

**Ori Tavor**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
(last updated April 30, 2021)

Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations  
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**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

**University of Pennsylvania**

Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies; MA Program Director. East Asian Languages and Civilizations, 2019-present.

**University of Pennsylvania**

Lecturer in Chinese Studies; MA Program Director. East Asian Languages and Civilizations, 2014-2019.

**The George Washington University**

Adjunct Professor. Religion, 2013-2014.

**EDUCATION**

**University of Pennsylvania**

Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Civilizations, 2012.

**Tel-Aviv University**

MA in Philosophy, 2007.

**Tel-Aviv University**

BA in philosophy and East Asian Studies, 2004.

**SERVICE**

2020-	Steering committee member, <i>Confucian Traditions Unit, American Academy of Religion</i>
2017-	Treasurer, <i>Society for the Study of Chinese Religions</i>
2017-	Editorial board member, <i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
2017-2021	Steering committee member, <i>Daoist Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion</i>
2018-2019	Co-editor, East Asian Traditions Section, <i>Religion Compass</i>

**PUBLICATIONS****Books**

In preparation     *Utopianism in Contemporary China*

**Refereed Journal Articles**

- Forthcoming     “Surveilled, Harmonized, Purified: The Body in Chinese Religious Culture”
- 2020             “Embodying the Dead: Ritual as Preventative Therapy in Chinese Ancestor Worship and Funerary Practices,” *Journal of Ritual Studies* 34.1: 31-42.
- 2017             “Ritual, Rejuvenation Practices, and the Experience of Aging in Early Chinese Religion,” *Body and Religion* 1.1: 31-47.
- 2016             “Authoring Virile Bodies: Self-Cultivation and Textual Production in Early China,” *Studies in Chinese Religions* 2.1: 45-65.
- 2014             “Naming / Power: Linguistic Engineering and the Construction of Discourse in Early China,” *Asian Philosophy* 24.4: 313-329.
- 2013             “Xunzi’s Theory of Ritual Revisited: Reading Ritual as Corporal Technology,” *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 12.3: 313-330.

**Book Chapters**

- In Press         “Coping with Social Trauma in Ancient China: The Healing Power of Ritual and Music,” in: *Ritual in Fearful Times: An Unexplored Resource for Coping with Trauma*, ed. Jeltje Gordon-Lennox. London: Springer.
- 2018             “Religious Thought,” in: *The Routledge Handbook of Early Chinese History*, ed. Paul R. Goldin. London: Routledge, 267-285.
- 2015             “Shifting Modes of Religiosity: Re-mapping Early Chinese Religion in light of Recently Excavated Manuscripts,” in: *From Mulberry Leaves to Silk Scrolls: New Approaches to the Study of Asian Manuscript Traditions*, eds. Justin McDaniel and Lynn Ransom. Philadelphia: The University of Pennsylvania Press, 131-150.

**Translations, Encyclopedia Entries, and Bibliographical Essays**

- 2019             “Ancestor Worship,” in: *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, ed. Tim Wright. New York: Oxford University Press, <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199920082/obo-9780199920082-0171.xml>
- 2017             “Correlative Cosmology, Moral Rectitude, and Buddhist Notions of Health: Selections from *The Sūtra of Trapusa and Bhallika*,” in: *Buddhism and Medicine: An Anthology of Sources*, ed. C. Pierce Salguero. New York: Columbia University Press, 433-440.
- 2014             “Xunzi,” in: *The Berkshire Dictionary of Chinese Biography*, Vol. 1, ed. Kerry Brown, et al. Great Barrington: Berkshire Publishing Group, 136-148.

**Review Articles**

- 2013 “Imagining the World Beyond: Representations of Heaven and the Netherworld in Early Chinese Religion, a review of K.E. Brashier’s *Ancestral Memory in Early China* and Lillian Tseng’s *Picturing Heaven in Early China*,” *Religious Studies Review* 39.2:59-64.

