



CEACOP SEMINAR

Revamping the Past for a Better Future: A Case of Huang Zongxi

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Abstract

Huang Zongxi is a philosopher and political reformer from the seventeenth century, one of the most turbulent and trying periods in Chinese political history. Huang Zongxi develops a distinct Confucian political moralism that allows for criticisms of the dysfunctional rule and arbitrary power posed by the Ming government and simultaneously resists the atrocious laws imposed by the Qing court. The Confucian moral virtues not only define the conditions under which power is justified but also formulate the common good that the political seeks to express. Moreover, the moral nature of government is congruent with the moral-metaphysical structure of the world. In this talk, I use the case of Huang Zongxi to discuss the basic structure and elements of Confucian political moralism, particularly how such ideal theory could reinvent itself through revamping the normative past.

About the Speaker

Wenqing Zhao is currently an Assistant Professor in Philosophy at Baruch College, City University of New York. She specializes in Chinese philosophy. In particular, she works at the intersection of mind and ethics (normative theory and applied ethics) in Chinese philosophy. She is a recipient of NEH, John Templeton, and other awards and grants. Prior to Baruch, she completed her Ph.D. at the City University of Hong Kong and worked as a post-doctoral associate at Duke University.