



ISCWP

国际中西哲学比较研究学会

International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese  
and Western Philosophy

### ***From the Editor***

*Greetings, fellow members of ISCWP. This issue features updates from the society's members on their various activities, a call for proposals and volunteers for the 2020 APA-Pacific meeting, and a listing of panels organized by the society for the 2020 APA-Eastern and Central divisional meetings.*

*We welcome your continued support and participation! To this end, please see the end of this newsletter for information on dues and donations.*

*Any inquiries or feedback regarding this issue are welcome. Please send them to Mathew Foust:*  
[foust@ccsu.edu](mailto:foust@ccsu.edu)

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## Member News and Updates

### **Stephen C. Angle, Wesleyan University**

I edited and wrote an Introduction to *The Adolescence of Mainland New Confucianism*, special issue of *Contemporary Chinese Thought* (2019). I also published the following:

“Does Confucian Public Reason Depend on Confucian Civil Religion?” (*Journal of Social Philosophy*, 2019)

“Confucian Perspectives on the Morality of Economic Inequality,” in Richard Madsen and Michael M. Sullivan, eds., *Economic Inequality and Morality: Diverse Ethical Perspectives* (Ethikon Institute / Brookings Institution Press, 2019)

“Neo-Confucianism as Philosophy,” in Yanming An and Brian Bruya, eds., *New Life for Old Ideas: Chinese Philosophy in the Contemporary World* (CUHK Press, 2019)

“Human Rights in Chinese Tradition,” in Sarah Biddulph and Joshua Rosenzweig, eds., *Handbook on Human Rights in China* (Edward Elgar, 2019)

### **Tongdong Bai, Fudan University**

My new book, *Against Political Equality--The Confucian Case* (Princeton University Press) will be published at the end of 2019. Here is a link to a very short summary:  
<https://press.princeton.edu/titles/30448.html>

### **Dobin Choi, University of Iowa**

This year, I am working on several essays of a comparative study between the ethics of Mengzi and Hume, arguing about the necessity of Confucian differentiated love for cultivating

virtues, their notions of the supreme state of self-regarding virtues, and the environmental influence over sentiment-based virtues. Until early 2019, I have focused on publishing my essays that analyze some chapters of the *Mengzi*: “Moral Artanship in *Mengzi* 6A7” (*Dao*, 2018), “The Heart of Compassion in *Mengzi* 2A6” (*Dao*, 2019), and “Mengzi’s Maxim for Righteousness in *Mengzi* 2A2” (*Dao*, 2019).

### **Lubomir Dunaj, University of Vienna**

I have moved to the Institute of Philosophy at the University of Vienna, in a postdoctoral position with research focus on Intercultural Philosophy. I will be organizing a conference, “Imaginarities in Intercultural Perspective,” which will take place March 16-17, 2020 at the University of Vienna. The conference is dedicated to the magnificent work of Johann P. Arnason on occasion of his 80th birthday. Papers should focus primarily on one of these topics:

- 1) The idea of civilizations as social-historical formations
- 2) Civilizational analysis as a framework for comparative philosophy (particular emphasis on China is welcomed)
- 3) (Philosophical) interpretations of modernity, and the question of multiple modernities
- 4) Connections and overlaps with Hans Blumenberg's work, also in comparison to other phenomenologists (e.g., Jan Patočka)
- 5) References to Czech thinkers and modern Czech history in Arnason's work

Contact: [lubomir.dunaj@gmail.com](mailto:lubomir.dunaj@gmail.com)

### **Mat Foust, Central Connecticut State University**

In April 2019, I participated in one of two ISCP group sessions held at the APA-Pacific Meeting in



Vancouver. I presented “Thoreau’s Mencian Ethics,” a work-in-progress that builds on a chapter of my *Confucianism and American Philosophy* (SUNY, 2017). Also that month, my review of Wai-ying Wong’s *Confucian Ethics in Western Discourse* was published (*Philosophy East and West*, 2019). During my sabbatical leave in Fall 2019, I will be a Visiting Fellow at Wesleyan University’s Center for the Humanities.

### ***Kurtis Hagen, Independent Scholar***

My work in Chinese and comparative philosophy focuses on early Confucianism and its contemporary relevance. My two most recent publications are the following:

(1) *Philosophers of the Warring States: A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy* (Broadview Press, 2018). Co-written/translated with Steve Coutinho.

(2) “Patterns, Norms, Virtues, and Government in the *Xunzi*: A Constructivist Interpretation,” in *Bloomsbury Research Handbook in Chinese Ethics and Political Philosophy* (2019), edited by Alexis McLeod. (This chapter is essentially a summary of my earlier book, *The Philosophy of Xunzi*.)

