

# Tao JIANG

Professor of Religion and Philosophy

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- Employment** **Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ** 2005 - present
- Department of Religion
    - Professor 2022 - present
    - Department Chair 2020 - 2023, 2010 - 2016
    - Associate Professor 2009 - 2022
    - Assistant Professor 2005 - 2009
  - Department of Philosophy
    - Professor 2023 - present
  - Rutgers Center for Chinese Studies
    - Director 2017 - present
  - Rutgers Workshop on Chinese Philosophy
    - Founder and co-director 2012 - present
- Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL** 2001 - 2005
- Department of Philosophy
    - Assistant Professor 2001 - 2005
- Research Interest** Classical Chinese Philosophy, Mahāyāna Buddhist Philosophy, and Cross-Cultural Philosophy
- Education**
- Ph.D. in Religion  
Temple University Philadelphia, PA
  - B.A. in English  
Foreign Affairs College Beijing, China
- Books** *Origins of Moral-Political Philosophy in Early China: Contestation of Humaneness, Justice, and Personal Freedom* (Oxford University Press, 2021)
- Joseph Levenson Prize Honorable Mention, Association for Asian Studies, 2023

- Book panel, American Philosophical Association Central Division annual meeting, Denver, February 24, 2023
- Book roundtable, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Denver, November 21, 2022
- Book symposium, City University of Hong Kong, February 4, 2022
- Interviewed by the [New Books Network](#) on the book, March 24, 2022
- Reviewed in:
  1. *Philosophy East and West* 73-2, special feature: author meets six critics, April 2023
    - (1) Introduction & Mozi, reviewed Loy Hui-chieh
    - (2) Confucius, reviewed by Hagop Sarkissian
    - (3) Mencius & Xunzi, reviewed by Sungmoon Kim
    - (4) Laozi, reviewed by Yuan Ai
    - (5) Fajia (Legalists), reviewed by Yuri Pines
    - (6) Zhuangzi, reviewed by Paul J. D'Ambrosio
    - (7) Author's response, by Tao Jiang
  2. *Mind*, by Bryan Van Norden, April 2023
  3. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, by Eric Hutton, April 2023
  4. H-Net Reviews, by Hung-Yok Ip, April 2023
  5. *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 30:6, by Shoufu Yin, 2022
  6. *The Journal of Asian Studies* 81:3, by Yuri Pines, 2022
  7. *Journal of Confucian Philosophy and Culture* 37, by Karyn Lai, 2022
  8. *Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory* 69:3, by Douglas L. Berger, 2022
  9. *Dao* 21, by Fan He, 2022
  10. *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 49, by Zemian Zheng, 2022

Chinese translation of *Origins of Moral-Political Philosophy in Early China*, in progress, to be published by 2025.

***Contexts and Dialogue: Yogācāra Buddhism and Modern Psychology on the Subliminal Mind*** (University of Hawaii Press, 2006)

- Reviewed in:
  - Philosophy East and West* 59:1, by Paul Brownell, 2009
  - Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 35:2, by Peter D. Herschok, 2008
  - Buddhist-Christian Studies* 30, by Benjamin J. Chicka, 2010
  - H-Net Reviews, by James Behuniak, 2007
  - Dao* 6, by Dirck Vorenkamp, 2007

***The Reception and Rendition of Freud in China: China's Freudian Slip***. Edited by Tao Jiang and Philip J. Ivanhoe. Routledge, 2013

“Beyond Dust and Grime,” in *Aeon Magazine* (2022)

“Ambivalence of Family and Disunity of Virtues in Mencius’ Political Philosophy,” in *Journal of Confucian Philosophy and Culture* 70.33 (2020)

“The Problem of Authorship and the Project of Chinese Philosophy: ZHUANG Zhou and the Zhuangzi between Sinology and Philosophy in the Western Academy,” in *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 15.1 (2016)

“Incommensurability of Two Conceptions of Reality: Dependent Origination and Emptiness in Nāgārjuna’s *MMK*,” in *Philosophy East and West* 64.1 (2014)

“Isaiah Berlin’s Challenge to the Zhuangzian Freedom,” in *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 39 (2012, supplement issue)

“Two Notions of Freedom in Classical Chinese Thought: The Concept of *Hua* (化) in the *Zhuangzi* and the *Xunzi*,” in *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* X.4 (2011)

“The Problematic of Continuity: Nishida Kitarō and Aristotle,” in *Philosophy East and West* 55:3 (2005)

“*Ālayavijñāna* and the Problematic of Continuity in the *Cheng Weishi Lun*,” in *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 33:3 (2005)