**Book Reviews**

- Forthcoming Richard Kim, *Confucianism and the Philosophy of Well-Being, Body and Religion*
- 2020 Constance Cook, *Ancestors, Kings, and the Dao*, *Journal of Chinese Religions* 48.2: 285-287.
- 2020 Chen Lai, *Philosophy and Confucian Tradition*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/philosophy-and-confucian-tradition>
- 2019 Edward Slingerland, *Mind and Body in Early China: Beyond Orientalism and the Myth of Holism*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 87.4: 1246-1249.
- 2019 Meir Shahaar, *Oedipal God: The Chinese Nezha and His Indian Origins*, *The Journal of Religion* 99.1: 129-130.
- 2018 Yudit Kornberg Greenberg, *The Body in Religion: Cross-Cultural Perspectives*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/body-religion>
- 2018 Michael David Kaulana Ing, *The Vulnerability of Integrity in Early Confucian Thought*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 86.3: 857-859.
- 2017 Kiri Paramore, ed. *Religion and Orientalism in Asian Studies*, *Reading Religion*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/religion-and-orientalism-asian-studies>
- 2017 Geir Sigurðsson, *Confucian Propriety and Ritual Learning: A Philosophical Interpretation*, *Dao: Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 16.3: 461-464.
- 2016 Philip Ivanhoe and Sungmoon Kim, eds. *Confucianism, a Habit of the Heart: Bellah, Civil Religion, and East Asia*, *China Review International* 23.2: 165-168.
- 2016 Terry F. Kleeman, *Celestial Masters: History and Ritual in Early Daoist Communities*, *Reading Religion*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/celestial-masters>
- 2015 Eric Hutton, *Xunzi: The Complete Text*, *Dao: Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 14.4: 611-614.
- 2015 Michael David Kaulana Ing, *The Dysfunction of Ritual in Early Confucianism*, *History of Religions* 55.1: 109-111.
- 2014 Gil Raz, *The Emergence of Daoism: Creation of Tradition*, *Daoism: Religion, History and Society* 道教研究學報 5: 207-209.
- 2013 Erica Fox Brindley, *Music, Cosmology, and the Politics of Harmony in Early China*, *Journal of Asian Studies* 72.4: 969-970.

- 2013 Michael Stanley-Baker, *Daoists and Doctors: The Role of Medicine in Six Dynasties Shangqing Daoism*, PhD Dissertation, <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/6053>

### CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- 2017 *Body and Cosmos in China: An Interdisciplinary Symposium in Honor of Nathan Sivin* (with Paul R. Goldin), University of Pennsylvania, Oct. 14-15.
- 2015 *New Directions in Chinese Philosophy*, University of Pennsylvania, October 24.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

- 2021 “Bringing Out the Dead: How Virtual Reality is Changing Chinese Ancestor Worship,” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, San Antonio, TX.
- 2021 “Corporeality, Authenticity, and Virtual Ancestor Worship in Contemporary China,” *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, March 24.
- 2020 “Music as Embodied Therapy in Classical Confucianism,” *American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA, January 10.
- 2019 “The Rehabilitation of the Jiang Yuan: From Ritual Pollution to Exemplary Motherhood,” *Women as Exemplary Persons in the Ru (Confucian) Tradition*, Washington, DC, March 9.
- 2018 “Ritual Efficacy and Religious Innovation in the *Spring and Autumn Annals of Master Yan*,” *Dialogue with Ancient China: International Forum on The Spring and Autumn Annals of Master Yan and Studying Pre-Qin Masters in a New Era*, Renmin University, Beijing, China, October 9.
- 2018 “The Neurophysiology of Early Chinese Death Rituals,” *Northeast/Midwest Conference on Chinese Thought*, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, April 27.
- 2017 “Between Emulation and Creation: New Perspectives on Daoist Ritual Theory,” *International Conference on Daoist Studies*, University of Paris at Nanterre, France, May 18.
- 2016 “Gender, Sacrifice, and Social Reproduction in the *Book of Odes*,” *Annual Southeast Early China Roundtable*, The Citadel, Charleston, SC, October 29.
- 2015 “Defying Aging and Restoring Vigor: Technologies of the Gendered Body in Early China,” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, GA, November 21.
- 2015 “Confucianism and the Ethics of Genetic Engineering,” *New Directions in Chinese Philosophy*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, October 24.
- 2015 “Advisor, Philosopher, Redeemer: The Image of Confucius in Contemporary China,” *Religion in Contemporary China Symposium*, George Washington University, Washington, DC, April 7.
- 2014 “Medicalized Bodies: A New Paradigm for the Study of the Religio-medical Marketplace in Early China,” *Science and Religion in Medieval China*, Penn State Abington, PA, March 27.

