

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 CFP for the special issue  
of Dialogue and  
Universalism "Do We Need  
an Enlightenment Age for  
the Twenty-First Century?"  
and information on our  
new Academic Support  
Fund!*

*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 Mercedes Valmisa:  
[mvalmisa@gettysburg.edu](mailto:mvalmisa@gettysburg.edu)*

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## Member News and Updates

### **Andrew Lambert, CUNY**

I have a couple of recently published pieces that I'd like to share, especially as one is in a largely "Western" anthology and so might be under the radar.

1. "Love's Extension: Confucian Familial Love and the Challenge of Impartiality" in *Love, Justice, and Autonomy: Philosophical Perspectives*. Edited By Fedock, Kühler & Rosenhagen. Routledge, 2021.
2. "Confucian Thought and Contemporary Western Philosophy" in *Dao Companion to Contemporary Confucian Philosophy*. David Elstein, ed. Springer 2021.

### **Bin Song, Washington College**

Since 2020 summer, my new publications include:

"Comparative Theology as a Liberal Art," in *Journal of Interreligious Studies* (Nov. 2020).

"Is Confucianism Beneath or Beyond Ethics and Politics?" a review of Shaun O'Dwyer, *Confucianism's Prospects: A Reassessment* (SUNY press, 2019), in *Journal of World Philosophies* (winter 2020).

My interview "Confucius, Wealth and Politics" was broadcasted by ABC Radio National at Australia (<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/confucius-wealth-and-politics/12745268>).

I gave a virtual lecture "The Transcendence Debate in the History of Christian-Ru Interaction (儒耶對話中'超越性爭論'之癥結與方案)" in Chinese to Beijing Normal University, and its written record at [https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/i6J71WvZziJiS8SpCky5HQ?fbclid=IwAR1KGx57XLzsi2zJtunGDE1YWtPmXY822dWbFnsivmM5xV08ljZX\\_o7JNoY](https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/i6J71WvZziJiS8SpCky5HQ?fbclid=IwAR1KGx57XLzsi2zJtunGDE1YWtPmXY822dWbFnsivmM5xV08ljZX_o7JNoY). Besides, I presented in the 2021 annual meeting of American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the 3rd International Conference on Philosophical Counseling & Practice.

I am elected into the steering committee of the Confucian Unit at AAR with a five-year tenure. Also, I am invited to join the editorial board of the Complete Works of Paul Tillich in English, to compile and annotate its 10th volume "Writings in Interreligious Encounters" which is to be published by De Gruyter in 2026.

As always, I try to find joy and self-contentedness towards my work, and try best to support my family, students and colleagues during the pandemic, with best wishes for everyone in 2021.

### **Bo Mou, San Jose State University**

The monograph book, *Cross-Tradition Engagement in Philosophy: A Constructive-Engagement Account*, was published in 2020 (Routledge).

This book presents a systematic unifying-pluralist account, a "constructive-engagement" account, of how cross-tradition engagement in philosophy is possible. The goal of this "constructive-engagement" account is, by way of reflective criticism, argumentation, and methodological



guiding principles, to inquire into how distinct approaches from different philosophical traditions can talk to and learn from each other for the sake of making joint contributions to the contemporary development of philosophy. Part I of the book explores a range of fundamental theoretic and methodological issues in cross-tradition philosophical engagement and philosophical interpretation (among others, the issue of normative bases for engagement, the issue of incommensurability, and the issue of philosophical interpretation). Part II analyzes several representative case studies that demonstrate how relevant resources in the Western and Chinese philosophical traditions can constructively engage with each other. These studies cover issues in philosophical methodology, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of language and logic, and ethics.

There is a small invited piece, “Facing challenges and re-advancing”, on the theme “What is it like to be a philosopher of Asian descent” that has recently come out in the *APA Newsletter* on Asian philosophers and philosophies [vol 20 no 1 (fall 2020 issue), 46-49; its electronic copy available at the APA website], which might be useful for seeing my relevant scholarly work in a holistic way and in view of personal life journey.

**David Elstein, SUNY**

I published the *Dao Companion to Contemporary Confucian Philosophy* at the end of 2020 (Springer). Bringing together the work of scholars from America, Europe, and Asia, it is the most comprehensive work on contemporary Confucian thought in English. Continuing my work on New Confucianism, I expect to publish a volume of translations of essays by Xu Fuguan with SUNY Press in 2021. This will be the first publication of any of his sole-authored work in English, to the best of my knowledge.

