

BNU Philosophy Summer School

## **Chinese Thought and Modern China**

July 10-20, 2015

School of Philosophy, Beijing Normal University

### **Aims:**

In order to understand a nation and its people, one needs to be fully immersed in its particular culture and understand its values and mindset. China, for the last five thousand years, has developed as a profound civilization characterized by a rich diversity of philosophical thought, a humanistic spirit and moral values. Chinese culture embraces wholeheartedly the ideas of benevolence (*ren* 仁), and “taking the people as the root” (*minben* 民本), which together shape Chinese understandings of sovereignty, difference, justice, integrity, harmony and consensus. These ideas have been crystallized into the mindset and behavior of Chinese people over countless generations. At the same time, these universal values are crucial for China’s capacity to cope with various challenges, such as problem of the environmental crisis, wars, and disparity between the rich and the poor. In order to enable young people all around the world to get in touch with Chinese culture, understand its contemporary situation and foster exchange and communication in and out China, the School of Philosophy of Beijing Normal University will hold a BNU Philosophy Summer School. The 2015 session will be entitled ‘Chinese Thought and Modern China’. Several world famous philosophers have confirmed their participation in the summer school and have developed thought-provoking lectures, carefully designed to meet the expectations of young and curious students from every corner of the world. We

believe our summer school will leave a profound impression on all the participants and deliver promising results for us all.

### **Sponsor:**

Beijing Normal University grew out of the Faculty of Education of Capital Metropolitan University established in 1902 , which initiated teacher training in Chinese higher education. At BNU there are 22 colleges or schools and 36 research centers/institutes, over 22,000 fulltime students including 8,900 undergraduate students , 11,300 postgraduate students and 1,800 international students. The University has 16 national key disciplines, including Education, Psychology, History, Ecology and Geography, which were ranked number one in China according to the 2013 official ranking by the Ministry of Education. Beijing Normal University always attaches importance to international exchange and cooperation. At present, the university has established cooperative ties with some 300 universities and international organizations.

BNU is a top-ranked Chinese university, and the School of Philosophy is renowned for its great work in areas of Confucianism, Daosim, Yijing studies, Buddhism, the philosophy of science and technology, ethics, aesthetics, logic and cognitive science, analytic philosophy and religious studies. The School has been collaborating successfully with world famous universities and publishes *Frontiers of Philosophy in China*, an English journal with global reputation. Every year the School invites many foreign scholars to attend numerous international conferences on the BNU campus, and sends large numbers of teachers and students abroad for international conferences, further training and academic exchange.

## Timetable:

Reception	July 9, 2015: Reception, 18:00-22:00
July 10	
Morning, 9:00-12:00	
James Miller	<i>An Introduction to Daoist Thought</i>
	Afternoon, 14:00-17:00
James Miller	<i>Chinese Philosophies of Nature and Environment</i>
July 11	
Morning, 9:00-12:00	
Robin R Wang	<i>Reason and Insight: Western and Eastern Perspectives on the Pursuit of Wisdom</i>
	Afternoon, 14:00:17:00
Robin R Wang	<i>Beyond Pythagoras: A Traditional Chinese Concept of Good Life</i>
July 12	
Morning, 9:00-12:00	
Robin Celikates	<i>Digitalization: A New Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere?</i>
Afternoon, 14:00:17:00	
Tom Wang	<i>Internet in China: Cyber Public Sphere and Democracy</i>
July 13	
Morning, 9:00-12:00	
Robin Celikates	<i>Democratic Theory and the Public Sphere: Deliberation vs Contestation?</i>
Afternoon, 14:00-17:00	
Robin R Wang	<i>Yinyang Gender Dynamics: Dao and Feminist Thought</i>
July 14	

<b>Morning, 9:00-12:00</b>	
<b>Li Shaomeng</b>	<i>ZhuangZi and Political liberalism</i>
<b>Afternoon, 14:00-17:00</b>	
<b>Li Shaomeng</b>	<i>Confucian Constitutionalism</i>
<b>July 15, 10:00</b>	
<b>Tour</b>	<i>Visiting Forbidden City and Imperial school with an aim of understating the renown tradition of loyal family and educational system in imperial China.</i>
<b>July 16</b>	
<b>Morning, 9:00-12:00</b>	
<b>Robin Celikates</b>	<i>Varieties of Digital Activism: Participation in the Networked Society</i>
<b>Afternoon, 14:00-17:00</b>	
<b>Tom Wang</b>	<i>Is There a Human Right to Internet Access in Confucianism</i>
<b>July 17</b>	
<b>Morning, 9:00-12:00</b>	
<b>Wen Haiming</b>	<i>Two Versions of Metaphysical Ethics: Levinas and Guo Xiang</i>
<b>Afternoon, 14:00-17:00</b>	
<b>James Miller</b>	<i>Traditional Chinese Thought and Ecological Civilization in Contemporary China</i>
<b>July 18, 9:00-12:00</b>	
<b>Liao Shenbai</b>	<i>Configuring Confucius' Virtue-Ethics Humanism: a Preliminary Account</i>
<b>Afternoon, 14:00</b>	
<b>Tour</b>	<i>Visiting Olympic Park, 798 Art Zone with an aim of understanding the facet of contemporary China.</i>
<b>July 19, 9:00-12:00</b>	
<b>Student</b>	<i>Presentation made by the selected students</i>