### ***Ted Wei-Chun Hsiung, National Taiwan University***

I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Philosophy, National Taiwan University. I have been focusing on the issue of human nature and view of life in the Pre-Qin classics. My dissertation title is *The Issue of Suicide and Its Philosophical Implication in the Zhuangzi*, which highlights *Zhuangzi*’s suicidal narratives (most of them in the non-Inner Chapters) with a historical perspective, and through them reestimates the so-called *Zhuangzi* philosophy (especially in self-cultivational and ethical aspects, which has been elaborated mostly through the Inner Chapters.) In addition to

classical Chinese philosophy, I have been concerned about the ongoing debate on autonomy and related bioethical research.

### ***Jörn Kroll, Interdependent Scholar***

I retired in July 2018, after a 31-year career in transportation engineering and planning, mostly with the City of San Francisco. My main interest in philosophy is not an academic one, as much as I appreciate great scholarship. I am more thrilled by thought that transcends merely conceptual engagement and therefore has the power to actually transform daily living. I am also interested in applying philosophy to solving practical problems on several levels. My PhD dissertation (UC Berkeley, Department of Architecture, 2001) on Heidegger, for instance, outlined his thinking on how we actually dwell in “space” (existential spaciality), and how this phenomenological understanding can be applied to more adequately designing our urban places and streets.

My interest in Chinese philosophy goes back to the early 1970s when I briefly studied ancient and contemporary Chinese language (Mandarin). I decided not to pursue a career in Sinology, as it was called then at my home university in Göttingen, Germany, but I have kept an interest in Chinese thought, with special focus on Daoism and Buddhism. At the World Congress of Philosophy in Beijing (August 2018), I gave a comparative paper that is scheduled for publication in *Existenz*. Its title is “Open Sky—Open Society: Zhuangzi and Jaspers On Understanding and Communicating Without Closure.”

### ***Wang Ronghua, University of International Business and Economics (UIBE)***

I uploaded introductions to “The Book of Mencius” onto [www.readchina8.com](http://www.readchina8.com) in May and July 2019.

**Hagop Sarkissian, CUNY-Baruch College**

I seem to be unable to get over my keen interest in Confucian philosophy, and in that regard a number of projects have come to fruition over the past year.

One paper concerns classical Confucian social ontology (or the ways that Confucian thinkers conceive of the nature and status of the social world), and specifically how using network theory from contemporary social science can help us understand some of its fundamental assumptions:

"Confucius and the Superorganism" in *The Oneness Hypothesis: Beyond the Boundary of Self* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

Another is my first foray into Neo-Confucian thought, where I argue that the debate between the Cheng-Zhu and Lu-Wang wings may represent a more basic tension in philosophical assumptions and accompanying methods that can arise in other periods of time, and other traditions of thought:

"Neo-Confucianism, Experimental Philosophy and the Trouble with Intuitive Methods" (*British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 2018)

These and other papers can all be accessed through [my professional website](#). Other projects are in the 'forthcoming' stage, including papers on contempt in the *Analects*, ritual in classical Confucianism, and another on the recent debate concerning whether filial values corrupt Chinese society and so should be jettisoned from Confucian philosophy. More on these in future newsletters as details emerge.

**James D. Sellmann, University of Guam**

This year I've been working on two topics: (1) comparative approaches to political

constitutions and (2) the *Zhuangzi*. "The People's Republic of China and the United States of America Constitutional Theory and Practice: Developing an Organic Contract," (*Русская политология – Russian Political Science* 10, 2019) blends the social contract theory and the older organic theory to develop an "organic contract" theory that constitutions grow naturally out of political communities. I base my theory on a form of family love, called "existential parity," to defend the equal consideration of interests for others. The argument is to structure political constitutions and communities around the concept of parity rather than equality, arguing for a deeper moral view called an "existential commitment" that people must live and work together with a moral duty to be responsible for and have an obligation to show concern and provide care for the life and well-being of others. I presented "Rebuttal by Non-Rebuttal: The *Zhuangzi* as a Commentary on Kongzi Not Knowing Complete Virtue (全德)" at the International Society for Chinese Philosophy (ISCP) conference in Bern, Switzerland, July 2019.

**Bin Song, Washington College**

In Fall 2018, I started working at Washington College as Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion. My research continues to focus on global Ruism (Confucianism) and comparative philosophy, religion and theology.

