

Schedule for the Northeast Conference on Chinese Thought 2025

Hosted by: Duke University Philosophy Department, The Harmony Lab of Franklin Humanities Institute, and Duke University's Center for Comparative Philosophy

Date: Friday, November 14 to Saturday, November 15th, 2025

Location: Smith Warehouse, Duke University

[114 S Buchanan Blvd, Durham, NC 27701](#)

Friday (morning): Bay 5, room B189

Friday (afternoon): Bay 4, room C105

Saturday (all day): Bay 4, rm C105

Schedule for Friday, November 14th, 2025

8:30 - 9:00 am Coffee & pastries

9:00 am - 10:30 am Panel 1: "Privacy and Public Welfare"

- "Han Feizi, Digital Surveillance, and Privacy" (CHEN Nalei)
- "Privacy and Privacy Culture in Modern Chinese Law" (SONG Zeyi)
- "The Anxious Sages – A Discussion on Confucius and Mencius' views on yōu 憂" (HU Jing)

10:45 am - 12:15 pm Panel 2: "Embodied Knowing & Transformation"

- "The Role of Concepts in Zhuangzi's Skill Stories" (Danesh Singh)
- "Affective Knowing in Wang Yangming" (Stephen C. Angle)
- "Reverence, Self-Cultivation and Study: Why Quiet-Sitting is Important for Zhu Xi" (WU Yidi)

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch (lunch provided in Smith Warehouse)

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Panel 3: Chinese Social Metaphysics

- "The Source of Normativity in Confucian Role Ethics" (Jennifer Wang)
- "From Conventional Identities to Conceptual Engineering: A Buddhist Approach" (KANG Li)
- "Social Reality Constructed Through Human Ethical Engagement: Wang Yangming and the Ethical Grounding of Social Metaphysics" (LIU JeeLoo)

3:15 pm - 4:45 pm Panel 4: "East-West Comparative Metaphysics and Ethics"

- "Native Abilities and Situational Goodness in Mengzian Thought" (Gus Law)
- *TBD*
- "Dao as Prime Matter" (Hao Hong)

6 pm Dinner (dinner provided in Smith Warehouse)

Schedule for Saturday, November 15th 2025

8:30 am Coffee and pastries

9 am - 10:30 Panel 6: “Human Flourishing”

- “Confucian Human Dignity” (Emily Kluge)
- “Constructing Noble Selves: How Mengzi Uses Nature Claims to Foster Identity and Motivate Action” (Hagop Sarkissian)
- “Constructing Confucius’ Theory of Pedagogical Virtues from the Dialogues of Confucius Kongzijiayu 孔子家语” (SHEN Wenxuan)

10:45 - 12:15 pm Panel 7: “Cosmology, Ecology, and Human–Cosmos Relations”

- “Ganying and Early Chinese Perceptual Cosmology: Nature and Causation in the Philosophy of the Yijing” (WANG Huaiyu)
- “Unity of Heaven and Humanity—A Daoist Vision from Laozi, Zhuangzi to the Lao-Yang Genesis Cosmology” (Charles X. Yang)
- “Narratives of Humility and Gratitude: Daoist and Indigenous Perspectives on Anthropocentrism” (Eunice Jianping Hu)

12:30 - 1:30 pm Panel 8: “Law and Legitimation”

- The *Huainanzi* on popular elections (Stephen Walker)
- Toward a Mengzian Theory of Justice: A Critical Reflection on Joseph Chan (Ryan Powers)

1:30 pm to 1:45 pm Closing remarks