CEACOP Annual Report
1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
Introduction

Dear friends of CEACOP,

As another academic year begins, I hope you all are well in both work and life. I write to send along this year’s annual report; I look forward to another successful year working together with you. You may notice that the photos on this introductory page were taken during a house warming reception in our splendid new conference room, part of the larger space we were generously granted by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS).

The annual report is intended to inform you all of our activities over the past year, describe our plans for the coming years, and make clear our thoughts about the present state and future focus of the center. If you are interested in learning more about any of the items described in this report, past or present, or about the center more generally, one of the first places to go for additional information is our web page (www6.cityu.edu.hk/ceacop).

We continue to work on enhancing the web page and keeping it up to date and are fortunate to have Ms. Ellen Yan to oversee this and much of what the center does. Should you have any questions about the contents of this report or our web page, or if you have suggestions concerning the future of the center, please write to Ellen or me and let us know your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Ivanhoe

Director of Center for East Asian and Comparative Philosophy
Chair Professor of East Asian and Comparative Philosophy and Religion, Department of Public Policy

1. Core Members of CEACOP

Director
Philip J. Ivanhoe

Associate Director
Sungmoon Kim

Assistant to the Directors
Ellen Hiu Yeung Yan

Core Members
Chor Yung Cheung
Owen Flanagan
Eirik Lang Harris
Hsin-wen Lee
Wanxin Li
Hektor King-tak Yan
Lawrence Yeuk-yu Yung
David B. Wong

Director
艾文賀
Chair Professor of East Asian & Comparative Philosophy & Religion

Associate Director
金聖文
Professor

Assistant to the Directors
甄曉暘
Senior Research Associate

Core Members
張楚勇
Senior Teaching Fellow

Eirik Lang Harris
郝令喆
Assistant Professor

Hsin-wen Lee
李心文
Visiting Assistant Professor

Wanxin Li
李萬新
Associate Professor

Hektor King-tak Yan
甄景德
Assistant Professor

Lawrence Yeuk-yu Yung
翁若玳
Instructor I

David B. Wong

Susan Fox Beischer and George D. Beischer Trinity College Arts and Sciences Professor of Philosophy
2. Mission Statement and Objectives

The primary aim of the Center for East Asian and Comparative Philosophy (CEACOP) is to promote and enhance the study of East Asian and Comparative Philosophy. Toward that end the center brings together core faculty members within the Department of Public Policy, who all have active research programs in East Asian and Comparative Ethics, Political Philosophy, Law, Religion, the Ethical Status of Non-human Animals, and Environmental Ethics. In addition, we invite scholars outside of City University, from Hong Kong, East Asia, and around the world, with similar interests to campus in order to share their research and exchange ideas. The center hosts or supports several major research projects and actively seeks additional projects and funding to continue to build and expand its ability to serve as a leading institution producing and supporting research in East Asian and Comparative Philosophy.

3. Research Activities

Workshop: Political Theory from East Asia: Toward New Perspectives
Date: 22-23 August 2016

Speakers
- Chia-Ming Chen
  Assistant Research Fellow, Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, Academia Sinica
- Sungmoon Kim
  Professor, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong
- Tae Wan Kim
  Assistant Professor, Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University
- Hsin-wen Lee
  Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong
- Shaun O’Dwyer
  Associate Professor, School of Languages and Cultures, Kyushu University
- Bui Ngoc Son
  Research Fellow, Centre for Asian Legal Studies, National University of Singapore
Results and Impacts

Most participants presented innovative ideas to develop political theory that is informed by East Asian histories, philosophical traditions, and socio-political conditions. After the conference, Chia-Ming Chen, a participant from the Academia Sinica in Taiwan, invited Sungmoon Kim to contribute his paper entitled “A Confucian Case for Equal Citizenship for Migrant Domestic Workers” to a special issue of an SSCI Journal called Global Policy and the manuscript is currently under peer review. Chan also is organizing a similar conference in his institution and several of the participants in the CityU conference will join his event, to be held in 2018. Finally, Shaun O’Dwyer, another participant, from Japan, has contributed an essay, loosely based on his paper, to the Japanese Times (Japan’s largest English newspaper), in which Sungmoon Kim was quoted as an expert in Confucianism.

