

**ISCWP**

国际中西哲学比较研究会

International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese and Western Philosophy**Volume 7, Issue 2, August 2009**

From the editor

Greetings fellow members of ISCWP. Contained within this issue are announcements and summaries of a number of newsworthy events with which the Society is associated. As you will see, ISCWP has become a major sponsor of comparative philosophy worldwide. We welcome your continued support and participation (to this end, please see the end of this newsletter for information on dues and donations). This and past newsletters are available on our web site at the following address: <http://sangle.web.wesleyan.edu/iscwp/news.html>. Any inquiries or feedback regarding this issue are welcome. Please address them to Justin Tiwald at jtiwald@sfsu.edu.

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Letter from the President of ISCWP

by Stephen C. Angle, Wesleyan University

Dear all,

In the last Newsletter I wrote about the need for collaboration and communication if we are to continue to move the project of comparative philosophy forward, and I mentioned my hope that the next **ISCWP Constructive Engagement** conference would take place in May 2010. I would like to update you on both of these themes.

Thanks in small part to a contribution from ISCWP, and in very large part to the personal efforts of our Secretary-Treasurer, Justin Tivald, the **Mini-conference on Neo-Confucianism and Moral Psychology** that was held at the past Pacific APA meeting was a great success. (See Article III for more details.) One very nice aspect of the Mini-conference was a reception for all interested philosophers. This provided an opportunity not just to see old friends or meet people one knew only via email, but also to get to know “Western” philosophers with enough interest in Chinese philosophy to be willing to share our food and drink. All agreed that it was both fun and constructive, and I am happy to report that next year’s Pacific APA will feature a similar reception, jointly sponsored by the several organizations with an interest in Chinese and comparative philosophy (the ISCWP, ACPA, SACP, and ISCP). If you are able to attend the Pacific APA meetings, please join us!

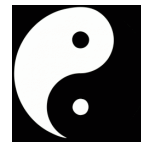
I am also pleased to report that in May 2010, Peking University will be the site of the fourth **ISCWP Constructive Engagement** international conference. The topic will be “Confucianism and Virtue Ethics,” and the conference will run from May 14 – May 16. In addition to Peking University, Hong Kong Baptist University will also serve as a co-organizer, and we have arranged financial support from several U.S. entities, including the NEH. Invitations to submit papers will be issued over the next few weeks; because for various logistical reasons there is a strict ceiling on the number of scholars who can participate, we have decided not to issue a general call for papers. This was a difficult decision that is related, perhaps ironically, to our success in raising money to support the conference. Past Constructive Engagement conferences had very low budgets, little financial support for participating scholars, and consequently were very open (although we endeavored to monitor carefully the quality and relevance of proposed papers). As we move forward, we will have to assess what approach works best for our members and for advancing the cause of comparative philosophy. One thing we learned from our most recent conference (June 2007) was the value of having papers submitted well in advance and then translated, so that both

English and Chinese versions of all papers were available to participants. This greatly alleviated the inevitable problem of a multi-lingual conference, and we will be following that same model with the upcoming conference.

When one adds together the several panels the ISCWP will be sponsoring at this upcoming December’s Eastern APA meeting, plus the panels and reception at the Pacific APA, plus our annual **Beijing Roundtable** and the May conference, it will be a busy academic year for our organization. I hope to see you at one of the events!

Sincerely,

Steve



A Report on the 2009 Term of ISCWP’s “Beijing Roundtable on Contemporary Philosophy” Workshop Series

by Bo Mou 牟博, San José State University

On 26th June 2009, the 2009 term of ISCWP’s “**Beijing Roundtable on Contemporary Philosophy**” workshop series, on the theme “Contemporary Metaphysics and Metaphysical Thoughts in Classical Chinese Philosophy,” was successfully held at School of Philosophy, Renmin University of China. It was co-sponsored and hosted by School of Philosophy and International Center for Chinese and Comparative Philosophy, Renmin University of China, and co-sponsored by Center for Comparative Philosophy, San Jose State University, California, USA.

