 1998 **BA and MA Oriental Languages and Cultures – Sinology**
Ghent University
 Thesis: *Li-shih A-p’i-t’an Lun*: Annotated translation of Chapters 20 and 21 of the Taishō Volume 32 (No. 1644) (Buddhist cosmology)
- 1991 - 1994 **BA Social Work – Specialization: Social Policy**
University College for Social Work – Ghent

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- 2021 *Ignorance is Bliss. The Chinese art of not knowing.* Palgrave Studies in Indigenous Psychology. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2021 *Boksen met jongeren. Een nieuwe kijk op pedagogisch en didactisch handelen (Boxing with youth: A new approach to pedagogic and didactic practice)* (Vol. 2). Co-authored with Reinhard Haudenhuyse and Jan Naert. Garant.
- 2018 *Een nieuwe kijk op lichaamsgericht werken met jongeren (Body-oriented and experienced learning with youth)* (Vol. 1). Co-authored with Jan Naert and Reinhard Haudenhuyse. Antwerpen-Apeldoorn: Garant.

ARTICLES (peer-reviewed)

- 2024 “The ‘Fasting of the Heart’ (*Xinzhai* 心齋): Zhuangzi, Daoism and its transformative healing power in contemporary psychotherapy.” *Review of General Psychology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/10892680241306052>
- 2024 “Omgaan met het lot in China. *Ming* 命 als levensbepalende kracht en als kneedbaar lot (Dealing with fate in China: *Ming* 命 as life-determining force and as malleable fate).” *Filosofie-Tijdschrift* 34 (6): 35-40.
- 2019 “World War 1, the May Fourth Movement, and the development of psychology in China, and Europe: Reflections on their mutual influence.” *Critical Theory* 3 (1): 57-72.
- 2019 “Psychofysiek werken en ervaringsgericht leren met jongeren (Psycho-physical and experienced learning with youth).” Co-authored with Jan Naert. *Tijdschrift voor Klinische Psychologie* 49 (4): 252-259.
- 2015 “Zheng Banqiao’s *Nande Hutu* and ‘the Art of Being Muddled’ in contemporary China: Guest Editor’s Introduction.” *Contemporary Chinese Thought* 46 (4): 3–25.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10971467.2015.1067426>
 (Guest editor of the issue; Introduction and five translations of Chinese articles).
- 2014 “Self-assurance and self-denial : Repositioning the individual in contemporary Chinese society.” Co-authored with Bart Dessen. *Synthesis Philosophica* 57 (1): 123-141.
- 2014 “Imprecision et ambiguïté dans la communication: Tradition chinoise au service d’une ‘société harmonieuse?’ (Imprecision and ambiguity in communication: Chinese tradition in the service of a ‘harmonious society?’)”, Published May 2014 in *Réseau Asie* (Online version, <https://www.gis-reseau-asie.org/fr/mai-2014-imprecision-et-ambiguite-dans-la-communication>)
- 2013 “Scholars should be considered the last of the four classes: The case of scholar–official Zheng Banqiao.” *Journal of Asian History* 47 (2): 219-244.
- 2007 “Ensemble dans un pays étranger: Présence Chinoise en Belgique et aux Pays-Bas.” *Septentrion* (Rekkem) 36 (2): 9-14.

BOOK CHAPTERS (peer-reviewed)