Afternoon, 14:00:17:00

Student

*Presentation made by the selected students*

July 20, 10:00

Tour

*Visiting Great Wall, the most cited symbolic image of China, experiencing culture heritage and weight of Chinese long-lasting history.*

## Introduction of Speakers:

**James Miller:** Professor of Chinese Studies in School of Religion, Queen's University



### Selected publication:

*Religion and Ecological Sustainability in Contemporary China*

*The Way of Highest Clarity: Nature, Vision and Revelation in Medieval China*

*Chinese Religions in Contemporary Societies*

*Daoism: A Short Introduction*

*Daoism and Ecology: Ways within the Cosmic Landscape*

**Robin R Wang:** Professor of Philosophy, Director of Asian and Pacific Studies, Loyola

Marymount University.



**Selected Publication:**

*Yinyang: The Way of Heaven and Earth in Chinese Thought and Culture*

*Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture: Writings from the Pre-Qin Period to the Song Dynasty*

*Chinese Philosophy in an Era of Globalization*

*Reason and Insight: Western and Eastern Perspectives on the Pursuit of Moral Wisdom*

“Ideal Womanhood in Chinese Thought and Culture”

**Liao Shenbai:** Professor of College of Philosophy & Sociology, Beijing Normal University



**Selected Publication:**

*Some Basic Values Regarded as Universal in a Confucian Context*

*The Conceptions of Justice in Western Thoughts*

*The Concept of Skill in Aristotle's Thought*

**Robin Celikates:** Professor of political philosophy, University of Amsterdam



**Selected Publication:**

*Rethinking Civil Disobedience as a Practice of Contestation*

*Habermas: Sprache, Verständigung und sprachliche Gewalt*

*Civil Disobedience as a Practice of Civic Freedom*

*Freedom as Non--Arbitrariness or as Democratic Self-Rule? A Critique of Contemporary Republicanism*

**Wen Haiming:** Professor of Philosophy College, Renmin University of China



**Selected Publication:**

*From Substance Language to the Vocabularies of Process and Change: A Comparison between the Translation of Key Philosophical Terms of 'The Doctrine of the Mean' and 'Focusing the Familiar'*

*Two Versions of Desire-based Subjectivism: A Comparative Study on the Analects and the Lotus Sutra*

*One and Many: Creativity in Whitehead and Chinese Cosmology*

**Li Shaomeng:** Associate Professor of College of Philosophy & Sociology, Beijing Normal University





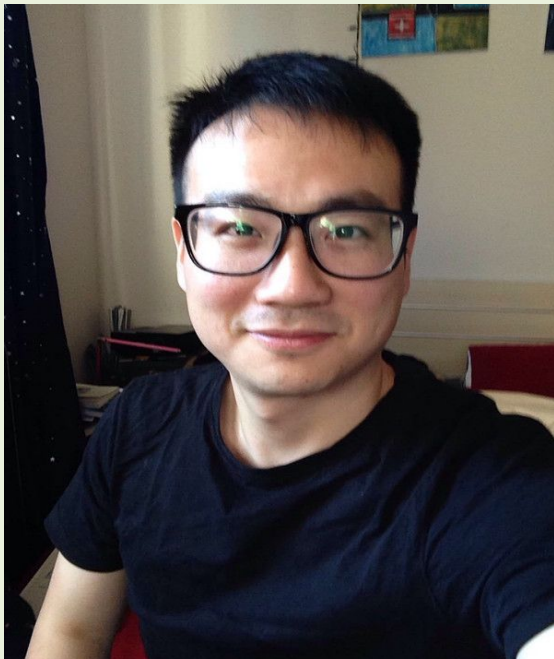
**Selected Publication:**

*John Rawls' Theory of Institutionalism: The Historical Movement toward Liberal Democracy*

*Cooperation, Competition, and Democracy*

*Institutionalism and Theories of Democracy*

**Tom Wang:** Assistant Professor of College of Philosophy & Sociology, Beijing Normal University



**Selected Publication:**

*Time to Think about A Human Right to Internet Access: A Beitz's Approach*  
*A Human Right to Internet Access in Confucianism (Forthcoming)*  
*Book Chapter: Internet Ethics, Renmin University Press*

**Language:**

English

**Place & Date:**

Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China (July 10- 20, 2015)

**Fee:**

300 Euro, including food and a standard hotel room with two beds.

**Program Contact:**

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