

# Political Virtue

## between East and West



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The central purpose of this conference is to examine the idea and practice of “political virtue” from comparative perspectives. In Western political theory, political virtue is commonly associated with the republican tradition and it is often distinguished from moral virtue. Yet, Confucianism does not hold a sharp distinction between moral virtue and political virtue and, rather, stipulates their seamless connection. In this conference, the participants will explore the following questions: How do liberal/Roman/Confucian traditions understand political virtue, and how is it distinguished from moral virtue? How should we conceptualize political virtue and what could be its normative implications? Is the conceptual (and practical) distinction between moral and political virtue helpful? How can political virtue be cultivated? Is political virtue important to the ruler only, or can it have an important bearing on the people (commonly understood as the ruled)? What insights can we draw by comparing the Western and East Asian (especially Confucian) philosophical and political traditions?