

PROJECT APPROVAL

Philosophy of Intimacy and the Theory of Justice

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Status: Approved
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Project Initiated: June 4, 2026 (ongoing)
Authority: Founder, pursuant to §14.4 of the Bylaws (Initial Period)

1 Project Identification

Project Name. Philosophy of Intimacy and the Theory of Justice.

Description. A philosophical research series examining intimate life through the framework of relational being and justice. The series develops an integrative theory of justice for intimacy, addressing how love, freedom, and justice can be sustained within asymmetry and dependency, and how intimate relations resist reduction to instrumental or transactional logics.

Motivations. The intimate relation is among the most fundamental sites of relational being, and yet has been under-theorized in contemporary philosophy of justice. The series proceeds from the recognition that intimate life is where the structural problems of relational being — asymmetry, dependency, recognition, alienation, the formation of the subject through the Other, the conditions of authentic presence — appear in their most acute and concrete form, and that an adequate philosophy of relational being must encounter them there. The series also responds to the contemporary condition in which intimate life is increasingly mediated by artificial intelligence and shaped by instrumental and transactional logics, conditions that threaten the possibility of authentic relational presence. The work seeks to articulate the conditions under which love, freedom, and justice can be sustained within asymmetry and dependency, and to develop a theory of justice that takes the intimate relation seriously as a domain in which the deepest questions of relational being are at stake.

Objectives. The Project pursues, through a continuing series of philosophical papers, the following objectives:

1. To develop an integrative theory of justice for intimate relations grounded in relational being;
2. To articulate the conditions under which love, freedom, and justice are sustained within

asymmetry and dependency;

3. To examine how contemporary mediation — including AI mediation, the language of the gift, the political economy of intimacy, the formation of the subject through the Other, and related conditions — shapes intimate relations and their justice;
4. To contribute to scholarly conversation in care ethics, political philosophy, the philosophy of recognition, and the philosophy of relational being.

Expected Outcomes. A continuing series of peer-reviewed philosophical papers; a comprehensive theoretical framework integrating philosophy of intimacy and the theory of justice; sustained engagement with international scholarly conversation in care ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of recognition, and the philosophy of relational being; and theoretical foundations that may inform related projects of the Society in other infrastructural domains.

2 Infrastructural Domain Classification

Primary classification. The Project is classified under three domains of Schedule A:

- **Domain II: Conceptual and Ontological Infrastructure** — articulated in Schedule A as “understanding why people in our age feel increasingly lonely and unseen.”
- **Domain IV: Decision Infrastructure** — articulated as “keeping a person’s own voice audible in the decisions that shape their fate.”
- **Domain VII: Ethical and Care Infrastructure** — articulated as “sustaining a relationship when it cannot be repaid in kind, when the other is fragile and depends on you.”

Reasoning for the classification.

The Project’s classification under Domain VII rests on its central concern with the ethics and justice of care, recognition, and the sustaining of relationship under conditions of asymmetry and dependency. The intimate relation is the paradigmatic site at which Domain VII’s questions arise.

The Project’s classification under Domain II rests on its theoretical engagement with the conditions under which the contemporary subject experiences relational absence, alienation, and the felt loss of being-seen. The series articulates, at the conceptual and ontological level, what is at stake when intimate life is reshaped by instrumental and AI-mediated forms.

The Project’s classification under Domain IV rests on its concern with the conditions under which a person’s own voice — their capacity to speak from their own intentionality, to be heard, to participate as a generative subject rather than as an object of others’ framing — is sustained or eroded within intimate relations. The work on epistemic injustice in intimate decisions, on the marriage proposal as a high-stakes act, and on self-legislation within intimate bonds, develops Domain IV’s commitment in a specific and intimate register.

The Project does not classify under the other domains of Schedule A (Theoretical, Co-presence, Co-creative, Educational) as primary, though its theoretical contributions may inform projects in those domains.

3 Publication and Licensing

Papers in the series are published through scholarly venues appropriate to each work, including preprint repositories, peer-reviewed journals, and edited volumes. Copies released through the Society’s own channels are made available under the Creative Commons Attribution license (CC BY 4.0), consistent with the Society’s commitment to open scholarly exchange under §3.4 of the Bylaws. Copyright in each paper is held in accordance with the publication arrangements of the venue and the author’s institutional affiliations.

4 Ethics Review Determination

Determination. Ethics review under §3.5 of the Bylaws is **not required** for the Project.

Reasoning for the determination. The Project is theoretical philosophical research. It does not constitute empirical research involving human subjects, does not collect data from identifiable individuals, does not involve sensitive personal data of third parties, is not biomedical or psychological research, and does not involve any vulnerable population within the meaning of §3.5. The Project’s engagement with intimate life is conceptual and analytic, not investigative or interventional.

Ethical commitments of the author. Notwithstanding that formal ethics review is not required, the philosophical character of the subject matter calls for the following ethical practices, which the author undertakes as a matter of voluntary commitment rather than as a §3.5 obligation:

1. Where any paper of the series refers to or describes specific identifiable persons other than the author, the author shall obtain appropriate consent, anonymize references, or otherwise treat the material in a manner consistent with the dignity and autonomy of the persons concerned.
2. No paper of the series shall disclose private information about identifiable persons without their consent.
3. The Project shall respect the standards of scholarly ethics applicable to philosophical research, including proper attribution of intellectual debts, accurate representation of opposing positions, and citation of sources.
4. Where the work draws on the author’s own intimate life as material — including discussion of the author’s own relationships and experiences — such material is treated with the care that the relational ethics of the Project itself articulates.

5 Authority and Effective Date

This Project Approval is issued by the undersigned Founder under the authority granted by §14.4 of the Bylaws to approve projects of the Society during the Initial Period. The Project was initiated on June 4, 2026 and is ongoing; this Approval formally brings the existing Project under the governance framework of the Society. The Society shall maintain this Project Approval document, together with all subsequent records relating to the Project (including individual paper records, version changes, and any amendments to the classification, publication arrangements,

or ethics determination set forth herein), in the permanent records of the Society pursuant to §5.11 of the Bylaws.

Wanhong, Founder

Date: June 26, 2026