- 2025 (forthcoming). "Teaching Chinese philosophy outside the philosophy classroom: Reflections on contents, methods, and prospects." In *Yearbook for Eastern and Western Philosophy (YEWPH)* (Vol. 8). Berlin, Boston: de Gruyter.
- 2024 "Navigating life (*ming*) in contemporary China: The shifting meaning of 'changing fate (*gaibian mingyun*)' in the quest for a better life." In *Values and Indigenous Psychology in the Age of the Machine and Market*, ed. Alvin Dueck and Louise Sundararajan, 303-328. Cham: Palgrave MacMillan.
- 2024 "The Chinese *tangping* or 'lying flat' movement: Shameful, courageous, or just fleeting resistance?" In *Self-Development Ethics and Politics in China Today. A Keyword Approach*, ed. Gil Hizi, 279-302. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
- 2018 "Chinese happiness : A proverbial approach of popular philosophies of life." In *Chinese Discourses on Happiness*, ed. Gerda Wielander and Derek Hird, 189-207. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- 2017 "China in Belgium : From a religious, economic and political interest to the development of an academic discipline." Co-authored with Bart Dessein. In *From Sinology to Post-Chineseness : Intellectual Histories of China, Chinese People, and Chinese Civilization*, ed. Shih Chih-yu, He Peizhong and Tang Lei, 41–53. Beijing: Zhongguo Shehui Kexue Chubanshe.
- 2015 "'The Art of Being Muddled' and mental health practices in contemporary China: A philosophical-anthropological analysis of mental health education." In *Visiting Program for Young Sinologists 2014*, ed. Nie Jiangbo, 126–132. Beijing: China and the World Cultural Exchange Magazine.

EDITED VOLUMES / SERIES

- 2018 *Psychofysiek werken met jongeren (Psychophysical interactions with youth)*. Antwerpen-Apeldoorn: Garant. Chief editor/coordinator of the series.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2013 "*Nande hutu* 难得糊涂 or 'The art of being muddled'. From ancient philosophical wisdom to pragmatic philosophy of life in contemporary China." In Sergey Pakhomov (Ed.) *Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Oriental Studies (Torchinov Readings): Metamorphoses (21-25 June 2011, St. Petersburg)*, Part II: 76-82.

CONFERENCES

- 2024 **International Conference "*Ming* 命 as li fe-conditioning force and as malleable fate: Perspectives from old(er) age."** (*Organizer*)
Ghent University, December 16-18, 2024
Organizer; presenter: "Navigating *ming* and the philosophy of ageing: Some fictional and real-life narratives from contemporary China"
- European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS) 25th Biennial Conference**,
Tallinn University, August 27-30, 2024
Presentation: "Navigating life and the role of *ming*-fate 命 in psychological wellbeing in contemporary China: A proverbial approach."
- 2023 **International Conference of the Ibero-American Network of Chinese Philosophy**, University of Malaga, December 19-20, 2023
Presentation: "Daoist philosophy and Chinese indigenous psychotherapy: Reflections on the psychologization of Daoism in contemporary China."

International Conference “Learning from Chinese Classics: Indigenous Psychology and Alternative Mental Health Care” (Invited, hybrid), Shaanxi University of Chinese Medicine (Xianyang, China), November 25-27, 2023

Presentation: “Being flexible at the outside, and firm at the inside 外圓內方”: Ideal personality structure or pragmatic success strategy?”

International Conference “Dialogues in Global Sinology: Solidarity and Connection in Times of Crisis” (Invited), Ghent University-National Sun Yatsen University (Taiwan), May 29-30, 2023

Presentation: “‘Changing fate 改变命运’ in contemporary China: A socio-economic perspective on its shifting dynamics and meaning.” (Panel: “East-Asian Modernity”)

Seminar “Words and Interpretation: Comparative Approaches to Chinese Literature and History” (Invited, hybrid), Taiwan Chair at Ghent University, May 31- June 1, 2023

Presentation: “Knowing, changing, resisting and resigning to fate (*ming*): Shifting narratives on *ming* in contemporary China.”

International Conference “Humanism, Posthumanism and Transhumanism in the East Asian Past and Present” (Invited), Department of Asian Studies, University of Ljubljana / European Association for Chinese Philosophy, May 19-21, 2023

Presentation: “‘Firm at the inside, flexible at the outside 內方外圓’: A pragmatic guideline for successfully ‘be(com)ing human 做人.”