CityU Distinguished Lecture Series: Anger and Revolutionary Justice

Speaker: Martha C. Nussbaum
Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics
University of Chicago

Date: 29 August 2016

Results and Impacts

Drawing upon resources in the Stoic tradition, Professor Nussbaum argued that anger has no constructive role to play in the conception or practice of justice. In opposition to widely held views that inform both judicial and penal policy and institutions, she showed that the retributive inspired system of punishment widely in use throughout the Western world lacks philosophical support and produces not justice or reform but a deepening spiral of anger, resentment, and violence.
Conference: The Theory and Practice of Punishment: East and West

Date: 30-31 August 2016

Speakers
- Martha Nussbaum (Keynote speaker)  
  Ernest Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago
- Thom Brooks  
  Professor, Durham Law School, Durham University
- Vincent Chiao  
  Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto
- Chad Flanders  
  Professor, Center for International and Comparative Law, School of Law, Saint Louis University
- Charles Goodman  
  Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, Binghamton University, State University of New York
- Jonathan Jacobs  
  Professor, Department of Philosophy, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, the City University of New York
- Hsin-wen Lee  
  Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong
- Hon-lam Li  
  Professor, Department of Philosophy, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Justin Tiwald  
  Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, San Francisco State University
- Rebecca Walker  
  Associate Professor, Department Social Medicine and Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of North California at Chapel Hill

Results and Impacts

The papers presented at the conference were reviewed by the organizers, revised by their respective authors, and compiled into two groups which were submitted to the leading journal in the field of applied legal ethics: Criminal Justice Ethics. The journal is publishing both groups of papers in successive volumes as special issues (Volume 36, issues one and two, 2017) with Professors Hsin-wen Lee and Philip J. Ivanhoe serving as guest editors. This is the first time the journal has published work in comparative law, which marks a major contribution to the fields of the ethics of punishment and comparative philosophy of law.
Conference: Forming Synergies in Greening China’s Growth

Date: 13 June 2017

Speakers
- Christine Loh Kung-wai, JP (Keynote Speaker)
  Under Secretary for the Environment, Hong Kong SAR Government
- Chak Keung Chan
  School of Energy and Environment, City University of Hong Kong
- Jianmin Chen
  Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, Fudan University
- Andy Chung
  Smart City Consortium
- Barbara Finamore
  Natural Resources Defense Council
- Tat Yan Ip
  Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
- Chunlei Liu
  Shanghai Qingyue Open Environmental Data Center
- Peter Kwok-keung Louie
  Environmental Protection Department, Hong Kong SAR Government
- Zhi Ning
  School of Energy and Environment, City University of Hong Kong
- Kit Poon
  Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong
- Wei Wang
  State Information Center
- Tao Xue
  E20 Environmental Platform
- Masaru Yarime
  School of Energy and Environment, City University of Hong Kong

Results and Impacts

The 13th Five-Year Plan for Ecological and Environmental Protection (2016–2020) of China consists of three core missions – to raise the quality of the environment, to strengthen holistic management solutions, and to speed up the amendment of environmental issues. In this context, the workshop brought together scholars and leaders from government institutions, the private sector, universities, think tanks, and NGOs to address pressing environmental issues in China. Renowned academicians and experts from around the world exchanged views on forming synergies across different sectors in air pollution control and low carbon development in greater China. Discussions at the workshop related to evidence-based policy-making, case studies on environmental monitoring and reporting, and smart cities in China and around the world. Workshop participants also discussed possibilities for developing collaborative research projects in the future.
CEACOP Annual Lecture:
The Aesthetics of Loss and Mourning

