Abstract
This seminar aims to examine Cheng Yi’s political philosophy with a special focus on its intersection between realism and idealism. It draws special attention to the debate between Zhu Xi and Chen Liang that took place during the Southern Song period as they both drew on Cheng Yi as the authority bolstering their respective positions. It is widely acknowledged, however, that despite their shared respect for Cheng Yi, Zhu Xi and Chen Liang advocated different normative and philosophical positions—motivationalism and political idealism, on the one side, and consequentialism and political realism, on the other. In this seminar, Prof. Jung argues that both aspects are found in Cheng Yi’s philosophical thought. First, the seminar examines Cheng’s interpretation of Guan Zhong’s ‘achievement of benevolence(仁功)’. Next, it shows that Cheng Yi accepted political realism while adhering to an idealism through an analysis of the notion of “extensively benefiting the people” (博施濟衆) and the relation between sagehood (聖) and benevolence (仁). Finally, it explores the further-reaching philosophical implications of this “coexistence.”

Short Biography
Jong-mo Jung is Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the Andong National University. He is a co-author and a contributor to several books including Modern and Contemporary Taiwanese Philosophy: Traditional Foundations and New Developments (2020) and Post Eurocentrism and beyond (탈서구중심주의와 그 너머, 2022). He also published in Korean papers such as “A Philosophical analysis on Confucian Constitutionalism in contemporar y China” (2018) and “A Debate in Contemporary Neo-Confucianism: Focused on Jiang Qing’s Confucian Constitutionalism” (2017).

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