International Conference/workshop “Beyond the Psyche: Indigenous Psychology and Alternative Mental Health Care through the ‘Heart’ 心” (Invited), Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Simon Fraser University (Vancouver), March 11-12, 2023

Presentation: “Zhuangzi’s ‘Fasting of the Heart-mind’ (*xinzhai*) and its healing power in psychotherapeutic practice in contemporary China.”

2022 **International Interdisciplinary Workshop: “Perceptions of Age and Ageing in Premodern China and Beyond”** (Invited), Institute of Sinology and East Asian Studies, University of Münster, December 15-17, 2022

Presentation: “Embodied ageing among Chinese elderly: A preliminary investigation into body image, body care and wellbeing in later life.”

The 16th Annual Conference on Asian Studies (ACAS): Bodies, Gender, Identities - Olomouc University (online), November 25-26, 2022

Presentation: “‘Resigning to fate is not done, but lying flat (*tangping*) is fine’: China’s Gen Z’s embodied resistance in times of involution.”

NIAS-Asia Generation Conference - University of Reykjavik, August 22-25, 2022

Co-organizer/chair of the panel: “Keywords for self-development among contemporary Chinese youth”

Presentation: “The Chinese *tangping* 躺平 or “lying flat” generation: From self-development to self-preservation.”

2022 **International Conference “Beyond Free Will: Variety in Understanding of Choice, Luck, and Necessity”** – Vilnius University, June 20-23, 2022

Presentation: “Negotiating fate in contemporary China: The paradoxical and changing role of *ming* in psychological wellbeing”

2021 **Chinese Studies Association Australia (CSAA) 17th Biennial Conference** – “Changing China: Then and Now”, Online, November 29 – December 1, 2021

Presentation: *Tangping* or "lying flat" in contemporary China: Shameful, courageous, silent, or just fleeting resistance?"

2019 **Joint Annual Meeting American Anthropological Association (AAA) - Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA)** – Vancouver, November 20-24, 2019

Presentation: "From ancient China to the West, and back: the development of the psychophysical program Rock and Water in contemporary China and Taiwan"

Invited discussant in the panel on ' "Indigenous Psychology" in China: New twists on both tradition and Western psychology'.

European Association of Chinese Philosophy – Ghent, September 5-7, 2019

Organizer/chair of the panel: "Chinese Philosophy in its Contemporary Practices: Transformations in the Moral, Spiritual and Psychological Sphere"

Presentation: "Daoism-based psychotherapies in China: Investigation into the transformative healing process rooted in Zhuangzi's 'fasting of the heart-mind' (*xinzhai*)".

2018 **Symposium on the First Great War and Chinese New Cultural Movement** – Shanghai University, October 22-24, 2018

Presentation: "The influence of the May Fourth Movement on the development of psychological science in China and Europe: Some reflections on their mutual influence".

European Association for Chinese Studies Conference – Glasgow, August 28-September 1, 2018

Presentation: "Contentment, fate, luck and beyond: Popular expressions of Chinese happiness in self-help books".

Conference Huoshen Foundation on "Body-Based Working with Youth: Good Practices and Challenges" – Ghent University, June 6, 2018

Organizer, discussant, presenter.

Presentation: "Psychofysiek werken met jongeren in Vlaanderen: Verkenning van het veld en de praktijk." ("Body-oriented working with youth: Exploring the field and the practice in the Flemish region").

2017 **International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicines (ICTAM)** – Kiel, August 7-12, 2017

Presentation: "The art of balancing effort with release in yoga: A first-person experiential approach".

2015 **Conference "Intellectual History of International China Studies: Communication and Conversations"** – Beijing, October 29-30, 2015

Presentation: "China in Belgium: From Economic and Political Interest, to the Development of an Academic Discipline." (Presented together with Prof Bart Desein)

2014 **Académie du Midi: "Wisdom East and West"** – Alet-les-Bains, June 8-14, 2014

Presentation: "Wisdom as foolishness and vice versa: a Chinese approach".

2012 **European Association for Chinese Studies Conference** – Paris, September 5-8, 2012

Presentation: "The wisdom of foolishness: A contemporary philosophy of life expressed in proverbs".