I published three journal articles not mentioned in previous ISCP newsletters:

(1) "Confucianism, Gaponshugi, and the Spirit of Japanese Capitalism." [*Confucian Academy* (English-Chinese bilingual), 2018]

(2) "Shengsheng and the Confucian Sacred Canopy in the *Yijing*," [*周易研究 Zhouyi Studies* (English version), 2018]



(3) “‘Three Sacrificial Rituals’ (三祭) and the Practicability of Ruist (Confucian) Philosophy,” (*The APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies*, 2018)

I have also published four book reviews:

(1) JeeLoo Liu, *Neo-Confucianism: Metaphysics, Mind, and Morality*. (*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2019).

(2) Roger Ames and Peter Hershock, eds., *Confucianism for a Changing World Cultural Order* (*Reading Religion*, 2019).

(3) Keith CHAN Ka-fu and William NG Yau-nang, eds., *Paul Tillich and Asian Religions* (*Journal of Interreligious Studies*, 2019).

(4) Philip J. Ivanhoe, *Oneness: East Asian Conceptions of Virtue, Happiness and How We are All Connected*. Oxford, 2017. (*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2018).

In addition, I organized two international conferences on Confucianism:

(1) “Rectifying the Name of Confucianism” at Boston University, 2018.

(2) “Women as Exemplary Persons in the Ru Tradition” at Confucius Institute U.S. Center, Washington D.C., 2019.

Lastly, I have been elected Vice President of the North American Paul Tillich Society for 2019 (President-Elect for 2020).

### ***Xiaonong Wang, Ludong University***

Much of my study of this half-year has focused on *Yijing* [易] and Mohism [墨学], and I have translated some works, including two articles authored by other Chinese scholars on Neo-Confucianism.

In July this year, my book, *A Semiotic Study of*

*English Translations of Yijing* (《易》英的符号学研究, 2016) won a provincial second class prize for excellent achievements in social sciences and humanities. I have also published articles and translated articles:

Articles:

(1) “On the Content Homogenization in Translating Pre-Qin Chinese Classics and Their Explanations: With Special Reference to *Zhouyi* and R. Lynn’s English Translation” (*Journal of Beijing International Studies University*, 2019)

(2) “A Retrospect of Studies of Traditional Chinese Translation Theory in China in the Past Forty Years: Mainly with Reference to the Mainland of China” (*Athens Journal of Philology*, 2019)

Translated articles:

(1) “Returning to Texts and Questions in Studying Zhu Xi’s Thoughts: Author’s Preface for Rereading Zhu Xi” (*Confucian Academy*, 2019)

(2) “The Triple Purports of Zhang Zai’s Scholarship: A Study of His Four Ontological Goals” (*Confucian Academy*, 2019)

Other translated works:

(1) “*A Brief History of Chinese Aesthetic Culture* [中国美文化史] (Second translator; Bochum/Freiburg: Projekt Verlag, 2019; supported by China National Social Science Fund)

(2) *Gems of Classical Chinese Prose* [古文止] (Second chief editor and translator; a contribution to “Library of Chinese Classics” supported by China National Publication Fund; forthcoming)



(3) *A General History of Chinese Mohism* [中国墨学通史]

**Kenneth Winston, Harvard Kennedy School**

Although now retired from HKS, I continue to write about public ethics in Confucian countries. In July, I reviewed Sungmoon Kim's *Democracy After Virtue: Toward Pragmatic Confucian Democracy* (*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2019). Kim exemplifies the characteristically modern effort to develop hybrid political principles for East Asian countries, combining Confucianism and democracy. Recently, I've been examining the role of Chinese scholar-officials during the dynastic period as managers of legal order, coming to terms with the anti-law bias of ancient texts. My current book project is a set of four case studies of contemporary legal managers in Confucian countries—legislators, bureaucrats, police officers, and prosecutors—attempting, in their public roles, to live and work by the principles of Confucian democracy.

**Liu Yi, China West Normal University**

My recent research still focuses on comparing Chan and Heidegger. This includes an article: “禅宗的宗教特征与海德格尔的‘语言说话’思想” (中国佛学第四十三辑，社会科学文献出版社，2018.9)

**Lijun Yuan, Texas State University**

My book, *Confucian Ren and Feminist Ethics of Care: Integrating Relational Self, Power, and Democracy*, was published (Lexington Books, 2019).

**CALL FOR PANEL/PAPER PROPOSALS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR SESSION CHAIRS  
2020 APA-PACIFIC DIVISION MEETING  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA, APR 8-11, 2020**

The ISCWP plans to organize one or two panels for the 2020 APA-Pacific Meeting (San Francisco, CA, Apr 8-11, 2020). We invite proposals of panels or papers that promote in-depth engagement between Chinese and Western philosophy. Proposals focused exclusively on only one of Chinese or Western philosophy will not be considered.

