The Structure and Related Issues in Jeong Yagyong’s Philosophy on Human Nature and the Mind

Date: 10 June 2022 (Friday)
Time: 2:00 pm (HKT)
Venue: Online
(This talk will be held in Korean via Zoom)

Speaker:
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Abstract
Dasan Jeong Yagyong (1762-1836) indulged himself in his youth in the Western literature on medieval science and Catholicism. As a result, unlike other Neo-Confucian scholars, he emphasized the role of a personal god called “the Load-on-High” (上帝). At the same time, Dasan coined a new term, the “Spiritual Body (靈體),” to explain the human mind. Similar to the Western mind-body dualism, the Spiritual Body and the physical body have different roots in Dasan’s philosophy. We will examine the reason why Dasan called for the concept of a personal god to replace the natural law from Zhu Xi’s philosophy. We will also look into the difference between the Spiritual Body and the Neo-Confucian conception of the mind. The second topic of this seminar is concerned with the elaborate governmental system by ritual. According to Dasan, his ritual theory is not merely the method to control the people’s behaviors; rather, it aims to achieve various desires. This seminar will conclude by examining how Dasan’s theory of zhong-shu (忠恕) is reflected in his theory of mind-nature and ritual system.

Short Biography
Min-jung Baek is Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the Catholic University of Korea. She has won the Excellence in Research Award from the Dasan Cultural Foundation for her monograph titled Philosophy of Jeong Yagyong: Beyond Zhu Xi and Matteo Ricci (정약용의 철학: 주희와 마테오리치를 넘어 새로운 세계로). She is a co-author of several books including A Study on Hyegang Choe Han-gi (혜강 최한기 연구, 2007). She also published books including Confucians Come to the Classroom (강의실에 찾아온 유학자들, 2007).

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