“Accessibility of the Subliminal Mind: Transcendence vs. Immanence,” in *Continental Philosophy Review* 38:3-4 (2005)

“The Storehouse Consciousness and the Unconscious: A Comparative Study of Xuanzang and Freud on the Subliminal Mind,” in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 72:1 (2004)

“The Role of History in Chan/Zen Enlightenment,” in *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* IV.1 (2004)

“A Buddhist Scheme in Engaging Modern Science: The Case of Taixu (1890-1947),” in *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 29:4 (2002)

“The Problematic of Whole/Part and the Horizon of the Enlightened in Huayan Buddhism,” in *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 28:4 (2001)

Book  
Chapters

“When Buddha Nature was not the Buddha Nature: Foxing, Shen and the Birth of a New Conception of Mind in Early Medieval China,” in *Oxford Handbook of Chinese Philosophy*, edited by Justin Tiwald, forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

“Personal Freedom and the Good Life in the *Zhuangzi*,” in the *Dao Companion to the Philosophy of the Zhuangzi*, edited by Kim-Chong Chong. Springer, 2022.

“Detachment: A Trait-Reliabilist Virtue in Linji’s Chan Buddhism,” in *Ernest Sosa Encountering Chinese Philosophy: A Cross-Cultural Approach to Virtue Epistemology*, edited by Yong Huang. Bloomsbury, 2022.

“Moral Therapy and the Imperative of Empathy: Mencius Encountering Slotte,” in *Michael Slotte Encountering Chinese Philosophy: A Cross-Cultural Approach to Ethics and Moral Philosophy*, edited by Yong Huang. Bloomsbury, 2020.

“Character is the Way: The Path to Spiritual Freedom in the *Linji lu*,” in *Dao Companion to Chinese Buddhist Philosophy*, edited by Youru Wang and Sandra Wawrytko. Springer, 2018.

“Oneness and its Discontent: Contesting Ren in Classical Chinese Philosophy,” in *The Oneness Hypothesis: Beyond the Boundary of the Self*, co-edited by Philip J. Ivanhoe, Owen Flanagan, Victoria Harrison, Hagop Sarkissian, and Eric Schwitzgebel. Columbia University Press, 2018.

“Linji and William James on Mortality: Two Versions of Pragmatism,” in *Mortality in Traditional China*, edited by Amy Olberding and Philip J. Ivanhoe, State University of New York Press, 2011.

“Augustine and Aquinas on the Will” (in Chinese), in *Frontiers of Western Philosophy*, edited by Jiyuan Yu. Beijing, China: Renmin University Press, 2008.

“The Dilemma of Skillful Means in Buddhist Pedagogy: Desire and Education in the *Lotus Sūtra*,” in *Education and Their Purposes: A Philosophical Dialogue among Cultures*, edited by Roger Ames and Peter Hershock, University of Hawaii Press, 2007.

“Intimate Authority: The Rule of Ritual in Classical Confucian Political Discourse,” Chapter Two in *Confucian Cultures of Authority in Practice: China*, edited by Roger Ames and Peter Hershock, State University of New York Press, 2006.

Book  
Reviews Review of *Transforming Consciousness: Yogācāra Thought in Modern China* (edited by John Makeham, Oxford University Press, 2014), *Frontiers of Philosophy in China*, 10.3 (2015)

Review of *The Imperative of Understanding: Chinese Philosophy, Comparative Philosophy, and Onto-Hermeneutics* (edited by On-cho Ng, Global Scholarly Publishing, 2008), *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 38.1 (2011)

Review of Wendy Larson's *From Ah Q to Lei Feng: Freud and Revolutionary Spirit in 20th Century China* (Stanford, 2009), *The China Journal*, No. 63 (2010)

Review of Youru Wang's *Linguistic Strategies in Daoist Zhuangzi and Chan Buddhism* (Routledge/Curzon, 2003), *Journal of Chinese Religion*, No. 36 (2008)

Review of *Buddhisms and Deconstructions* (edited by Jin Y. Park, Rowman and Littlefield, 2006), *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 75.1 (2007)

Review of Xueguo Wu's *Domains and Interpretations: The Transition from the Theory of Being to the Linguistic Dimension in the Consciousness-only School of Buddhism* (Shanghai, China: People's Press of Shanghai), *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* IV.2 (2005)

Review of Thomas Kasulis's *Intimacy or Integrity: Philosophy and Cultural Difference* (University of Hawaii Press, 2002), *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 72:3 (2004)

Review of David R. Loy's *A Buddhist History of the West: Studies in Lack* (SUNY 2002), *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 31:1 (2004)

Select  
Presentations Panel discussion with Ian Johnson on conceptions of hell in Chinese religions, Asia Society, New York City, March 15, 2023.

