Presented Topic:

The Sentimentalist Representation in Confucianism

A Research Proposal by:

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Research Abstract:

The aim of my dissertation is to suggest an alternative conception of representation by focusing on Confucianism’s distinctive and intrinsic characteristic, ‘sentimentalist representation.’ In this dissertation, I expect to make largely three contributions: First, by examining Confucian sentimentalist representation in classical Confucianism and neo-Confucianism, I will show how the Confucian sentimentalist representation has achieved the ideal of impartial political judgment and formed normative but psychological relationship between the ruler and the ruled. Second, I will examine its limitations and make it compatible with modern pluralistic democracy. I will mainly focus on how the Confucian sentimentalist representation in monistic society can suggest a normative criterion for pluralistic society. Lastly, I will suggest an alternative normative criterion for elections in terms of moral self-cultivation.