Speaker: Kathleen M Higgins
Professor, Department of Philosophy, the University of Texas at Austin
Date: 17 March 2017

Results and Impacts

Professor Higgins is a widely published and respected scholar specializing in Nietzsche’s philosophy, the philosophy of music, and aesthetics. Her presentation was attended by a wide range of scholars both within and beyond our institution and highlighted the international stature of the centre as the leading organization for comparative philosophy in the world. She is working on a monograph on this topic and will of course acknowledge the comments and suggestions she received in the course of her visit. Professor Higgins’ visit also helped to further strengthen the relationship between the centre and the philosophy department of the University of Texas, one of the most highly ranked departments in the world.

CEACOP Seminars

1. Choosing a Dao and Choosing a Normative Theory: Characterizing the Classical Chinese Ethical Project in Relation to Western Ethics
   Speaker: Daniel J. Stephens
   Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Public Policy
   City University of Hong Kong
   Date: 3 October 2016

2. Place without Borders: Progressivism of Place
   Speaker: JeeLoo Liu
   Professor, Department of Philosophy
   California State University, Fullerton
   Date: 12 October 2016

3. A Confucian Critique of Family-based Ethics
   Speaker: Kam-por Yu
   Director, General Education Center
   the Hong Kong Polytechnic University
   Date: 14 November 2016

4. The Nature and Point of Philosophy: A Normative Account
   Speaker: Yao Lin
   Visiting Fellow, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong
   Date: 5 December 2016
5. The Role of Ancillary Motivations in Xunzi’s (荀子) Ethical Thought
Speaker: Doil Kim
Assistant Professor, Department of Confucian Studies, Sungkyunkwan University
Date: 13 January 2017

6. Rational Choice or Moral Decision: Examining Determinants of University Students’ Pro-environmental Behaviors in Urban China
Speaker: Lingqiong Wu
Assistant Professor, School of Management, Nantong University
Date: 19 January 2017

7. Spinoza, Confucius, and the Relational Ethics of Correlative Cosmology
Speaker: Shea K. Robison
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong
Date: 14 March 2017

8. Tocqueville and Nietzsche on the Problem of Human Greatness in Democracy
Speaker: Paul Franco
Professor, Department of Government and Legal Studies, Bowdoin College
Date: 14 March 2017

9. The Problem of Political Order in Classical Confucian Thought
Speaker: Loubna El Amine
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
Date: 27 March 2017

10. The Goodness in Human Nature: Debates and New Perspectives on Mencian Theory
Speaker: Xiaogan Liu
Professor, Department of Philosophy, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Date: 10 April 2017

11. Reading Method as a Spiritual and Bodily Exercise: The Religious Dimension of Zhu Xi
Speaker: Guoxiang Peng
Qiu Shi Distinguished Professor of Chinese Philosophy Intellectual History and Religions, School of Humanities, Zhejiang University
Date: 10 May 2017

12. Han Feizi and Keeping One’s Hands Clean
Speaker: Gordon Mower
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Brigham Young University
Date: 15 May 2017
13. **Virtue, Skill, and the Moral Psychology of Civility**

   Speaker: **Jonathan Jacobs**  
   *Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy*  
   *John Jay College of Criminal Justice*  
   *City University of New York*  
   Date: 1 June 2017

14. **Accounts of Abdication in Early China**

   Speaker: **Andrzej Fech**  
   *Instructor, Southern University of Science and Technology of China*  
   Date: 7 June 2017

**Results and Impacts**

The presentations of this year’s seminar series illustrate the range of philosophical issues supported by the centre and highlight its status as the leading place to pursue and present cutting-edge research in East Asian and Comparative Ethics, Political Philosophy, Law, Religion, the Ethical Status of Non-human Animals, and Environmental Ethics. Our seminars are attended by enthusiastic audiences drawn from CityU as well as other institutions throughout Hong Kong, and the series represents a globally important forum for presenting and strengthening original and important research across a broad spectrum of philosophical topics. The work presented at our forums regularly and quickly appears in publications in top journals and further enhances our international reputation.