“Origins of Moral-Political Philosophy in Early China”, Fordham Chinese Studies Winter Colloquium, Fordham University, New York City, February 23, 2023.

“*Fajia* and the Mohists,” Hawaii International Conference on Chinese Studies (HICCS), University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI, January 4-6, 2023.

“How to Read Ancient Chinese Philosophy: Interpretation and the Problem of Authorship,” Center for Chinese Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Oct. 19, 2022.

“Anger, Justice, and Their Buddhist Discontent,” Conference on “Buddhism and Non-Violence,” American University, Washington, D.C., Oct. 6-7, 2022.

Keynote speaker. “Personal Freedom in the *Zhuangzi*,” Nordic Network on Chinese Thought, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland, Oct. 14, 2022.

“The Good Life in the *Zhuangzi*,” The Citadel, Charleston, SC, Sept. 26, 2022.

“Zhuangzi’s Idea of Personal Freedom,” Workshop on Ancient Wisdom for Modern Challenges, Academy of Athens, Athens, Greece, July 6-8, 2022.

“Personal Freedom and the Good Life in the *Zhuangzi*,” Collaborative Learning Lecture Series, East China Normal University, June 1, 2022.

Interviewed by the [New Books Network](#) on my book, *Origins of Moral-Political Philosophy in Early China* (Oxford University Press, 2021), March 24, 2022.

“The Origins and Legacies of Moral and Political Thought in China: A Book Discussion with Tao Jiang,” University of Leiden, Leiden, Netherlands, March 23, 2022.

“Why Confucius Matters Today: Was the Sage a Subversive?” China Institute, New York, NY, Feb. 22, 2022.

“The Great Divergence: Mozi and Mencius on Justice and Humaneness,” Whitman College, WA, Feb. 10, 2022.

“Personal Freedom and the Good Life in the *Zhuangzi*,” Mahan Lecture, Gettysburg College, November 15, 2021.

“Zhuangzi and the Tragedy of Personal Freedom in Chinese History,” Numata Lecture, University of Calgary, October 29, 2021.

“Non-attachment as an Epistemic Virtue: The Case of Linji,” in Fudan conference on Sosa Encountering Chinese philosophy, April 26-27, 2019, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.

“An Alternative Interpretation of Immediacy in the *Linji lu*,” in “Zen Buddhism: Roots and Branches” conference at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, November 2-3, 2018.

“Sinology’s Three Roles in Doing Classical Chinese Philosophy,” in the panel “Integrating Chinese Studies and Chinese Philosophy: Problems and New Methodological Orientations,” the annual meeting of Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Washington, D.C., March 23-25, 2018

“Moral Therapy and the Partialist Anxiety: Mencius Encountering Slote,” International Conference on “Michael Slote Encountering Chinese Philosophy,” Chinese University of Hong Kong, March 16-17, 2018

“Personal Freedom and the Good Life in the *Zhuangzi: An Early Daoist Vision*,” symposium on Confucianism: Joy along the Way, Rutgers University, November 10, 2017

“Character and Freedom in Zen Buddhism: The Case of the *Linji lu*,” in the international conference, “Seon (Chan, Zen) Buddhism: New Scholarly Perspectives,” Dongguk University, Seoul, South Korea, June 27-28, 2017

“Sinological Challenges to Chinese Philosophy in the American Academy,” in the panel “Chinese Philosophy’s Place in the Modern Academy,” 11th East-West Philosophers Conference, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, May 26-31, 2016

“Oneness and its Discontent: Contesting *Ren* in Classical Chinese Philosophy,” in International Conference on Oneness in Philosophy and Religion, City University of Hong Kong, April 25-27, 2015

“When Buddha Nature was not the Buddha Nature: *Foxing, Shen* and the Birth of a New Conception of Mind in Early Medieval China,” in the International Conference on “East Asian Cultures and Thoughts,” National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, May 22-23, 2014

“Zhuangzi and Isaiah Berlin on Freedom,” Centennial Celebration Conference of the Philosophy Department at Peking University, Beijing, China, October 18-19, 2012

“Incompatibility of Two Conceptions of Reality: Dependent Origination and Emptiness in Nāgārjuna’s *MMK*,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy annual meeting, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, October 11-14, 2012

“You cannot eat your cake and have it too!” XVI<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Taiwan, June 2011

