

## Yixuan LIU 刘亦璇

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### RESEARCH INTEREST

My research develops the ontology of the image, taking phenomenology--particularly Merleau-Ponty's work--as a central methodological reference, and arguing that visibility and temporality are disclosed through image experience itself rather than given in advance. This work brings phenomenology into dialogue with theoretical debates on the image in Western art history and with Chinese landscape aesthetics.

### EDUCATION

**University of Fribourg and Leiden University**, Fribourg and Leiden, Switzerland and Netherlands 2024-present

- Doctor of Philosophy
- PhD project: "The Temporality of Images: Merleau-Ponty's Visual Ontology and its Resonances with Chinese Landscape Painting"
- Supervisors: Emmanuel Alloa (University of Fribourg) and Frank Chouraqui (Leiden University)

**Husserl-Archives, KU Leuven**, Leuven, Belgium 2022-2024

- Research Master of Philosophy, Grade: Magna Cum Laude
- Thesis: "Who is Seeing What, from Where?: An Interrogation of Merleau-Ponty's Concept of 'Vision as Gesture'"
- Supervisors: Till Grohmann & Gabriel Lago de S. Barroso

**IIEF, Université de Strasbourg**, Strasbourg, France 2023-2024

- Learning French in Pôle Français Langue Etrangère, Institut International d'Etudes Françaises

**Institute of Philosophy, KU Leuven**, Leuven, Belgium 2020-2022

- Master of Philosophy, Grade: Magna Cum Laude
- Thesis: "Necessity of Contingency: Merleau-Ponty's Encounter with Saussure on 'How Do Signs Work?'"
- Supervisor: Till Grohmann

**Xi'an Jiaotong University**, Shaanxi, China 2016-2020

- Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, Average Score: 90.72/100
- Thesis: "Narrative, Goods and Local Community: A Reflection on the Debate between Alasdair MacIntyre and J. B. Schneewind"

**National Taiwan University**, Taipei, Taiwan Area 2019

- Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy (Exchange), GPA (Grade Point Average): 4.3/4.3

### CONFERENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

#### Conference and Presentations (Forthcoming / Accepted)

- "Generative Space-Time in Visual Art Practice: Merleau-Ponty and Chinese Landscape Painting in Dialogue" *European Society for Aesthetics Conference 2026*, Jyväskylä, Finland 2026 (forthcoming)
- "The First Fleeting Encounter with the Image", *Research Colloquium Techniques of the Senses*, University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland 2026 (forthcoming)

#### Selected Conference and Presentations

- "Space-Time as What Takes Shape Between the Image and Us" *2nd Leiden x Radboud Continental Philosophy Research Day*, Radboud university, Radboud, Netherlands 2026
- "From Continuity to Succession: The Encounter between Phenomenology and the I Ching on Time" *Philosophical Society of Southern Africa Annual Conference*, University of Cape Town 2026
- "Beyond Visual Narcissism: Toward a Phenomenology of the Image: Merleau-Ponty's Path from Mirror Experience to Image Experience" *Sixteenth International Conference on The Image*, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne 2025

- **“From ‘Political as Such’ to ‘Political Subject’: A Phenomenological Reinterpretation of Carl Schmitt’s Political Philosophy”** *29th Annual Conference of Chinese Phenomenology: “Phenomenology: System and Principles”*, Jilin University, Changchun, China 2025
- **“Beyond Non-Self: Rethinking Narcissism through Chinese Poetic Tradition and Phenomenology”** *5th Biennial Conference of the European Association for Chinese Philosophy*, University of Iceland 2025

## PUBLICATIONS

### Articles and Book Chapters

1. Liu, Yixuan. 《从身体的时空到肉身的时空：梅洛-庞蒂时空现象学研究》 (*From the “Spatio-Temporality” of Body to the “Spatio-Temporality” of Flesh: A Study of Merleau-Ponty’s Phenomenology of Space and Time*). *French Philosophy Studies* 《法国哲学研究》, forthcoming (2026).
2. Liu, Yixuan, Li, Bohan, Li, Chengrun, and Sun, Chong. “Beyond Measurable Time: From Experimental Evidence to Philosophical Reflection in Homosexual Films.” In *Aesthetics in the Age beyond AI*, edited by Yan Bao, Ernst Pöppel, Maria Reinisch, and LaoZhu. Singapore: World Scientific, forthcoming (2026).
3. Li, Chengrun, Liu, Yixuan, and Montero, Maxime. “Language and Identity: A Case Study on the Development of Yiddish.” In *Aesthetics in the Age beyond AI*, edited by Yan Bao, Ernst Pöppel, Maria Reinisch, and LaoZhu. Singapore: World Scientific, forthcoming (2026).
4. Tang, Jianing, Liu, Yixuan, and Feng, Hong. “The Temporal Constancy in Chinese Landscape Painting: A Cross-Cultural Dialogue from Homogeneous Time to Constant Time.” In *Aesthetics in the Age beyond AI*, edited by Yan Bao, Ernst Pöppel, Maria Reinisch, and LaoZhu. Singapore: World Scientific, forthcoming (2026).

### Translations

5. Alloa, Emmanuel. 《经受一种经验：感受、身体可供性与自我的建制》 (*Undergoing an Experience: Sensing, Bodily Affordances, and the Institution of the Self*). Translated by Yixuan Liu. *French Philosophy Studies* 《法国哲学研究》, forthcoming (2026).

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Master-Class in Micro-Phenomenology

Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (ICUB), Bucharest, Romania Jun 1-5, 2026 (forthcoming)

- Intensive master-class in micro-phenomenology led by Professor Natalie Depraz

### Comparative Philosophy Summer School on “Tao of Philosophy: Laozi, Heraclitus, Parmenides and Heidegger”

Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China Aug 26-31, 2025

- Thematic seminars on comparative ancient Chinese and Greek philosophy

### SISU-LMU-VDW Summer School on “The Power of Aesthetics”

Shanghai International Studies University & Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München & Verein Deutscher Wissenschaftler, Shanghai, China Aug 24-31, 2024

- Collaboration leading to three peer-reviewed book chapters developed after the program

## OTHERS

**Professional Memberships:** Member of the European Society for Aesthetics (ESA)

**Web profiles:** Leiden University profile: <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/staffmembers/yixuan-liu#tab-1>; University of Fribourg project page (Aesthetics Critique): <https://projects.unifr.ch/aesthetics-critique/team/yixuan-liu/>; Personal website: <https://yixuanliu cyber.com/>

### Additional skills and interests:

- Visual arts practice (painting, Chinese calligraphy); Literary writing (poetry, essays, and fiction)