2011 **International Conference on "Specific Topics in Chinese Studies: 100 Hundred Years of Modern China"** – University of Ljubljana, October 14-17, 2011

Presentation: "It's difficult to be muddled': A pragmatic philosophy of life in contemporary Chinese society".

- 2011 **Conference “Metamorphose - Torchinov Readings”** – University of St. Petersburg, June 22-25, 2011
Presentation: “*Nande hutu*: from ancient philosophical wisdom to popular coping strategy in contemporary China”.
- 2010 **China-Europe Forum 2010** – Zhejiang University (Hangzhou)
 Co-organizer workshop in Hangzhou (July 9-10); plenary sessions in Hong Kong (July 12-14)
Presentation: “The Chinese individual and his relation to society in contemporary China”.
- 2009 **Belgische Oriëntalistendag** – Ghent University, March 27-28, 2009
Presentation: “*Nande Hutu*: A Chinese strategy of transcendence”.
- American Anthropological Association (AAA)** – Toronto, December 5, 2009
Presentation: “*Hutu*-ness in politics: A stratagem for the harmonious society” in panel “Untying Thought Knots: Politics, Culture and Mental Health in East Asia”
 (Paper was presented and discussed by the panel but I could not attend due to pregnancy.)
- 2008 **European Association for Chinese Studies Conference** – Lund University, August 6-10, 2008
Presentation: “*Nande Hutu*: Introduction to its contemporary interpretations and use”.

ACADEMIC LECTURES (seminars, courses, workshops, summer schools)
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- 2024 **Summer School “Cross-cultural explorations into the role of fate, destiny, and predestination as agents for health and wellbeing”** (Organizer) - Doctoral Schools / CHARM Universiteit Gent
 Lecture together with Prof. Graham Parkes on dealing with fate from a cross-cultural Chinese, Nietzschean and Sophist perspective.
- Sun Yat-sen University-Ghent University International Workshop** (online)
 Invited lecture in the workshop “(Re)thinking the “Other” in the Chinese Humanities – Past and Present” (12 April, 2024)
 Lecture on “*Yuan* 缘 and *yuanfen* 缘分 in interpersonal relationships: Mere serendipity, or predestined causal relation?”. See
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYjX8MJqTgY&list=PLw4ODY5fzZQjcevMESUqC8BPmCoNbpY1&index=1>
- Institute of Philosophy** – Freie Universität Berlin
 Invited lecture in the workshop “Global Chinese Philosophy: European Perspectives” (February 16-18, 2024)
- 2023 **Institute of Philosophy** – Freie Universität Berlin
 Invited lecture in the workshop “Teaching Chinese Philosophy in Europe: Contents, Methods, Visions” (October 13-15, 2023)
- Department of Philosophy** - National Chengchi University, Taipei
 Invited guest lecture on Daoism in psychotherapeutic practices as a form of indigenized psychotherapy based on case-studies (September 21, 2023)
- Department of Social Sciences, Social Anthropology Unit** – University of Fribourg
 Invited guest lecture on “China's Gen Z's embodied resistance in times of involution” in the Seminar “An Anthropology of China” (May 17, 2023)