**Heidi Giebel, University of St. Thomas**

My book entitled *Ethical Excellence* was published by CUA this January. Here is the description:

Why do some people achieve ethical excellence while others fail? For example, how did Gloria Lewis overcome a lifetime of difficulty and go on to found a non-profit focused on feeding the homeless while Danny Starrett, despite a seemingly ideal childhood, became a rapist and murderer? Why did some Germans rescue their Jewish neighbors while others stood by? One recent study found that four personal variables, taken together, differentiated Nazi-era bystanders from rescuers with startling 96.1% accuracy: social responsibility, altruistic moral reasoning, empathic concern, and risk-taking—traits related to ethical excellences (virtues) like justice, benevolence, and courage. Drawing from the combined wisdom of classical Socratic and Confucian philosophy, recent work in psychology, and the lived experience of recognized moral heroes, the book focuses on how each of us can work toward ethical excellence, becoming more like Lewis and neighbor-rescuers than like Starrett and Nazi-era bystanders. The ancient Socratic and Confucian philosophical traditions offer surprisingly sophisticated advice regarding moral education. Because research in psychology helps us assess the feasibility of cultivating virtue in ourselves and those we influence, *Ethical Excellence* focuses on combining sound philosophical analysis of ethical virtue and related concepts with relevant empirical research on how these concepts are manifested and developed in everyday practice. Willpower, for example, contributes to development of temperance or moderation, grit relates to perseverance, and empathy is connected to benevolence. Finally, the study of ethically exceptional people—moral heroes or exemplars—serves as living proof that ethical excellence is possible, and exemplars can provide inspiration



to attempt it ourselves and guidance regarding how to do so successfully.

Relevant stories and excerpts from the author's own interviews with award-winning ethical exemplars complement the use of philosophical virtue theory and psychological research on virtue-relevant practice. Together, these three approaches—philosophy, psychology, and biography—help to "triangulate" ethical excellence and its achievement, presenting a much clearer and more complete picture than we can get from any one of these methods alone.

Many thanks to Steve Angle for writing a blurb for the book's back cover--and for teaching me Confucian philosophy!

### **James Sellmann, University of Guam**

Despite the challenges, I had a productive 2020, publishing the following articles and book reviews:

"Xuanxue's Contributions to Chinese Philosophy," In *Dao Companion to Neo-Daoism (Xuanxue 玄學)*. Edited by David Chai, Switzerland: Springer Nature, 2020, pp. 13-32.  
<https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783030492274>

"Is Guǎnhan Going Green? Applying Four Theories of Environmental Philosophy," *Micronesian Educator*, vol. 27 no. 1, April 2020.

"Micronesia, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Fed. States of Micronesia (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae); Palau, Marshals." In *"Database for Religious History: Religions of Micronesia,"* DOI, [10.14288/1.0391869](https://doi.org/10.14288/1.0391869).

"Zhu Xi and Daoism: Investigation of Inner-Meditative Alchemy in Zhu Xi's Theory and Method for the Attainment of Sagehood,"

In *Dao Companion to Zhu Xi's Philosophy*. Edited by Kai-chiu Ng and Young Huang. Switzerland: Springer Nature, 2020, pp.649-679.  
[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-29175-4\\_29](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-29175-4_29)

"Review of *Reading Through Recovered Ancient Chinese Manuscripts*. Edited by Shirley Chan in *Philosophy East and West*, October 2020.

"Review of *Shen Gua's Empiricism*" by Ya Zuo in *Philosophy East and West*, January 2020.

Forthcoming work includes:

"The *Daodejing* and the *Lüshi Chunqiu*: Huang-Lao Cosmic and Political Order." In *Dao Companion to the Philosophy of the Daodejing*. Edited by Liu Xiaogan, 2021 or 2022. Switzerland: Springer Nature.

Forthcoming, "Corelative thinking in Pacific Island (Micronesian) Cultural Philosophies, *Pacific Asia Inquiry* v 11, 2020-21.

Co-Editing *Pacific Asia Inquiry*, Volume 11, 2020-2021 with Sharon Rowe, University of Hawaii.

Conferences:

I had four different conference presentations cancelled. I presented a co-authored paper at the online Food and Sustainability, APSAFE Conference, Tokyo, Japan, December 11-18, 2020.

### **Jörn Kroll, Institute of Noetic Sciences**

My main interest in philosophy is its potential power for personal transformation. Both of my essays, described below, are recent examples in showcasing this potential.