The format of the 2009 term of the “Beijing Roundtable” is a half-day critical-discussion workshop. This workshop is intended to provide a critical discussion forum for a number of papers that are expected to present original ideas on the theme that are well explained and justified. There are two emphases concerning the contents of the papers under critical discussion: (1) creatively exploring how distinct approaches from contemporary metaphysics (in any traditions) and from classical Chinese philosophy can constructively engage with each other and make their joint contributions to some significant issues and concerns in metaphysics in philosophically interesting ways, and/or (2) employing relevant and effective conceptual/explanatory resources in contemporary metaphysics to interpret/elaborate some metaphysical thoughts or approaches in classical Chinese philosophy for the sake of enhancing our understanding of them and/or for the purpose of (1).

Dr. Haiming Wen (溫海明), Director of Foreign Affairs Office, School of Philosophy, Renmin University of China, chaired the workshop. At the beginning, **Professor Lixin Hao** (郝立新), Dean of School of Philosophy, gave his opening remarks. Then four major speakers from China, US and Greece made presentations of their engaging papers on the theme, each of which was followed by an active critical discussion session. They are **Marianne Benetatos** (Greek Philosophical Society, Greece): “Heracitus and Lao Zi and the Philosophies of Being and Change”; **Minli Nie** (聶敏里, Renmin University of China) “Antiquity and Modernity, or China and the West?—An Observation about the Comparison between Chinese Metaphysics and Western Metaphysics”; **Weimin Sun** (孫衛民, California State University at Northridge, USA): “The Conception of Freedom in Ancient China”; **Yuncheng Zhou** (周允程, Tsinghua University, China): “Zhuang Zi's Butterfly Dreaming and the First-Person Issue in Metaphysics”. In the remaining time, **Bo Mou** (牟博, San Jose State University, USA) also presented partial contents of his paper: “A Daoist Thick-Object Account of the Structure of Objects”. Besides the above speakers, the core participants also include three well-prepared and engaging discussants: **Linhe Han** (韓林合, Peking University, China), **Christian Jochim** (San Jose State University, USA), and **Shan Wei** (惟善, Renmin University of China). To have good discussion and effectively fulfill the goal of the workshop, the aforementioned paper drafts had been sent to all the core participants well before the workshop for their critical preview. The above core participants had thus well warmed up and prepared for the critical discussion. That brought about a very effective, careful and point-hitting critical but constructive discussion on the scene.

Although ISCWP's “Beijing Roundtable” workshop series emphasizes effectively implementing this critical discussion and academic exchange channel while minimizing resources-consumption with its flexible and portable character, the host of 2009 Beijing Roundtable, School of Philosophy of Renmin University of China, extended a variety of excellent logistic support and assistance for the sake of the success of the 2009 Beijing Roundtable, due to its Dean Lixin Hao's enthusiastic support and Dr. Haiming Wen's substantial efforts.

Report on May, 2009 Workshop on Contemporary Virtue Ethics and Confucianism, held at Tsinghua University

by Stephen C. Angle, Wesleyan University

On May 12-13, the Department of Philosophy of Tsinghua University and the ISCWP convened a **Workshop on Confucianism and Virtue Ethics**. This is part of a series of activities that the ISCWP is helping to organize, collectively

with the goal of enabling cross-tradition philosophical dialogue concerning virtue ethics and broader theories of virtue to reach a new level of sophistication and constructiveness. The Workshop was conducted in Chinese, and had the particular aim of encouraging Chinese scholars of Confucianism to engage with contemporary scholarship on virtue ethics. All participants were asked to read the articles in an anthology of Chinese translations of recent work in virtue ethics, 《美德伦理与道德要求》 [Virtue Ethics and Moral Demands]. Participants prepared papers that responded in some way to the issues raised by one or more of those articles.

The Workshop opened with a keynote lecture offered (in English) by Prof. Michael Slote of the University of Miami, titled “Sentimentalist Virtue Ethics.” The other presentations were (translating titles into English):