- 2023 **Department of Asian Studies** – University College Cork
Invited guest lecture on “Negotiating fate in contemporary China: A cross-generational and socio-economic perspective on the changed meaning of “changing fate 改变命运” (March 28, 2023)
- China Colloquium of the German Anthropological Association**
Invited lunch reading (online) with a topic on lying flat (*tangping*) as a survival strategy (January 27, 2023)
- 2022 **Department of Chinese Studies** – University of Iceland (Erasmus staff mobility)
Lecture on “*Tangping* or ‘lying flat’ in contemporary China: shameful, courageous, silent, or just fleeting resistance?” ; discussions sessions with BA students (March 14, 2022)
- Flanders Business School (4th Inspiration Session)** – Antwerp
Invited guest lecture on “The Chinese Wisdom of Not Knowing” (March 2, 2022)
- 2021 **School of Comparative Philosophy** – Antwerp
Invited guest lecture on "Chinese psychology or (Western) psychology in China? Insights from the Philosophical-Psychotherapeutic Practice" (May 29, 2021)
- 2020 **Department of Languages and Cultures** – Ghent University
Invited guest lecture on indigenous Chinese psychology in the MA course “Culture in Perspective” (March 31, 2020)
- 2019 **Summer School on WW I, Belgium and China** – Ghent University
Invited guest lecture on the topic of WW I, the May Fourth Movement and the development of psychology in China and Europe (July 17, 2019)
- Faculty of Philosophy** – Zagreb University (Erasmus staff mobility)
- Guest lecture on indigenous Chinese psychology and folk psychology in the Chinese philosophy course; discussion sessions with students (April 15, 2019)
 - Public lecture: “The Chinese wisdom of feigning ignorance from a Daoist and Confucian perspective” (April 16, 2019)
- Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH)** – Ghent University
Invited guest lecture on intercultural communication with focus on the public health sector for a training group in the Continuing Education Course “Introduction to Public Health in Europe” (April 24, 2019; April 25, 2018).
- Department of Personnel Management, Work and Organizational Psychology** – Ghent University
Invited guest lecture on Chinese corporate culture, leadership styles and work ethics in the course “Industrial Relations” (March 27, 2019)
- 2019 **School of Foreign Studies** – Nanjing University
Invited guest lecture on intercultural communication. (March 5, 2019)
- 2018 **Workshop “Intercultural Understanding and Language Learning in China and Europe”** – VUB Brussels
Invited guest lecture on “China-Europe intercultural student communication: Insights from theory, and from the field” (May 2, 2018)
- 2017 **Centre of Oriental Studies** – Vilnius University (Erasmus staff mobility)
- Lecture on Chinese indigenous psychology for MA students (October 30, 2017)
 - Lecture on intercultural communication for BA and MA students (October 30, 2017)

- Public lecture: “The wisdom of (pretended) foolishness: Lessons from self-help books” (October 31, 2017)

2016 **Department of Culture and Oriental Languages** – University of Oslo (Erasmus staff mobility)
Two lectures on indigenous Chinese psychology and health practices in the MA course “East Asia: Great Traditions” (April 4, 2016)

2015 **International School** – Liaoning University
Invited guest lecture on the theory and practice of intercultural communication among international students (BA and MA students) (April 6, 2015)

2014 **Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology** – University of Oxford
Invited guest lecture for the anthropology course on the methods and sources of my PhD research (January 22, 2014)

Department of Chinese Studies – University of Iceland (Erasmus staff mobility)

- Reading seminars for BA students in “Modern Chinese Text Reading” (April 7, 2014)
- Public lecture: “The Chinese wisdom of foolishness: A philosophy of life expressed in popular sayings” (April 9, 2014)

2013 **Institute of East Asian Studies** – Charles University, Prague (Erasmus staff mobility)

- Text reading seminars for MA students (April 23, 2013)
- Public lecture: “The dialectics of wisdom and foolishness and its attractiveness in contemporary Chinese society” (April 24, 2013)

2009 **Ruprecht-Karls-Universität** – Heidelberg (Erasmus staff mobility)

- Public lecture: “The modernization process and the impact on the individual in Chinese society”. (June 23, 2009)
- Workshop for MA students on the methods of my PhD research (thematic analysis, interpretative phenomenological analysis) and on using NVivo (June 24, 2009)

Department of Oriental Languages – Ghent University

Invited guest lecture on aspects of my ongoing PhD research in the BA course “Culture in Perspective” (April 29, 2009)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Representation in academic committees

- Secretary of the Board of the European Association of Chinese Philosophy (since June 2023, voted)
- Representative/spokeswoman at the Departmental “Workgroup on Diversity” (2023-2024)
- Representative for scientific staff/member in the Departmental Scientific Policy Development Division (since 2013)
- Coordinator of the alumni-organization of the Department of Oriental Languages and Cultures/Representative in the Departmental Alumni meetings (since 2008)
- Representative for teaching staff/member in the Departmental Meetings (since 2007)

