



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. With my term ending this year, this is my last newsletter. Thank you; it has been a pleasure.

This issue features updates from the society's members on their various activities and a listing of conference panels organized by the society for the 2020 divisional meetings of the APA.

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

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Member News and Updates

Tongdong Bai, Fudan University

My book, *Against Political Equality—The Confucian Case* was just published (Princeton University Press, 2019). In this book, I offer a viable political alternative to liberal democracy that is inspired by Confucian ideas. In domestic governance, I argue that Confucianism can embrace the liberal aspects of democracy along with the democratic ideas of equal opportunities and governmental accountability to the people. But Confucianism would give more political decision-making power to those with the moral, practical, and intellectual capacities of caring for the people. While most democratic thinkers still focus on strengthening equality to cure the ills of democracy, the proposed hybrid regime—made up of Confucian-inspired meritocratic elements with democratic elements and a quasi-liberal system of laws and rights—recognizes that egalitarian elements are sometimes in conflict with good governance and the protection of liberties, and defends liberal aspects by restricting democratic ones. I apply these views to the international realm by supporting a hierarchical order, the “Confucian New Tian Xia Order,” based on how humane each state is toward its own and other peoples, and the principle of international interventions under this order whereby humane responsibilities override sovereignty. Enter discount code BAI1 on the PUP website to get 30% off, through June 30, 2020 (shipping charges and local import fees apply).

Yuanfang Dai, Michigan State University

Much of my research has focused on issues in comparative feminist philosophy. I have a special interest in gendered identity, cultural dynamics, transcultural experiences, and

feminist solidarity across cultural differences. My book will be published this month: *Transcultural Feminist Philosophy: Rethinking Difference and Solidarity through Chinese-American Encounters* (Lexington Books, 2020).

Joseph Harroff, Temple University

I have recently finished translating Zhao Tingyang's *The Tianxia System as a Possible World: Reimagining Visions of Global Order from the Past and for the Future* 天下的當代性 with a new chapter on “Jizi's Lost Democracy” (University of California Press, forthcoming). I have also been a guest editor with Kyle Greenwalt (Michigan State University) of two special issues commemorating the centennial anniversary of John Dewey's educational mission in China for the *School and Society* journal, issues 6.1 (2019) and 6.2 (forthcoming). In the former is my article, “Comparative Approaches to Moral Education: Somatic and Democratic Practices in an Intercultural Philosophical Horizon.” Since the last ISCWP newsletter, I delivered the following conference presentations:

- “*Tianxia* 天下 Thinking: Towards a Confucian Political Theology of the Earth”, *Deprovincializing Political Theology: Postcolonial and Comparative Approaches*, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Munich, Germany, Oct. 26-27, 2019
- “Reimagining Global Politics with *Tianxia* 天下: Towards a Critical Confucian Political Theology,” *Theology*, Theology Network Conference, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY, Oct. 17-19, 2019

Ranjoo Herr, Bentley University

I published “Confucian Democracy as Popular Sovereignty” (*Asian Philosophy*, 2019).

**P.J. Ivanhoe, Sungkyungwan University**

I have been busy with the administration of the Sungkyun Institute for Confucian Studies and East Asian Philosophy (<https://swb.skku.edu/sicep/index.do>) and editing the *Journal of Confucian Philosophy and Culture* (<http://jcpc.skku.edu/>).

Please take a look at the most recent issue of and consider submitting your work to the latter!

