

The relevance of Chinese philosophy

There are several reasons for dealing more intensively with the Chinese philosophical tradition today. The lecture will focus primarily on three of them: First, to the increase in global interactions in recent decades, which require global solutions to a variety of social and environmental problems. As an emerging superpower, China arguably occupies the most important position among non-Western countries. Consequently, it is necessary to understand the most influential philosophical traditions of such an important “global player” as well as those of the so-called “Far East Asian civilizations” in order to better grasp the dynamics of the globalized world. Second, to the critique of the Eurocentric interpretation of the history of philosophy, which one could argue is still present in Western philosophy today. Consequently, a critique of Eurocentrism is a strong motivation for the study of Chinese philosophy and can be a source of self-criticism for Western philosophy. Third, to the fact that Chinese culture and its spiritual and philosophical heritage are among the oldest in human history. Traditional Chinese philosophy offers many autochthonous philosophical ideas that are still alive and enjoying growing attention in Chinese social and political discourse. As a result, the debate should be opened whether these ideas could be productive for the Western as well as global philosophical problems.

Reading list

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