

Contemporary Chinese Political Philosophy

An interest of a Western philosopher in Chinese philosophy who attempts to understand the role and place of China in an increasingly globalized world, can easily come across to a significant problem. There is a historical paradox, viz. that even after the great interest in Chinese philosophy from some modern European philosophers, today most of our knowledge about Chinese philosophy comes from sinologists, economists, or experts in cultural studies, rather than from (political) philosophers, who are capable of providing a more comprehensive view on such topics as politics, justice, legitimacy, authority, etc. This, in turn, sometimes leads to simplistic and misrepresenting interpretations, which undermine an adequate representation of Chinese philosophy in the history of World philosophy, as well as its role in contemporary philosophical debates. The lecture focuses mostly on the Chinese authors who have already got certain reception in the West and who challenge Western liberal-democratic thought, and plea for an alternative model, as for instance Bai Tongdong, Jiang Qing, Wang Hui, Zhao Tingyang, accompanied with the analyses and commentaries of for instance Daniel A. Bell, Thomas Metzger, Stephen Angle, Joseph Chan among others.

Reading list

- ANGLE, S. C.: Contemporary Confucian Political Philosophy. Cambridge – Malden: Polity, 2012.
- BAI. T.: China. The Political Philosophy of the Middle Kingdom. London & New York: Zed Books 2012.
- BAI, T.: Against Political Equality. The Confucian Case. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020.
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- METZGER, T. A.: A Cloud Across the Pacific. Essays on the Clash between Chinese and Western Political Theories Today. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 2005.
- QING, J.: Confucian Constitutional Order: How China's Ancient Past Can Shape Its Political Future. Princeton: Princeton University Press 2012.
- WANG, H.: The Politics of Imagining Asia. Cambridge, Massachusetts and London, England: Harvard University Press 2011.
- ZHAO T.: All under Heaven: The Tianxia System for a Possible World Order. Oakland: University of California Press: 2021.