



CEACOP seminar

“Rethinking the Individual in Early Chinese Philosophy”

Date: 30 May 2023

Time: 2:00 pm (HKT)

Venue: Online (This talk will be delivered in Korean via ZOOM)

Speaker: Eunkang Koh,
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Eunkang Koh
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Abstract

A debate on pre-modern and modern philosophy inevitably includes the idea of an individual. The concept of an individual also is also important in debating questions such as Asian values and good community. This talk explores the concept of an individual as developed in key philosophical texts in early China. This talk pays particularly close attention to the concepts of the individual found in the *Xunzi*, and the *Liji*, by giving special attention to the notion of “self-construction achieved through behavior.” The talk concludes by discussing the deeper philosophical implications of the early Chinese concept of the “individual” as a “self-construction achieved through practicing the self” for Chinese political thought.

Short Biography

Eunkang Koh received a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Hong Kong and she is currently a professor of philosophy at Seoul National University of Science and Technology. Her primary research interests include the relationship between individual freedom and social order, political communication, and the concept of propriety in the early Chinese context. Koh has published numerous articles on early Chinese philosophy and political thought, and they include: “A Philosophical Approach to Relative Deprivation: With a Special Focus on Rousseau and Xunzi” (2021), “*Li* and Equality with a Special Focus on Xunzi” (2012), “The Concept of the Individual as an Ethical Being in Early Confucian Philosophy” (2011), “Rethinking Risk Society and ‘Self-Improvement’ in Korea: With a Special Focus on Foucault’s Ethics and Early East Asian Ethics” (2011).