**Other Achievements**

1. Philip J. Ivanhoe along with Owen Flanagan, a CEACOP member from Duke University, and Justin Tiwald, a contributor of the anthology of *Oneness in Philosophy and Religion* presented papers in a featured panel: "Oneness in Traditional Asian Philosophy and Modern Philosophy" in the American Philosophy Association Pacific Division Annual Meeting. This panel was a highlight of one of the three most important gatherings of philosophers in North America and helped to disseminate some of the primary results of a three year project supported by a major outside grant that has produced both a large anthology, published with Columbia University Press, and a single authored monograph, published with Oxford University Press. Professor Ivanhoe is the lead editor of the former and sole author of the latter work.

2. Sungmoon Kim was awarded a *Berggruen Fellowship* by the Berggruen Institute and the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. This is one of the most prestigious year-long fellowship in humanities in the world; during the fellowship period, Kim has been working on a new book manuscript called *Democracy after Virtue: Toward Pragmatic Confucian Democracy*; the book is now forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

*Sungmoon Kim's visit to Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University (September 2016 - June 2017).*
Progress on Major Projects

1. Korean Philosophy in Comparative Perspectives (2011-2016)

Our five-year project, Korean Philosophy in Comparative Perspectives, is reaching its final stages having met or surpassed its initial goals and having contributed in historically important ways to the greater understanding and appreciation of Korean Philosophy throughout the world. One of the final events related to the project will be an author-meets-critics roundtable focusing on one of the monographs produced by the project, *Three Streams: Confucian Reflections on Learning and the Moral Heart-Mind in China, Korea, and Japan* (Oxford University Press, 2016). Four scholars in the fields of religious studies, philosophy, and East Asian studies will discuss the contributions of this path-breaking monograph and its impact on the fields of East Asian religions, Confucianism, ethics, as well as religious studies at large and Professor Ivanhoe will offer a response.


Our three-year project, *Eastern and Western Conceptions of Oneness, Virtue, and Happiness* has reached a successful conclusion resulting in the publication of two impressive volumes. The first, *Oneness: East Asian Conceptions of Virtue, Happiness, and How We Are All Connected*, is a single-authored manuscript by Professor Philip J. Ivanhoe, which draws upon resources in modern Western philosophy, religion, psychology, evolutionary theory, cognitive neuroscience, as well as traditional East Asian philosophy to develop and defend a new and controversial thesis about the world, the self, and the proper relationship between the two. The second, *The Oneness Hypothesis: Beyond the Boundary of Self*, edited by Philip J. Ivanhoe, Owen J. Flanagan, Victoria S. Harrison, Hagop Sarkissian, and Eric Schwitzgebel is an anthology that presents a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary exploration of the nature and implications of the oneness hypothesis. While fundamentally inspired by East and South Asian traditions, in which unitary thought is critical to philosophical approaches, this collection draws upon religion, psychology, and Western philosophy, as well as sociology, evolutionary theory, and cognitive neuroscience. Contributors trace the oneness hypothesis through the works of East Asian and Western thinkers and traditions, including Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism, Buddhism, Platonism, Zhuangzi, Kant, James, and Dewey. They intervene in debates over ethics, cultural difference, identity, group solidarity, and the positive and negative implications of metaphors of organic unity.
3. **Han Fei’s Political Philosophy (2014-2017)**