I recently completed two essays: the first, "Owen Flanagan on Moral Modularity and Comparative Philosophy," in Bongrae Seok, ed., *Naturalism, Human Flourishing, and Asian Philosophy: Owen Flanagan and Beyond* (Routledge) and the second, "Wagging Tails and Riding Elephants: Why Study Non-Western Philosophy?," in Eddy Nahmias and Tom Polger, eds., *Owen Flanagan's Work In Cognitive Neuroscience* (MIT Press). I contributed "Concluding Reflections: Confucian and Catholic Conceptions of the Virtues" and helped edit *Confucianism & Catholicism: Reinvigorating the Dialogue*, along with Michael R. Slater and Erin M. Cline (University of Notre Dame Press) and edited and contributed a chapter to *Zhu Xi Selected Writings*, the inaugural volume in Oxford Chinese Thought, Series Editors: Eric L. Hutton and Justin Tiwald, (Oxford University Press). I helped to organize two international conferences: Confucianism, Buddhism, and Kantian Moral Theory (6-7 September 2019) and Confucianism, Rituals, and Modern Life (8-9 November 2019) and helped plan two additional conferences and a workshop in the coming months. Finally, I have been working with Dr. Wang Hwa Yeong on a translation and study of the works of two remarkable Confucian Korean women philosophers: Im Yunjidang and Gang Jeongildang. Please see the Conferences, Workshops, and Projects tabs of the institute's webpage for details.

Jörn Kroll, Interdependent Scholar

Cognitive conceptual clarification is only part of my interest in philosophy, which I regard as a multifaceted and multicultural fountain of wisdom. Those wisdom traditions can be used as methods or guides for personal and social transformation.

Following this interest, I attended the "International Conference on Humanities Therapy in Technosociety: Bridging Between Science and Humanity." This conference was held at the University of Nanjing, China (August 18-20, 2019), and hosted by its Philosophy Department. A summary of my presentation on "The Diamond Approach: A Dynamic Synthesis of Philosophy, Spirituality, and Psychology" was published in the conference proceedings (pp. 66-69).

Presenters from China, Taiwan, and South-Korea attempted to cautiously reclaim their wisdom traditions as a counterbalance to the palpable predominance of an acknowledged pervasive technological mindset in their countries. It seems that the host and most presenters were searching for fixes supplied by the Humanities and Psychology to mend the many ills of "Technosociety."

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

I took part in the International Conference marking the 2,570th Birthday of Confucius & the Sixth Congress of the International Confucian Association. At the latter I gave the talk, "My Understanding of 'the Community with a Shared Future for Mankind,'" in which I pointed out such a community might be a primary stage of what Marx proposed of a Freeman's Association. I was elected as an adviser of the Congress. *The Rooster Crows*, a book of my assorted essays, was published (Royal Collins Publishing Group, 2019).

**Hagop Sarkissian, CUNY-Baruch College**

A paper of mine on the question (hotly debated since the turn of the 21st century) of whether filial piety corrupts Chinese society is forthcoming in *Dao*. The uncorrected pre-print draft can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

Another paper on classical Confucianism and ritual, discussing the *Lunyu*, *Mengzi*, *Xunzi*, and *Liji* has been submitted to the *Oxford Handbook of Confucianism* (edited by Jennifer L. Oldstone-Moore). A draft can be found [by clicking here](#), where you can also insert comments / suggestions (which are most welcome!).

I remain Editor, along with Andrew Lambert of CUNY-Staten Island, of the [Classical Confucianism](#) section at [PhilPapers.org](#), and invite you all to make sure your own work in *Chinese and Comparative Philosophy* is properly indexed on that website, which is a terrific resource. Instructions can be found by clicking the 'Submit Material' link on the top right of the main page.

I continue to enjoy organizing the [Comparative Philosophy](#) seminar at Columbia University, which I co-direct with Princeton University's Jonathan Gold. We've had the pleasure of hosting Justin Tiwald, Richard Kim, Sungmoon Kim, and Paul Goldin this past Fall, and look forward to having Aaron Stalnaker, Karsten Struhl, Jin Y. Park, and Sin yee Chan visit this coming Spring.

James D. Sellmann, University of Guam

This year I have been working on nondual, correlative, thinking in Pacific Island (Micronesian) philosophy. I published "Butcher Ding: A Meditation in Flow" in *Skill and Mastery: Philosophical Stories from the Zhuangzi*, edited by Karyn Lai and Wai Wai Chiu (Roman and Littlefield, 2019).