The Russian Association of Philosophical Practitioners hosted a conference on self-knowledge (July 28-31, 2020). This conference was to take place in St. Petersburg, Russia, but was held online because of the covid pandemic.



I gave a presentation on "The Diamond Approach: A Psychodynamic Epistemology of Knowing Yourself." The Russian Association published presentation summaries. In August 2019, I had given a previous version of this presentation at the "International Conference on Humanities Therapy in Technosociety: Bridging Between Science and Humanity." That conference was held at the University of Nanjing, China (August 18-20, 2019), and hosted by its Philosophy Department.

### *Li Youzheng, Independent Scholar*

Recent Publications of Li Youzheng (2019-2020):

*Organizational Power and Ethical Subjectivity: In light of Comparative Historical Semiotics.* By Youzheng Li. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, UK, 2019.

《阳明心学，浙东史学，孔孟仁学》——试论浙东历史思想形态的现代意义（2019年10月崇义县第二届国际阳明文化会议论文）

*Consciousness-Learning of Wang Yangming, Historiography of South-Eastern Zhejiang, and Ren-Learning of Confucius-Mencius: An analysis of modern significance of historical thought of the East-Zhejiang School* (a paper to be read in the secondary congress of Wang Yangming thought in Jiangxi 2019 Oct.; in the Proceedings of Congress).

《李幼蒸学术文稿（2005-2020）》 *The Selections of Li Youzheng's Scholarly Essays* (between 2005-2020; in Chinese) Published by the White Elephant Cultural Society, Taiwan, 2020.

Vol.1 《新世纪学理评论》 *Theoretical Criticism in the New Century*

Vol.2 《符号学理论新方向》 *The Neo-Orientation of Semiotic Theory*

Vol.3 《重新思考仁学伦理学》 *Rethinking of The Ren-Confucian Ethics*

Vol.4 《中西学行纪实》 *Memory of My Scholarly Experiences in China and West over 20 years*

Vol.5 《阳明心学与现代理论》 *Wang yangming's Learning of Consciousness and Modern Theory*

### *Mercedes Valmisa, Gettysburg College*

I have several forthcoming publications in 2021, including my first monograph on Classical Chinese philosophy of action, an article on Wang Bi's hermeneutics, and a study on the ontology of situations via Spanish philosopher José Ortega y Gasset and the Zhuangzi.

*Adapting. A Chinese Philosophy of Action.* Oxford University Press, May 2021.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/adapting-9780197572962?cc=us&lang=en&>

Philosophy of action in the context of Classical China is radically different from its counterpart in the contemporary Western philosophical narrative. Classical Chinese philosophers began from the assumption that relations are primary to the constitution of the person, hence acting in the early Chinese context necessarily is interacting and co-acting along with others – human and nonhuman actors.

This book is the first monograph dedicated to the exploration and rigorous reconstruction of an extraordinary strategy for efficacious relational action devised by Classical Chinese philosophers in order to account for the interdependent and embedded character of human agency – what the author has denominated "adapting" or "adaptive agency" (yin 因).

As opposed to more unilateral approaches to action also conceptualized in the Classical



corpus, such as forceful and prescriptive agency, adapting requires great capacity of self and other-awareness, equanimity, flexibility, creativity, and response, which allows the agent to co-raise courses of action ad-hoc: unique and temporary solutions to specific, non-permanent, and non-generalizable life problems.

Adapting is one of the world's oldest philosophies of action, and yet it is shockingly new for contemporary audiences, who will find in it an unlikely source of inspiration to deal with our current global problems. This book explores the core conception of adapting both on autochthonous terms and by cross-cultural comparison, drawing on the European and Analytic philosophical traditions as well as on scholarship from other disciplines, opening a brand-new topic in Chinese and comparative philosophy.

2021. "Wang Bi and the Hermeneutics of Actualization," in Albert Galvany ed., *The Craft of Oblivion: Aspects of Forgetting and Memory in Ancient China* (Honolulu: Hawai'i University Press).

2021. "What is a Situation?" in Livia Kohn ed., *Dao and Time: Comparative Perspectives* (Cambridge, Mass.: Three Pines Press).

### **Paul Goldin, University of Pennsylvania**

I published four books in 2020:

*The Art of Chinese Philosophy: Eight Classical Texts and How to Read Them* (Princeton), for which Alexis interviewed me on the New Books Network.

*Lu Jia's New Discourses: A Political Manifesto from the Early Han Dynasty* (Brill), which I co-translated with Elisa Levi Sabattini.