Eirik Harris is currently working on a book project titled *Han Fei’s Political Philosophy*, which is sponsored by General Research Fund, University Grants Committee. While there has been a resurgence of interest in early Chinese political philosophy, this has primarily been limited to Confucianism, and few have engaged with Han Fei with in an attempt to learn from him. As such, a deeper understanding of Han Fei’s political philosophy can lead to challenges to both Western political theories and Confucian political thought. By reconstructing Han Fei’s philosophy, Harris demonstrates that it has much to offer those interested in political theory, in Asia as well as in the world at large. Han Fei offers a strong defense of the value of engaging in the history of political philosophy, a claim that is often questioned today. Furthermore, while he does not directly tackle many of the issues that are the central concerns of contemporary political philosophers, often we can, by reconstructing his philosophy and analyzing what his principles commit him to, determine how he would address numerous issues of contemporary interest. By constructively engaging first with Han Fei himself and subsequently with important issues in contemporary political philosophy, Harris’s work demonstrates not only that two vastly different political traditions can profitably be brought into dialogue but that regardless of our final analysis of the viability of Han Fei’s political philosophy, his arguments provide challenges that must be taken seriously by contemporary political philosophers.

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### Publications

1. **Confucian Humanitarian Intervention? Toward Democratic Theory**  
   by Sungmoon Kim  

   This paper argues that for the Mencian theory to be relevant in the modern world marked most notably by moral pluralism, it must be transformed into a democratic theory, at the center of which is the stipulation that humanitarian intervention be morally justified internally, that is, to the people of the intervening state, as well as externally, first to the people to be intervened state, and second to international society.

2. **Democracy after Virtue: Toward Pragmatic Confucian Democracy**  
   by Sungmoon Kim  
   New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming

   This book presents “pragmatic Confucian democracy” as a fresh normative framework that can help (1) identify the social circumstances that require a democracy as a political system in a Confucian society, (2) explain the internal connection between two dimensions of democracy that are commonly presented in political science as being at odds with each other, (3) make sense of the value of democracy coherently with reference to its two dimensions, (4) illuminate the theoretical connection between democratic procedures and the outcomes they produce, and (5) articulate distinctively Confucian democratic principles of justice in criminal punishment, economic distribution, and international relations (humanitarian intervention in particular) from a pragmatic standpoint.
3. **Oneness: East Asian Conceptions of Virtue, Happiness, and How We Are All Connected**
   by Philip J. Ivanhoe
   Oxford University Press, 2018

This volume challenges dominant "hyper-individualist" conceptions of the self that dominate contemporary Western philosophy, psychology, economics, and social theory, arguing that a more relationship-oriented conception of the self is not only consistent with our best science but also presents a range of good consequences for both the self and other people, creatures, and things.

4. **Oneness in Philosophy, Religion, and Psychology**
   Edited by Philip J. Ivanhoe, Owen Flanagan, Victoria Harrison, Eric Schwitzgebel, and Hagop Sarkissian

The idea that the self is inextricably intertwined with the rest of the world—the "oneness hypothesis"—can be found in many of the world’s philosophical and religious traditions. Oneness provides ways to imagine and achieve a more expansive conception of the self as fundamentally connected with other people, creatures, and things. Such views present profound challenges to Western hyper-individualism and its excessive concern with self-interest and tendency toward self-centered behavior. The contributions to this ground-breaking anthology challenge dominant traditional views that presume that the proper scope of the mind stops at the boundaries of the skin and skull. The Oneness Hypothesis shows that a more relational conception of the self is not only consistent with contemporary science but has the potential to lead to greater happiness and well-being for both individuals and the larger wholes of which they are parts.

5. **Pragmatic Confucian Democracy: Rethinking the Value of Democracy in East Asia**
   by Sungmoon Kim

This paper argues that given democracy’s dual aspects as a political system and as a way of life, it has both instrumental and intrinsic values and insomuch as it is a kind of democracy, Confucian democracy, too, ought to possess both values. I presents my overarching normative framework in terms of pragmatic Confucian democracy.