I have chapters in three forthcoming works: "Zhu Xi and Daoism: Investigation of Inner-Meditative Alchemy in Zhu Xi's Theory and Method for the Attainment of Sagehood" in *Dao Companion Anthology on Zhu Xi*, edited by Young Huang and Kai-Chiu Ng; "Xuanxue's contribution to Chinese Philosophy" in *Dao Companion to Neo-Daoism (Xuanxue 玄學)*, edited by David Chai; "Field, Focus, Focused-field: A Classical Daoist World View" in *One Corner of the Square: Essays on the Philosophy of Roger T. Ames* edited by Joshua Mason and Ian Sullivan (forthcoming).

I have two interesting book reviews coming out: "Review of *Mind and Body in Early China ...*" by Ted Slingerland in *Journal of World Philosophies*, 4, Winter, 2019; and "Review of *Shen Gua's Empiricism*" by Ya ZUO in *Philosophy East and West*, January 2020.

Bin Song, Washington College

My research continues to focus on global Ruism (Confucianism) and comparative philosophy, religion and theology.

Two journal articles recently published are:

"An Empirical Study and Theoretical Reflection on the Knowledge and Perceptions of Ruism in the United States" (*Confucian Academy* [English-Chinese bilingual], 2019)

"Comparative Metaphysics and Theology as a Scientific Endeavor: A Ruist (Confucian) Perspective" (*Socio-Historical Examination of Religion and Ministry*, 2019).

I reviewed the following book:

Tze-ki Ton and Kristin Stapleton, ed., *Confucianism for the Contemporary World: Global Order, Political Plurality, and Social Action*, (*Philosophy East and West*, 2019)



During the year, I gave lectures on “Quiet-sitting and Contemplative Practices in Neo-Confucianism” at East Stroudsburg University, on “Confucianism and Asian Education” at George Washington University, and co-taught “Confucian Philosophy as a Way of Life” with Stephen Angle at the University of Notre Dame.

Xiaonong Wang, Ludong University

Much of my study in this half-year has focused on ancient Chinese philosophy, and translated some works including three articles authored by other Chinese scholars on ancient Chinese philosophy. In November this year, I applied successfully for a provincial research project on the English translation of *Yizhuan* [易传].

Provincial Project (Principal scholar; duration 2019-2021):

A Study of the English Translation of the Key Concepts in *Yizhuan* and Their Conceptualization in the English Speaking World

Translated articles:

1. “Forty Years of Changes Studies in the Mainland of China” (*Confucian Academy*, 2019)
2. “Self-Cultivation, Seriousness, and the Value Choice of Confucianism: Zhu Xi’s Shift in His Theory of Equilibrium and Harmony” (*Confucian Academy*, 2019)
3. “Liang Qichao on the Unity of Knowledge and Action” (*Confucian Academy*, 2019)

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

Thu Jan 9, 7:30pm-10:30pm
Causality and Reality

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

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”

Sat Jan 11, 9:00am-11:00am
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 Life? Chinese and Western Perspectives”



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

The date and time of this session is tentative, as the APA has not yet published a final draft of the schedule.

Fri Feb 28, 7:00pm-10:00pm

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"

Wei-Chu 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"

ISCWP GROUP SESSION AT THE
2020 APA-PACIFIC DIVISION MEETING
SAN FRANCISCO, CA, APR 8-11, 2020

The date and time of this session is tentative, as the APA has not yet published a final draft of the schedule.

Thu Apr 9, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Human Nature, Living, and Freedom

Chair: **Brad Cokelet** (University of Kansas)

Speakers:

Yuhan Liang (University of Connecticut) "One Nature or Many Natures: A Comparison of Boethius and Zhu Xi's *Liyifenshu*"

Jörn Kroll (Independent Scholar) "The Emergence of Nonconditional Freedom in Zhuangzi and A.H. Almaas: An Intercultural Conversation"

Jeremy Huang (University of Michigan) "The Sage and the Savage: Comparing the Ideal State of Living in the *Daodejing* and Rousseau's Second Discourse"



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