Postgraduate supervision

- Co-supervisor PhD students:
 - Xue Dong, "A cross-linguistic analysis of pain expression: A comparative study between English and Chinese" (Supervisor: Prof. Ellen Van Praet, UGent, 2024-2028)

- Tongtong Zhao, "A cross-cultural study of existential isolation and existential loneliness among older people: The case of Belgium and Mainland China" (Supervisor: Prof. Jessie Dezutter, KULeuven, 2023-2027)
- Jury member PhD public defense:
 - Greet De Baets, "Embodied Learning with and from Aikido. A Mixed-methods Investigation into Teaching Intercultural Communication Skills for the Workplace", UGent (28/11/2024).
 - Bo Zhang, "Critical Analysis of the Gender Division in Domestic Labour in China from a Care Ethic Perspective", VUB (30/5/2024).
 - Linghong Ling, "Mapping and Improving Instructional Strategies to Foster Pronunciation Development in Chinese as a Foreign Language Student", UGent (17/11/2023)
 - Weiwei Sun, "Invisible Art or Invented Reality? Key Artistic Strategies of Chinese Socially Engaged Art in the 21st Century", UGent (28/8/2023).
 - Rui Zhang, "How China Struggles for International Recognition. An Explanation from Chinese Face Culture", UGent (30/3/2017).
- Member of the Doctoral Advisory Committees of PhD students investigating contemporary China and embodied practices with qualitative methods (interviews, fieldwork, thematic analysis, critical discourse analysis) (9 since 2013)
- Invited evaluator as China expert in PhD workshops of the NIAS-Asia Generation Conference (University of Reykjavik, August 2022)
- Co-supervisor/reading commissioner MA dissertations (since 2008; average 3-4/year)
- Occasional evaluator for internships at the Department of Chinese Studies (course: "Modern Chinese") in the postgraduate program "Educational Master"

Review activities

Peer-review of

- articles in *Perspectives Chinoises*, *Synthesis Philosophica*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Open Theology*
- books (*Philosophy East and West*)
- book proposals (Palgrave Macmillan)
- grant applications (e.g., Universities' Committee of China in London)

Other

- Education promotion on education fairs, such as Sid-in (yearly since 2006)
- Promotional activities e.g. promotion video for Erasmus Staff Exchange (2023); UGent representative during the yearly Dragon Boat Races in Antwerp organized by the Hong Kong Trade Council and organizer of the cross-faculty rowing team (2017, 2018, 2019)

MEMBERSHIP SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS and CONSORTIA
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- Consortium Beyond Psyche: Indigenous Psychology and Alternative Psychological Care (2023-2030, invited)
- Consortium for Health Humanities, Arts, Literature, and Medicine (CHARM) (since 2023)
- Interdisciplinary Thematic Network on Age(ing) in China, and Beyond (ACB) (since 2022, invited)
- European Network of Aging Studies (ENAS) (since 2022)
- European Association for Chinese Philosophy (EACP) (since 2019)
- Task Force on Indigenous Psychology (APA, Division 32) (since 2017)
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS) (since 2011)
- European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS) (since 2006)
- Three research groups at Ghent University:
 - 'East-Asian Culture in Perspective: Identity - Historical Consciousness – Modernity'
 - 'Critical and Comparative Research on Cultures (CCROC)'
 - 'Centre for Research on Body Cultures in Motion (BOCULT)'

