

**Ori Tavor**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
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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**

2021-	Steering committee member, <i>Confucian Traditions Unit, American Academy of Religion</i>
2017-	Editorial board member, <i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
2018-2019	Co-editor, East Asian Traditions Section, <i>Religion Compass</i>
2017-2023	Treasurer, <i>Society for the Study of Chinese Religions</i>
2017-2021	Steering committee member, <i>Daoist Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion</i>

**PUBLICATIONS****Books**

In preparation     *Utopianism in Contemporary China*

**Refereed Journal Articles**

In preparation     “The Green Empire: Ritual, Cosmology, and Ecology in Early Chinese State Religion,” *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology*

In press             “In Tradition is the Preservation of the World: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Confucian Utopia,” *Utopian Studies* 35.1

2021                 “Surveilled, Harmonized, Purified: The Body in Chinese Religious Culture,” *Body and Religion* 5.1: 24-44. <https://doi.org/10.1558/bar.17840>

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. <https://doi.org/10.1558/bar.31737>

2016                 “Authoring Virile Bodies: Self-Cultivation and Textual Production in Early China,” *Studies in Chinese Religions* 2.1: 45-65. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23729988.2016.1131464>

2014                 “Naming / Power: Linguistic Engineering and the Construction of Discourse in Early China,” *Asian Philosophy* 24.4: 313-329. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09552367.2014.983670>

2013                 “Xunzi’s Theory of Ritual Revisited: Reading Ritual as Corporal Technology,” *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 12.3: 313-330. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11712-013-9331-4>

**Book Chapters**

2022                 “Coping with Social Trauma in Ancient China: The Healing Power of Meditation, Ritual, and Music,” in: *Coping Rituals in Fearful Times: An Unexplored Resource for Healing Trauma*, ed. Jeltje Gordon-Lennox. London: Springer, 65-76. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-81534-9\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-81534-9_4)

2018                 “Religious Thought,” in: *The Routledge Handbook of Early Chinese History*, ed. Paul R. Goldin. London: Routledge, 267-285. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315773605-13>

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**

- 2023 “Ancestor Worship,” in: *Routledge Encyclopedia of Chinese Studies*, eds. Chris Shei and Zhouxiang Lu. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367565152-RECHS10-1>
- 2022 [Spring and Autumn annals of Master Lü \(Lüshi Chunqiu 呂氏春秋\)](#), in: *Database of Religious History*
- 2019 “Ancestor Worship,” in: *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, ed. Tim Wright. New York: Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/obo/9780199920082-0171>
- 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. <https://doi.org/10.7312/salg17994-046>
- 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. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rsr.12023>

**Book Reviews**

- In Press Paul Fischer, *Self-Cultivation in Early China*, *Journal of Asian Studies* 83.1
- In Press Huaiyu Chen, *In the Land of Tigers and Snakes: Living with Animals in Medieval Chinese Religions*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 91.4
- 2023 April Hughes, *Worldly Saviors and Imperial Authority in Medieval Chinese Buddhism*, <https://readingreligion.org/9780824886264/>
- 2022 Franciscus Verellen, *Imperiled Destinies: The Daoist Quest for Deliverance in Medieval China*, *Tang Studies* 40: 179-183. <https://doi.org/10.1353/tan.2022.0006>
- 2020 Richard Kim, *Confucianism and the Philosophy of Well-Being*, *Body and Religion* 4.1: 133-137. <https://doi.org/10.1558/bar.20302>
- 2020 Constance Cook, *Ancestors, Kings, and the Dao*, *Journal of Chinese Religions* 48.2: 285-287. <https://doi.org/10.1353/jcr.2020.0014>
- 2020 Chen Lai, *Philosophy and Confucian Tradition*, <https://readingreligion.org/9781626430365/>
- 2019 Edward Slingerland, *Mind and Body in Early China*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 87.4: 1246-1249. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfz071>

- 2019 Meir Shahar, *Oedipal God: The Chinese Nezha and His Indian Origins*, *The Journal of Religion* 99.1: 129-130. <https://doi.org/10.1086/700420>
- 2018 Yudit Kornberg Greenberg, *The Body in Religion: Cross-Cultural Perspectives*, <https://readingreligion.org/9781472595034/>
- 2018 Michael David Kaulana Ing, *The Vulnerability of Integrity in Early Confucian Thought*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 86.3: 857-859. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfy004>
- 2017 Kiri Paramore, ed. *Religion and Orientalism in Asian Studies*, *Reading Religion*, <https://readingreligion.org/9781474289733/>
- 2017 Geir Sigurðsson, *Confucian Propriety and Ritual Learning: A Philosophical Interpretation*, *Dao: Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 16.3: 461-464. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11712-017-9569-3>
- 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*, <https://readingreligion.org/9780674737167/>
- 2015 Eric Hutton, *Xunzi: The Complete Text*, *Dao: Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 14.4: 611-614. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11712-015-9465-7>
- 2015 Michael David Kaulana Ing, *The Dysfunction of Ritual in Early Confucianism*, *History of Religions* 55.1: 109-111. <https://doi.org/10.1086/681808>
- 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. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021911813001204>

#### 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)

- 2024 “The Varieties of Green Utopianism in Contemporary China,” *Midwest Conference on Chinese Thought*, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, April 12.
- 2023 “Coming to Terms with Chinese ‘Religion’ and ‘Philosophy’ in the Classroom,” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, San Antonio, TX, November 19.

- 2022 “A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Confucian Utopia,” *Northeast Conference on Chinese Thought*, Yale University, New Haven, CT, November 12.
- 2022 “The Correlation of Excavated Texts to Transmitted Ones, and its Effects on the Study of Early Chinese Manuscripts” (discussant), *On Altars of Soil Workshop*, Bloomington, IN, April 29.
- 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)**

- 2023 “Confucianism and Shamanism in East Asia,” *Foreign Service Institute*, Arlington, VA, March 28.
- 2022 “What is Early Chinese Religion?” *Early China Seminar*, Columbia University, New York, NY, March 11.
- 2021 “Confucianism and its Rivals,” *Foreign Service Institute*, Arlington, VA, February 2.
- 2020 “Living the Dream: Utopian Communities in Contemporary China,” *The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies East Asia Seminar*, University of Pennsylvania, November 5.
- 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.
- 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 Chinese History*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Monumenta Serica*, *Philosophy East and West*, *Religion Compass*, *Sino-Platonic Papers*, *The Journal of Religion*, *Utopian Studies*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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)  
Apocalypse and Utopia in China (University of Pennsylvania)  
Chinese Cinema (University of Pennsylvania)  
Chinese History and Civilization (Graduate Course, University of Pennsylvania)  
Chinese Intellectual History (Maryland Institute College of Art)  
Chinese Martial Arts (University of Pennsylvania)  
Chinese Popular Culture (University of Pennsylvania)  
Cults and New Religious Movements (Graduate Course, University of Pennsylvania)  
Cultural China: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese Literature and Film (Graduate Course, University of Pennsylvania)  
Daoism in East Asia (George Washington University)  
East Asian History and Civilization (Graduate Course, University of Pennsylvania)  
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)