To submit a panel proposal, please provide an overall abstract of the panel topic of 200-300 words. It must include the following for each chair, speaker, and commentator (optional) on your panel: name as it is to appear in print; affiliation; email address; paper title and abstract of 200-300 words (for presenters).

To submit a paper proposal, please provide the completed paper or an abstract of 200-300 words.

Please send all proposals to Mathew Foust: [foust@ccsu.edu](mailto:foust@ccsu.edu) by **September 1, 2019**.

If you plan to attend the APA-Pacific Meeting and would like to volunteer to serve as a chair for a panel, please notify Mathew Foust of your willingness to do so.

Please note: The ISCWP does not fund travel and related expenses. Participants must secure funding via their institution or other means.

Best,  
Members of the ISCWP Board



ISCWP GROUP SESSIONS AT THE  
2020 APA-EASTERN DIVISION MEETING  
PHILADELPHIA, PA, JAN 8-11, 2020

*The dates of these sessions are tentative, and their meeting times have yet to be determined. The APA has not yet published a final draft of the schedule.*

Session 1: Thu Jan 9  
*Causality and Reality*

Chair: **Pengbo Liu** (Bentley College)

Speakers:

**Jordan Davis** (Zhejiang University) "Resonance and Sympathy: The Philosophy of Causality in Early Chinese and Hellenistic Thought"

**Ann Pang-White** (University of Scranton) "Mystic Non-sense or Logic of Indeterminacy? A Comparative Study of the Plotinian One and the Daoist Dao"

**Lara Mitias** (Antioch College) "Process and Reality: LaoZi and Whitehead"

Session 2: Sat Jan 11  
*Politics and Sacrifice*

Chair: **Jianping Hu** (Nanyang Technological University)

Speakers:

**L'ubomir Dunaj** (University of Vienna) "Stimulating Inter- and Transcultural Dialogue: Between Critical Theory and Chinese Political Philosophy"

**Bin Song** (Washington College) "The Utopian Seed of Modern Chinese Politics in Ruism (Confucianism) and its Tillichian Remedy"

**Shirong Luo** (Simmons College) "Are There Things More Valuable Than Human Life? Chinese and Western Perspectives"

ISCWP GROUP SESSION AT THE  
2020 APA-CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
CHICAGO, IL, FEB 26-29, 2020

*The date and meeting time of this session has yet to be determined. The APA has not yet published a final draft of the schedule.*

Session 1  
*Chinese Philosophy and Recent and Contemporary American Thought*

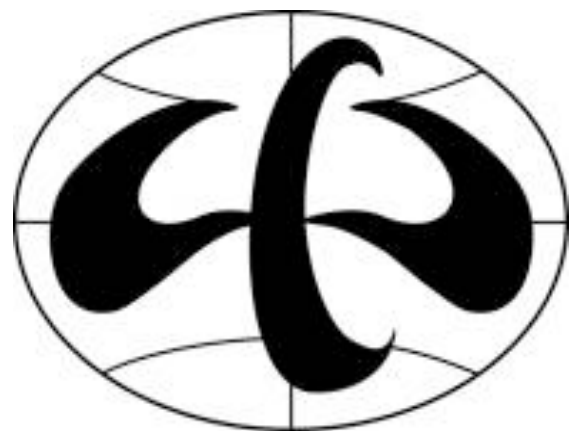
Chair: **Sean McAleer** (University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire)

Speakers:

**Chuyu Tian** (Columbia University) "Nelson Goodman's and Huayan Buddhism's Multiple Worlds Theories"

**Ted Wei-Chun Hsiung** (National Taiwan University) "Zhuangzi and E.O. Wilson's Biophilia Hypothesis"

**Jianping Hu** (Nanyang Technological University) "Character or Virtue? A Xunzian Critique of John Doris's Situationism"





## *Dues and Donations*

ISCWP's dues are voluntary but much needed. The suggested contribution is \$25 for regular members and \$10 for student members. Larger contributions are welcome.

We offer two ways of contributing dues:

### ***Online***

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 [ISCWP Membership Page](#) and click on the appropriate button.

### ***By check***

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

Prof. Mathew A. Foust  
Department of Philosophy  
Central Connecticut State University  
1615 Stanley Street  
New Britain, CT 06050 USA

Checks will be processed as soon as they are received.

Many thanks,  
Mathew A. Foust  
Secretary-Treasurer, ISCWP