RECEIVED GRANTS

2024	Grant for the organisation of an international congress – FWO (Funding: 8,000 Euro)
2024	Grant for the organization of a Seasonal School “Cross-cultural explorations into the role of fate, destiny, and predestination as agents for health and wellbeing” - from Ghent University - Doctoral Schools (19,240 Euro)
2020-2024	4-year Research Grant for Fundamental Research Projects, Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) (Funding: 280,038 Euro; 50% assignment)
2015-2020	5-year Project Grant from the Huoshen Foundation (40% assignment), hosted by the Dept. of Special Needs Education / Orthopedagogics - Ghent University
2014	Sinologist Research Program organized by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS, 3 weeks)
2013-2015	Grant from National Taiwan University and the National Science Council of Taiwan for the “Oral Histories of Chinese Studies - Belgium” (Funding for conducting and transcribing interviews/life narratives, for preparing a publication, and for attending a conference in Beijing).
2008-2012	4-year Research Project Grant for PhD research - Ghent University Research Fund (BOF) (Funding: 163,100 Euro; 50% assignment)
2001	Grant from the Chinese Ministry of Education for a summer course (6 weeks) on “Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language” (Beijing Normal University)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2014	Summer workshop “Sinologist Research Program” – Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Beijing (3 weeks)
2011	Doctoral Schools UGent – Advanced Academic English: Writing Skills (Social and Behavioral Sciences) (20 hours + final writing assignment)
2010	Doctoral Schools UGent – Critical Discourse Analysis (one-day workshop)
2008	China Research Workshop – Cambridge Graduate workshop (April 22-23)
2007	Certificate ‘Interpreting in the Social Sector’ (training organized by Kruispunt Migratie-Integratie)
2002-2004	Chinese Traditional <i>Tuina</i> – Shenyang Medical College (China)
2001	Certificate ‘Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language’ – Summer School (6 weeks, Beijing Normal University)

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION / PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Member of the Flemish “Expert Database”
- Occasional appearance or expert advisor for issues related to Chinese language, culture, and in particular issues related to contemporary China, for national and international public media, e.g., Flemish radio and TV broadcasting, podcast “Made in China” (2024), EOS Popular Science magazine, German university podcast, *Economist*. Some examples:
 - 2025: VRT contribution to the reporting on the Chinese blockbuster movie *Ne Zha*, <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2025/03/11/ne-zha-2-europa-chinese-animatiefilm/>
 - 2024: Podcast “China voorbij de muur”, aflevering over “Hebben we een vertekend beeld van China? (Do we have a distorted view of China?)” (31/3/2024), <https://www.vrt.be/vrtmax/podcasts/vrt-nws/c/china-voorbij-de-muur/1/hebben-we-een-vertekend-beeld-van-china-/>
 - 2023: VRT Contribution to news about the draft law in China that bans speech and clothing deemed harmful to the spirit of the Chinese people. <https://radio1.be/luister/select/de->

[ochtend/chinese-overheid-wil-kledij-die-de-gevoelens-van-de-natie-kan-kwetsen-verbieden-hoe-langer-hoe-meer-regels](#)

- 2022: Contribution to an article on self-development in China for the popular science magazine EOS. <https://www.tijdschriftenwinkel.be/collections/psyche-brein/products/psyche-brein-special-persoonlijke-groei>
 - 2019: 1-hour conversation about Chinese culture and social changes for the Flemish Radio (VRT) program “Weet ik veel”. <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnu/podcasts/radio1/-/weetikveel/6/-weetikveel-china/>
 - 2018: 15-minute lecture (TED-talk style) on modern Chinese for the popular science program and podcast “Universiteit van Vlaanderen” <https://www.universiteitvanvlaanderen.be/college/hoe-moeilijk-is-chinees>
- Lectures/workshops on aspects of Chinese language and culture in secondary schools and in schools for gifted children during project weeks (e.g., Talentvol 2018, 2022), in cultural, health, tourist and information centres (e.g., Amazone, Gezinsbond, public library Ghent-De Krook, Archipel), and for academia-related activities (e.g., “University for Children” at Ghent University).
 - Occasional interpretation and translation of documents for cultural, social, or didactic purposes in the public sphere, e.g., translation of the lecture of director Wang Bing at the “State of Cinema 2022 - Wang Bing” Festival at Bozar (Brussels)