*A Source Book of Ancient Chinese Bronze Inscriptions*, revised edition (Society for the Study of Early China), which I co-edited with Constance A. Cook.

*Kongzi zhi hou--Zhongguo gudai zhexue yanjiu* 孔子之後—中國古代哲學研究 (Daxiang chubanshe 大象出版社), which is a translation by Chen

Jianing 陳家寧 of *After Confucius: Studies in Early Chinese Philosophy*.

My current project is a book-length study of classical Chinese aesthetics, and the pandemic (and other outrages) of 2020 have spurred in me a new interest in Stoicism.

### **Robert Elliott Allinson, Soka University of America**

Professor Robert Elliott Allinson has published his invited Chapter, 'The Whirlpool of Time,' in *Daoism and Time, Classical Philosophy*, Livia Kohn, Professor Emerita, Boston University, (ed.), St. Petersburg, Three Pines Press, pp. 119-132. It is a philosophical reflection on Zhuangzi's view of time and death and compares it with views of time in Newton, Leibniz and Kant.

Professor Allinson has also been invited to be Guest Editor of a Special Issue on the Enlightenment Today for the journal *Dialogue and Universalism* and invites colleagues to submit papers, especially with reference to section II. related to Chinese Enlightenment views. See CFP in the next section of the newsletter.

### **Wang Ronghua, University of International Business and Economics**

"A Primer of Ancient Poetry, English-Chinese Edition", translated, with Annotations by Wang Ronghua was published by People's University



Press in October 2020.

"Chinese Literature in 2019" written by Wang Ronghua was published by the New Classic Press of UK in August, 2020. The book provided a panorama view of poetry, prose, novels, children's literature, minority literature and online literature in 2019; an account of various awards and introductions of awards winners and their works.

Section I of Part I of "ABC of Sound Meters in Chinese Poetry" written by Wang Ronghua was uploaded onto [www.readchina8.com](http://www.readchina8.com) in January, 2021.

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

Much of my study in this half year has focused on ancient Chinese philosophy and I translated some works authored by other Chinese scholars on ancient Chinese philosophy.

1. Translated articles:

- (1) The Relationship between Wang Yangming and Lu Xiangshan in the Light of "On Eradicating the Root and Source of Evil" (Confucian Academy, 2020, No.30)
- (2) "Disciplining Oneself" and "Disciplining Others" in Social Life: On the Contemporary Significance of Confucius's Principle of Loyalty and Reciprocity (Confucian Academy, 2020, No.3)
- (3) On Yin-Yang Circulation in Meng Xi and Jing Fang's Gua-Qi Theories and Its Influence (Confucian Academy, 2020, No.4)

2 Prize:

My book 《<易经>之三元解读与三维英译》 2018 won a provincial third prize for excellent achievements in social sciences and humanities.

At these difficult times, it is critical that the international community makes efforts to unite more closely and fight more strongly against the global pandemic and racist violence.

To fight against the pandemic better, I appeal for greater coordination and more substantial cooperation among countries under the WHO framework.

### ***Warren Frisina, Hofstra University***

I have an article forthcoming in *Dao* (volume 21, issue 1) titled: "Forming One Body with All Things: Organicism and the Pursuit of an Embodied Theory of Mind."

Abstract: This paper uses the Confucian and Neo-Confucian slogan that we should strive to "form one body with all things" as a starting point for asking whether the organismic metaphors so central to their ontology might be compatible with and of service to contemporary thinkers in cognitive science and philosophy of mind who are actively pursuing a fully embodied theory of mind. I draw upon lines of inquiry exemplified in the work of George Lakoff & Mark Johnson and Andy Clark who take different routes to important conclusions that I argue would be even more convincing where they to be seen from within the context of an ontology that draws upon organismic rather than mechanistic metaphors. In short, this paper draws attention to the largely unnoticed fact that a fully embodied understanding of mind, one that treats knowledge as a kind of active engagement with the world rather than as a purely cognitive state, points away from mechanistic metaphors and toward organismic ones. (The online version should be available in September, 2021).



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Do We Need a New Enlightenment Age for the Twenty-First Century?

**Publication date: December 2021**

Special Issue of *Dialogue and Universalism*, Issue III, 2021. *Dialogue and Universalism* has been published since 1973, by the University of Warsaw and later by the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw. It is abstracted/indexed by 20 sources including SCOPUS, CEJSH, CEEOL, EBSCO, JSTOR among others. The journal enjoys a wide, international readership.