“Positive and Negative Freedom in Classical Chinese Thought,” annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Philadelphia, March 27, 2010

“Relationality of the Self and Freedom in Classical Chinese Thought,” American Philosophical Association eastern division annual meeting, New York, NY, December 30, 2009

“Transcendence and Immanence in the Conceptualizations of the Subliminal Mind,” International Association for Buddhist Studies Conference, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, June 23-29, 2008

“Two Conceptions of Freedom in Classical Chinese Thought,” invited presentation at Dao, Mind, and Language: A Conference in Honor of Chad Hansen, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, May 30-31, 2008

“Four Conditions in Xuanzang’s *Cheng Weishi Lun*,” invited presentation at International Conference on East Asian Yogācāra Buddhism, Sun Yet-Sen University, Guangzhou, China, December 9-11, 2007

Invited speaker, Nanquan Forum on “Ordinary Mind is the Way: Chan and Chinese Culture” (平常心是道：禅与中国文化，2019，南泉公益论坛) in Mount Jiuhua 九华山 in China, reported on iFeng News (凤凰网国学频道), July 21, 2019

Invited panelist, “Ethical Dilemmas: Religion and the Rebuilding of China’s Moral Foundations,” with *New York Times* journalist Ian Johnson, moderated by *Los Angeles Times* journalist Barbara Demick, China Institute of New York, June 7, 2018

Invited speaker, “Family and its discontent in early Chinese thought,” Comparative Literature Lunch talk, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, October 23, 2017

Invited speaker, “Incommensurability of two conceptions of reality,” Rutgers Philosophy Club, October 13, 2017

Invited participant, “Sacred Ground: Religious Pluralism and Prejudice in the American Experiment,” Socrates Summer Seminar at the Aspen Institute, July 7-10, 2017

Invited respondent, “Discussing Dāna: A One-Day Symposium on Buddhist Charity,” Princeton University, May 3, 2014

Invited talk, “Construction of Buddha Nature in Medieval China,” in Comparative Philosophy Seminar at Columbia University, Oct. 25, 2013



Invited presentation on the history of Chinese Buddhism, open to New Jersey K-12 educators organized by the Teach China Program of the China Institute, July 7, 2010

Invited talk, "Spiritual Freedom in Classical Chinese Thought," Columbia University Neo-Confucian Studies Seminar, November 13, 2009

Keynote address, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Undergraduate Students Philosophy Conference, "Contexts and Comparison: Xuanzang and Freud on the Subliminal Mind," October 26-27, 2007

## Services

### *Rutgers University*

Executive Committee, School of Arts and Sciences (SAS)	2013 - 2014
Search Committee for Executive Dean, SAS	2013 - 2014
Advisory Committee for Appointments and Promotions, SAS	2019 - 2021
New Brunswick Faculty Council	2007 - 2012

### *Journals and Book Series*

Editorial board, *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy*  
Editorial board, *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*  
Editorial board, *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*  
Advisory board, Oxford Translations of Chinese Thought

### *Professional Organizations*

Co-chair, Neo-Confucian Studies Seminar at Columbia University	2010 - present
Co-chair, Buddhist Philosophy Unit, American Academy of Religion	2018-2021
Member of the Program Committee, American Academy of Religion	2016-2020
Best First Book Award Jury, American Academy of Religion	2013-2016
Member of the Standing Review Board, Humanities and Social Sciences Panel of the Research Grants Council, Hong Kong	2012-2018
Co-chair, Religions in Chinese and Indian Cultures: A Comparative Perspective Group, American Academy of Religion	2011-2016
Member of the Committee on the Status of Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, American Philosophical Association	2004 - 2007

## Grants

Leonard Hastings Schoff Publication Fund, Columbia University	2021
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Research Council Publication Subvention Fund, Rutgers University 2021

“Confucianism: Joy in Following the Way,” Grants for Comparative Research in Ethics and Religion, Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Co-PI with Philip J. Ivanhoe (City University of Hong Kong) 2017

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on “Human Rights in Conflict: Interdisciplinary Perspectives” 2006

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar on “Law, State, and Individual in Ancient Greece, Rome, and China” 2003

**Honors and Awards** Joseph Levenson Prize Honorable Mention for the book, *Origins of Moral-Political Philosophy in Early China* (Oxford University Press), Association for Asian Studies 2023

Presidential Outstanding Faculty Scholar Award, Rutgers University 2022

Recognized for exceptional scholarship and services, College of Liberal Arts, Southern Illinois University Carbondale 2003