- 2013 “Cosmic Resonance, Celestial Retribution, and Buddhist Religious Identity in Medieval China,” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, MD, November 25.
- 2012 “The Lived Body: The Phenomenology of Self-Cultivation in Early China”, *American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, GA, December 29.
- 2012 “The Inherent Paradoxicality of Theorizing Ritual: A Chinese Perspective”, *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL, November 19.
- 2011 “Ritual as a Technology of the Body in Early Confucianism”, *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, November 20.
- 2010 “Social Changes, Ritual Revolutions, and the Founding Myth of the Zhou”, *Mid-Atlantic Region American Academy of Religion Annual Conference*, New Brunswick, NJ, March 11.
- 2009 “Shifting Conceptions of Ritual in Warring States China”, *Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Villanova University, PA, October 30.
- 2008 “Spatial Manifestations of Authority in Early Imperial China”, *Annual Conference of Asian Studies in Israel*, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, May 22.
- 2007 “A Confucian Utopia Revisited: An Inquiry into the Ideal Society Depicted in the Liyun Chapter”, *International Conference on Chinese Philosophy*, Wuhan University, China, June 24.

#### **INVITED LECTURES (SELECTED)**

- 2021 “Confucianism and its Rivals,” *Foreign Service Institute*, Arlington, VA, February 2.
- 2020 “Living the Dream: Utopian Communities in Contemporary China,” East Asia Seminar, The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies, University of Pennsylvania, November 5.
- 2020 “Confucianism and Shamanism in Korea and Japan,” *Foreign Service Institute*, Arlington, VA, January 22.
- 2019 “Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto in East Asia,” *Foreign Service Institute*, Arlington, VA, June 3.
- 2018 “Designer Babies and the Ethics of Human Enhancement: A Confucian Perspective,” *The University of Scranton*, PA, April 12.
- 2017 “East Asia’s Confucian Heritage,” *Foreign Service Institute*, Arlington, VA, February 22.
- 2016 “Daoism and Buddhism in Northeast Asia,” *Foreign Service Institute*, Arlington, VA, August 9.
- 2015 “Buddhism in Northeast Asia” *Foreign Service Institute*, Arlington, VA, June 16.
- 2014 “Axial Age Religiosity and the Rise of Moral Theology in China,” *East Asian Studies Center Colloquium*, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, March 7.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2015,16,18 Penn Center for East Asian Studies Faculty Conference Travel Grant  
2014 An Introduction to Daoist Literature and History, NEH Summer Seminar Fellowship  
2011 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania  
2011 Chiang Ching-kuo Dissertation Fellowship [declined]  
2010 Woodenfish Project, Buddhism in China Program Summer Fellowship

## REFREE AND PEER REVIEW WORK

Bloomsbury, De Gruyter, *Dao: Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, *Georgetown Journal of Asian Affairs*,  
*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Monumenta Serica*, *Religion Compass*

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Asian Studies  
American Academy of Religion  
Association of Chinese Philosophers in North America  
Society for the Study of Chinese Religions

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Advanced Classical Chinese (Graduate course, University of Pennsylvania)  
Chinese Cinema (University of Pennsylvania)  
Chinese History and Civilization (Graduate course, University of Pennsylvania)  
Chinese Martial Arts (University of Pennsylvania)  
Cults and New Religious Movements (Graduate course, University of Pennsylvania)  
Daoism in East Asia (George Washington University)  
East Asian Religions (University of Pennsylvania)  
Gurus, Prophets, and Aliens: Understanding New Religious Movements (University of Pennsylvania)  
History of Buddhism (Maryland Institute College of Art)  
Into the Fire: Religious Sacrifice in Comparative Perspective (University of Pennsylvania)  
Introduction to Chinese Civilization (University of Pennsylvania)  
Introduction to Classical Chinese Thought (University of Pennsylvania)  
Mapping the Chinese Body (University of Pennsylvania)  
Myth, Ritual, and Popular Religion in China (George Washington University)  
Religion in Modern China (University of Pennsylvania; George Washington University)  
Religion, State, and Society in East Asia (University of Pennsylvania)  
Religions of Asia (University of Pennsylvania)  
What is Taoism (University of Pennsylvania)  
What is Asia (Penn State Abington)