- **Chen Lai** 陳來, “Virtue Ethics and Confucianism: Confucian Dexing 德行 Ethics and Its Early Development”
- **Luo Bingxiang** 羅秉祥, “Virtue Ethics and the Relation between ‘Developing Good Sprouts’ and ‘Returning to the Original’”
- **Li Jinglin** 李景林, “Heaven's Mandate and Moral Luck”
- **Wang Bo** 王博, “Virtue and Action in the Wu Xing Pian”
- **Huang Yong** 黃勇, “Virtue Ethics and the Self-Centeredness Objection”
- **Eric Hutton** 何艾克, “Some Misunderstandings Created by the Encounter Between Virtue Ethics and Confucianism”
- **Stephen Angle** 安靖如, “Against the Moral/Nonmoral Distinction in Confucianism or Virtue Ethics”
- **Daniel Bell** 貝淡寧, “Should Care Ethics Care about the Promotion of Democracy in Foreign Lands?”
- **Xiao Wei** 肖巍, “Moral Autonomy: A Comparison of Western Virtue Ethics and Confucianism”
- **Wang Jinyi** 王今一, “Virtues and Norms in Light of Pre-Qin Confucianism's ‘Mutual Constitution of Family and State’ Concept”
- **Lu Feng** 盧風, “Why Modern People Pay Little Attention to Virtues”
- **Gong Qun** 龔群, “Modern Theoretical Significance of Confucian Virtue Ethics”
- **Liang Tao** 梁濤, “Confucianism and Virtue Ethics: A Forced Comparison?”
- **Wang Kai** 王楷, “Xunzi: A Paradigmatic Idealist Virtue Ethicist in Early Confucianism”



Each paper stimulated considerable discussion, and there were a variety of approaches in evidence. Some sought to use something from Confucianism to answer a question raised in contemporary Western virtue ethics. Some sought to show how Confucianism didn't face issues that Western virtue ethics does, or at any rate conceptualized things differently. Others adopted a more synthetic perspective, seeking to articulate one or another aspect of a "virtue ethic" that drew on both Confucian and Western sources. And some, finally, worried that all this talk of virtue ethics was merely muddling our understanding of Confucianism itself. All in all, it was a very successful two days.



Report on the April, 2009 APA Mini-Conference, "Neo-Confucian Moral Psychology"

by Justin Tiwald, San Francisco State University

Zhu Xi 朱熹 (1130-1200)

Chinese philosophy has been steadily increasing its presence in the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association (APA), which has hosted ever-growing numbers of panels and presentations on Chinese topics in recent years. This year, the Pacific Division sent perhaps its clearest signal of support by agreeing to devote several of its featured sessions to neo-Confucian philosophy. These special sessions, collectively termed a "mini-conference," consisted of presentations by specialists in neo-Confucian moral psychology and responses from philosophers working in an array of related areas in Chinese and Western thought. The event drew a remarkably large and diverse audience of roughly 30 – 60 philosophers per session. The mini-conference's organizing committee consisted of **Stephen Angle** (Wesleyan), **HUANG Yong** 黃勇 (Kutztown), **Philip J. Ivanhoe** (City University of Hong Kong), **Pauline Lee** 李博玲 (Washington University), **Eric Schwitzgebel** (University of California – Riverside), and **Justin Tiwald** (San Francisco State University). ISCWP and ACPA joined the Pacific Division in co-sponsoring the mini-conference.

Panels were chaired by **Donald Blakeley** (Hawai'i), **David S. Nivison** (Stanford), **A.O. Rorty** (National Humanities Center), and **Gary Watson** (University of Southern California). The speakers and respondents were the following:

- **Stephen Angle** (Wesleyan University), "A Productive Dialogue: Contemporary Moral Education and Neo-Confucian Virtue Ethics"

- Commentator: **Eric Schwitzgebel** (University of California - Riverside)

- **HUANG Yong** 黃勇 (Kutztown), "The Self-Centeredness Objection to Virtue Ethics: Zhu Xi's Neo-Confucian Response"

- Commentator: **Thomas Hurka** (Toronto)

- **Philip J. Ivanhoe** (City University of Hong Kong), "Moral Perception in McDowell, Wang, and Mengzi"

- Commentator: **Christine Swanton** (Auckland)

- **Pauline Lee** 李博玲 (Washington University), "An Ethics of Authenticity 真 - A Comparison of Charles Taylor and Li Zhi 李贄"

- Commentator: **XIAO Yang** 蕭陽 (Kenyon)

- **LIU JeeLoo** 劉紀璐 (California State University – Fullerton), "Moral Sense, Moral Motivation and the Possibility of Altruism: A Comparative Study of Zhang Zai's and Wang Fuzhi's Moral Psychology"

