Neo-Confucianism’s Political Thoughts, Democracy and Yu Yingshi

Date: 4 May 2022 (Wednesday)
Time: 2:00 pm (HKT)
Venue: Online
(This talk will be held in Korean via Zoom)

Speaker:
Won-seok Lee, Chonnam National University

Abstract
Yu Yingshi’s Zhu Xi’s Historical World (朱熹的歷史世界, 2002) has made a significant contribution to Chinese intellectual history, opening new possibilities to rethink Song history and Neo-Confucian political thought. In this book, Yu argues, albeit implicitly, that political ideas advanced by the Song Neo-Confucian scholars of the Learning of the Way [道學派] are geared toward constitutional monarchy. This seminar also discusses From Rural China to the Ivy League(余英時回憶錄, 2021). This book shows Yu’s conservative approach towards liberal democracy, which appears to have impelled him to identify several components of constitutional monarchy in the political ideology of the Song Dynasty. Yu’s research enables us to understand some important connections between Neo-Confucian political and social ideas and constitutionalism as well as democratic socialism as developed in Western Europe.

Short Biography
Won-seok Lee is professor of philosophy at Chonnam National University. He is a co-author of Neo-Confucianism and Modern Ethics(성리와 윤리, 2020), A Series on Modern and Contemporary Korea 2-7(근현대한국학총서, 2019), and Introduction to Contemporary Chinese Philosophy(近現代中華哲學 2016). He also translated several books including Chun Lai’s 仁學本體論(2014) and 朱熹的歷史世界(2002) by Yu Yingshi.

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