Guest Editor: Professor Robert Elliott Allinson, President, International Society for Universal Dialogue

The Age of the Enlightenment, the period ranging from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, was regarded as a quintessential epoch of intellectual development and a proliferation of the intellectual production in arts, letters, politics and sciences. It established a set of values regarded as a precursor to our current intellectual era. This special issue of the journal, *Dialogue and Universalism* will address and reexamine the core values of the Enlightenment that can be synopsized as reason, science, humanism and progress. The Enlightenment was based on the view that critical thinking, rational analysis, and the power of human, logical thinking could be applied to addressing issues in political, social, educational, scientific and religious arenas to better society as a whole. We live in an era of increasing suspicion of reason and science. In contrast, in the Enlightenment period, literati, philosophers, scientists, lawyers, artists and essayists of the period looked to the power of human reasoning to limit tyranny, superstition, ignorance and the asymmetry of power in order that individual freedom could produce more happiness and fulfillment for human beings.

**Topics to be considered (but not limited to) include the following:**

1. Particular writers, public intellectuals/philosophers, of the Enlightenment:

Which values of a particular intellectual, thinker/philosopher can be regarded as significant in the endurance of the values of the Enlightenment?

There are well over one hundred thinkers whose writings could be considered within the Enlightenment period. Examples of some who could be considered are as follows: Spinoza, Hume, Rousseau, Beccaria, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Diderot, Jefferson, Adam Smith, Condorcet, Kant, Mendelssohn, Goethe, Schiller, Mary Wollstonecraft, Mary Astell, Staszic, Krasicki, Radischev, and Kollataj.





2. Although considered a “Western” phenomenon, are there similar Enlightenment periods that can be regarded as preceding the 17th-18<sup>th</sup> century one? For example, should we include: Ancient China during the Spring-Autumn and Warring periods; the Islamic Golden Age; the Mughal period in India; the Tang Song period of China? How were these similar and different from the Western Enlightenment?

3. Do Enlightenment values still matter in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How? Why? Which ones? Are revisions or refinements of these values required? If so, how can philosophers and intellectuals develop ways to reenergize these values, foster dialogue between science and superstition, between oppression of citizens and development of human potential? What would constitute a dialogue between civilizations of the East, the West and Africa? How would such a dialogue contribute to the construction of global values for our current era? What are the possibilities of a universal set of values for our times?

**Guidelines for Submission:**

1. A short c.v., an abstract, maximum 250 words, outlining your argument; *N. B.*, the abstract should be an original analysis and argument (not a summary or description), due **May 1, 2021**. (notice of acceptance within one month).
2. Full previously unpublished paper (max 8,000 words) with five key words, intertextual headings and full footnotes, due **October 1, 2021**.
3. Referee reports will not be included.
4. The Journal is primarily in philosophy. In this issue we welcome contributions from philosophy and interdisciplinary areas to enhance fresh perspectives from various intellectual vantage points.
5. Authors of articles published in the Journal assign copyright to the Journal. Authors will be mailed one copy of the issue containing their article.

**Your contributions are warmly welcomed.**

**Please send submissions and any inquiries to:**

**Professor Robert Elliott Allinson**  
**rallinson@soka.edu**



## *Academic Support Fund*

### **NEW ACADEMIC SUPPORT FUND**

The ISCWP board will strive to promote the study of philosophy as a universal human activity with a myriad embodied and localized instantiations, focusing on the analysis of Chinese and Western philosophical traditions in an integrated manner and from a comparative perspective, by facilitating the creation of spaces for discussion and exchange of scholarship.

To advance this mission, we consider it particularly important to encourage and empower young scholars and scholars without stable or well-funded positions to be full participants of our intellectual community, present their work, engage in meaningful and constructive dialogue, and enjoy networking opportunities at our meetings.

In this spirit, we have started an Academic Support Fund. We encourage those of you who find themselves in a position to do so to contribute to this fund by paying your voluntary dues or making a donation to the Society. These funds will be used to provide travel support, reimburse APA conference registration fees, and cover other similar expenses for our forthcoming meetings.



## *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 (due to Covid-19 I do not regularly visit my department office, so please send checks to my home address):

Prof. Mercedes Valmisa  
102 Artillery Dr.  
Gettysburg  
17325 PA, USA

Checks will be processed as soon as they are received.

Many thanks,

Mercedes Valmisa  
Secretary-Treasurer, ISCWP