



CEACOP seminar

The Pattern-Principle of Neo-Confucianism in Song dynasty

and

Toegye Yi Hwang's Pattern-Principle Arriving of its own accord in Korean Confucianism :

How does li, the pattern-principle without form and doing arrive of its own accord?

Date: 25 November 2022

Time: 2:00 pm (HKT)

Venue: Online (This talk will be held via ZOOM)

Speaker: Hyoungchan KIM, Korea University



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Abstract

Toegye Yi Hwang (退溪 李滉, 1501-1570) presented the theory of *li* (理, *pattern-principle*) arriving its own accord, meaning when I (heart-mind) strive to comprehend *li*, *li* arrives on its own accord. It means that when the heart-mind faces things and eliminates selfishness and subjectivity by reverent mindfulness [*kyong* 敬], *li* as the universal truth 'arrives of its own accord' in the heart-mind, and the pure heart-mind faces *li* of the things without any hindrance of matter-energy [*ki* 氣質]. *Mulgyeok* [物格] that Toegye described as '*li* arriving of its own accord' is the moment when different principles that are diversely focused on within and outside of the mind-heart are understood as single *li*. In this light, Toegye's theory of *li* arriving of its own accord is a stellar accomplishment in the history of Confucianism, overcoming Wang Shouren's criticism of Zhu Xi for separating heart-mind and *li* and surpassing the subjective tendency of mind-heart in Wang Shouren's theory.

Short Biography

Hyoungchan Kim is a Director of Research Institute of Korean Studies and the Professor in the Department of Philosophy, Korea University, Korea. He received his Ph.D. from the Korea University. He is the author of *Korean Confucianism: The Philosophy and Politics of Toegye and Yulgok* and *Old Dreams*. He also co-authored several books including *Lives and Thoughts in Chosŏn* and *Natural Philosophies in Korean Confucianism* and edited *East Meets West*.

Registration is required. Please email jaehseo@cityu.edu.hk ([Click](#)) to make a reservation