6. **Public Reason Confucianism: Democracy Perfectionism and Constitutionalism in East Asia**
   by Sungmoon Kim

Sungmoon Kim presents “public reason Confucianism” as the most attractive option for contemporary East Asian societies that are historically and culturally Confucian. Public reason Confucianism is a particular style of Confucian democratic perfectionism in which comprehensive Confucianism is connected with perfectionism via a distinctive form of public reason. It allows the state to promote a Confucian conception of the good life, at the heart of which are such core Confucian values as filial piety and ritual propriety, while fully respecting core democratic values such as popular sovereignty, political equality and right to political participation.
7. The Geography of Morals: Varieties of Moral Possibility  
by Owen Flanagan  
Oxford University Press, 2016  

This remarkable volume, by one of contemporary America’s leading philosophers, presents a comprehensive dialogue between cultural and psychological anthropology, recent work in empirical moral psychology, behavioral economics, and cross-cultural philosophy, exploring and opening opportunities for self, social, and political improvement provided by cross-cultural, world philosophy.

8. Three Streams: Confucian Reflections on Learning and the Moral Heart-Mind in China, Korea, and Japan  
by Philip J. Ivanhoe  
Oxford University Press, 2016  

This monograph takes the moral heart-mind and moral learning or self-cultivation as its twin, interrelated, central themes and uses these to describe core features of the early Confucian tradition and especially several features that play key roles in the subsequent development of the later tradition. It then follows the trajectory of these ideas in different Confucian thinkers, schools, places, and times, offering one of the first and only Pan-Asian accounts of the Confucian tradition.

9. Traditional Korean Philosophy: Problems and Debates  
Edited by Youngsun Back and Philip J. Ivanhoe  
Rowman and Littlefield, 2016  

This path-breaking anthology presents in-depth analyses of representative periods, problems, and debates within the long and rich history of Korean philosophy. It includes contributions from some of the best and most significant contemporary Korean philosophers in the world today and marks an important new stage in the Western-language study and appreciation of Korean philosophy.

10. The Shenzi Fragments: A Philosophical Analysis and Translation  
by Eirik Lang Harris  

Though Shen Dao’s (350–275 B.C.E.) writings have been recounted and interpreted in many texts, particularly in the work of Xunzi and Han Fei, very few Western scholars have encountered the political philosopher’s original, influential formulations. In addition to translating the fragments, Harris explains their distillation of the potent political theories circulating in China during the Warring States period, along with their seminal relationship to the Daoist and Legalist traditions and the philosophies of the Lüshi Chunqiu and the Huainanzi. He argues that these fragments outline a rudimentary theory of political order modeled on the natural
world that recognizes the role of human self-interest in maintaining stable rule. Casting the natural world as an independent, amoral system, Shen Dao situates the source of moral judgment firmly within the human sphere, prompting political philosophy to develop in realistic directions. Harris's sophisticated translation is paired with commentary that clarifies difficult passages and obscure references. For sections open to multiple interpretations, he offers resources for further research and encourages readers to follow their own path to meaning, much as Shen Dao intended.

Publicity

The centre regularly publishes an annual newsletter which describes in detail the activities of the last year at the centre and announces future plans and projects. We regularly update our web page, which includes all centre activities as well as recent and forthcoming publications by all centre members. Our web page has received an impressive number of 10,213 page views by 2,604 unique users.

Future Plans and Long-term Strategic Development Strategy

Professor Ivanhoe has submitted a new proposal entitled *Friends and Friendship; Teachers and Teaching East and West*, to the John Templeton Foundation that includes substantial funding to support the operation of the centre over the coming three years. The total budget for this project is $374,140.00USD. The director also has met twice with the director and chairman of a leading funding institution that is exploring the possibility of funding a centre for the study of oneness, virtue, and happiness, which are the key themes of a recently completed centre project led by Professor Ivanhoe. We have brought two new members into the centre since our last report and will be inviting a third in the coming year. The centre has suffered the loss of two key members who both were bid away by competing universities.
Center for East Asian and Comparative Philosophy (CEACOP)
City University of Hong Kong

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