- Commentator: **Owen Flanagan** (Duke)

- **Kwong-loi SHUN** 信廣來 (Chinese University of Hong Kong), "On Anger: An Experimental Essay in Confucian Moral Psychology"

- Commentator: **Howard Curzer** (Texas Tech)

- **David Tien** 田偉廷 (National University of Singapore), "Intuitions, Affections, and the Moral Faculty in the Philosophy of Wang Yangming (1472-1529)"

- Commentator: **Edward Slingerland** (University of British Columbia)

- **Justin Tiwald** (San Francisco State), "Self-Love, Sympathy, and Virtue: Dai Zhen's Defense of Self-Interest"

- Commentator: **Michael Slote** (Miami)

- **Speaker: YU Kam Por** 余錦波 (Hong Kong Polytechnic University), "Su Shi on the Psychological Basis of Morality"

- Commentator: **BAI Tongdong** 白彤東 (Xavier)

For more information see the Pacific Division's mini-conference website: <http://apa-pacific.org/minis/ncmp/>

In light of the turnout and enthusiasm for the mini-conference, some professional societies have committed to organizing similarly structured events at future meetings of the Pacific Division. The 2010 meeting, for example, will include several thematically linked panels on Legalism and its closest

approximations in Western political thought. We hope that this event will stand as another testament to the rising profile of Chinese philosophy in North America.

Call for Papers or Panels

The International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese and Western Philosophy (ISCWP) plans to sponsor one or more panels at this year's Pacific APA conference, to be held on March 31 - April 4, 2010, at the Westin St Francis in San Francisco. We hereby invite submissions.

Please note that we are especially encouraging submissions of whole or partial panels that combine philosophers working primarily in Chinese traditions with those working primarily in Western traditions, but speaking on similar topics or common concerns, for the sake of constructive engagement.

Let me also remind you that in order to facilitate collaborating with colleagues working outside the Chinese tradition, non-ISCWP members can propose papers to be included in an ISCWP-sponsored panel, or even propose a panel that is related to the ISCWP's aims.

As before, we also continue to welcome panels that do not engage in explicit cross-tradition dialogue, as well as individual paper proposals.

The deadline is September 25, 2009. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Steve Angle

Guidelines

Submission Deadline: September 25, 2009.

1. To submit a **paper** proposal, please provide a 250-300 word abstract. Submissions need to include presenter's name, institutional affiliation, paper title, and email address.

2. To submit a **panel** proposal, please provide an overall abstract of the panel topic of 250-300 words, including due justification. The panel proposal needs to include the name of each presenter, his or her affiliation, papers title, and email address. Panels should have a Chair and may have Commentators. Please provide names, affiliation, and email address for each person.

3. You may submit a partial panel proposal -- the earlier the better -- and ask for help in filling it out.

4. Announcement of papers and/or panels selected for presentation will be made in mid-October.

5. Address all submissions and inquires to:

Professor Steve Angle

Email: sangle@wesleyan.edu

Dues and Donations



ISCWP's dues are voluntary but **much** needed. The suggested contribution is **\$20** for regular members and **\$5** for student members. Larger contributions are welcome. Regular contributions of dues are crucial if we are to maintain the impressive momentum the Society

has built heretofore. As you can see from the events reported in this newsletter, the Society has managed to use its modest budget to great effect, having sponsored some of the most high-profile events in comparative philosophy.

The Society stands out in having cross-regional philosophical exchange as its basic mission, and in pursuing this with great success. If you wish to support this distinctive mission we hope you will contribute. Donations from academic centers and foundations are also welcome.

We offer two ways of contributing dues.

1. **By check.**

Please make your check payable to ISCWP and send it to the following address:

Prof. Justin Tiwald
Department of Philosophy
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94132
United States

2. **On-line.**

For the convenience of our members, we have established a Paypal account, which enables members to contribute dues by credit card. To use this method, please go to the [Home page](#) of ISCWP's website and click the "**donate**" button.

ISCWP's Home page can be found at <http://sangle.web.wesleyan.edu/iscwp/index.html>, or simply by Googling "ISCWP Homepage."

Many thanks, Justin Tiwald
Secretary-Treasurer