A Journey into Chinese Thought and Modern Civilization: Beijing Normal University Philosophy Summer School

July 9-23, 2017

PROGRAM BROCHURE
Overview

With more than 3000 years of advanced civilization, China has a rich tradition of philosophical thinking and moral reasoning. To enable young students and scholars all around the world to get in touch with Chinese culture, to understand China’s contemporary situation, and to develop an interest in Chinese philosophy, the School of Philosophy of Beijing Normal University (BNU) will hold its Philosophy Summer School from July 9th to July 23rd, 2017, on the theme of Daoist Philosophy.

Designed for global university students and young faculty members who are curious about traditional Chinese culture, BNU’s Philosophy Summer School has run for two successful sessions in 2015 and 2016. Our invited speakers are world-renowned scholars who offer unique insights into traditional Chinese philosophy and thought-provoking discussions on contemporary China. The Philosophy Summer School also presents a unique opportunity to meet young people from around the world who share a passion to explore the treasures of Chinese civilization. Our Philosophy Summer School enriches philosophical understanding while offering precious memories for both the students and the teachers.

Program Highlights

环球学者

Distinguished scholars focusing on the study of traditional Chinese thought will share their unique insights with you!

丰富多样的讲座

Thought-provoking lectures will enable you to better understand Chinese culture and its current situation!
Cultural Experience
Experience the charm of Beijing where ancient wisdom meets modernity by visiting places of historical interest and the city’s modern landmarks!

Intercultural Communication
A great opportunity to network and exchange ideas with young people from around the world!

Dynamic Location
The Philosophy Summer School will take place at Beijing Normal University (BNU), a location very close to the city center of Beijing. The Forbidden City is 30 minutes’ drive away, while the Bird’s Nest (the National Olympic Stadium) can be reached in less than 15 minutes.
Comments from the Previous Students

“Very inspirational summer school. Have learned a lot which I can apply for the rest of my life.”
“The summer school really changed my views on China and her culture.”
“Really enjoyed these days. Going to recommend the summer school to friends.”
“Campus and city are beautiful!”

About the Organizers

The Confucius Institute Headquarters is a public institution affiliated with the Ministry of Education of China. It is committed to providing teaching resources and services for Chinese language and cultural studies worldwide. It seeks to foster a deeper understanding of China and Chinese culture among younger generations around the world, to promote the development of Confucius Institutes, and to enhance friendly relationships between China and the rest of the world. The Confucius Institute Headquarters is generously providing funding for our BNU Philosophy Summer School through its Young Leaders Fellowship Program.

Beijing Normal University is one of the top universities in China. It was the first university in China to produce Nobel Prize winners. BNU has 16 national key disciplines, and our programs in Education, Psychology, History, Ecology and Geography were all ranked No. 1 in China in the 2013 official ranking by the Ministry of Education.

The School of Philosophy is renowned for its research in Confucianism, Daoism, Yijing studies, Buddhism, as well as Western philosophy. The School also enjoys fruitful collaborations with top overseas universities. It publishes the first English-language philosophy journal from China, *Frontiers of Philosophy in China*, which was graded as “Q2” by SCImago in 2015. Every year the School invites dozens of international scholars to deliver lectures and to attend conferences. We also send large numbers of faculty members and students abroad for international conferences, further training, and academic exchange.
# Program Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 9th</td>
<td>10:00-22:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>July 10th</td>
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<td>8:30-9:30</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony &amp; Group Photo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:45-11:45</td>
<td>A General Introduction to Daoism</td>
<td>CHEN Guying</td>
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<td>14:00-16:30</td>
<td>Approaching the Dao: Philosophy, Religion, and Practice</td>
<td>Thomas Michael</td>
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<td>July 11th</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td>Daoist Twofold Mystery Philosophy</td>
<td>Friederike Assandri</td>
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<td>14:00-16:30</td>
<td>The Daoist Conceptions of Nature</td>
<td>LIU Xiaogan</td>
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<td>July 12th</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td>Zhuangzi on Self and Freedom</td>
<td>LI Jinglin</td>
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<td>14:00-16:30</td>
<td>The Strategy and Meanings of Silence in Early Daoist Texts</td>
<td>Romain Graziani</td>
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<td>17:00-19:00</td>
<td>Cultural Experience (1): Making Chinese Dumplings</td>
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<td>July 13th</td>
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<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td>The European Reception of Daoism and the Category of “Religion”</td>
<td>Mark Csikszentmihalyi</td>
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<td>14:00-16:30</td>
<td>Sages in Laozi and Zhuangzi</td>
<td>Thomas Michael</td>
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<td>July 14th</td>
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<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td>Daoism as a Political Philosophy</td>
<td>LIU Xiaogan</td>
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<td>14:00-16:30</td>
<td>Should Masters Teach? (On the Nature of Knowledge in Early Daoist Literature)</td>
<td>Romain Graziani</td>
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<td>19:00-21:00</td>
<td>Cultural Experience (2): Daoism and Chinese Medicine</td>
<td>LI Yafei</td>
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<td>July 15th</td>
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<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td>A Visit to Baiyun Guan</td>
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<td>13:00-18:00</td>
<td>A Visit to The Imperial College</td>
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<td>July 16th</td>
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<td>8:00-16:00</td>
<td>A Visit to the Forbidden City</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>July 17th</td>
<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td>Facing Death: The Existential Philosophy of the <em>Zhuangzi</em></td>
<td>Dennis Schilling</td>
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<td>14:00-16:30</td>
<td>Body and Mind in the <em>Zhuangzi</em></td>
<td>Livia Kohn</td>
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<td>July 18th</td>
<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td>Buddhist Concepts in Daoist Scriptures</td>
<td>Friederike Assandri</td>
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<td>14:00-16:30</td>
<td>How to Fight Demons: Sacrifice, Exorcism, and Protective Talismans</td>
<td>Mark Csikszentmihalyi</td>
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<td>18:30-20:00</td>
<td>Cultural Experience (3): Learning Chinese Calligraphy</td>
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<td>July 19th</td>
<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td>Contemporary Research on Daoism</td>
<td>JIANG Limei</td>
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<td>14:00-16:30</td>
<td>The Organization of Life in Ancient China</td>
<td>Dennis Schilling</td>
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<td>July 20th</td>
<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td>Daoist Practice: Old and New</td>
<td>QIANG Yu</td>
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<td>14:00-16:30</td>
<td>Forms of Daoist Meditation</td>
<td>Livia Kohn</td>
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<td>July 21st</td>
<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td>Laozi and Modernity</td>
<td>ZHANG Weiwen</td>
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<td>14:00-16:30</td>
<td>Presentations by Representative Participants &amp; Closing Ceremony</td>
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<td>July 22nd</td>
<td>08:30-17:00</td>
<td>A Visit to the Great Wall</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23rd</td>
<td>9:00-12:00</td>
<td>A Visit to 798 Art District and the Bird’s Nest</td>
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<td>13:00-18:00</td>
<td>Free Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 24th</td>
<td>8:00-22:00</td>
<td>Departure</td>
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Please note: The program schedule may be subject to change. The final schedule will be distributed to participants by July 2017.
About the Speakers

**CHEN Guying (陈鼓应)**
Peking University
Research Fields: Daoism, History of Chinese Ideologies

Selected Publications:
1. The Philosophy of Zhuangzi
2. The True Character and the Beauty of Human Nature in *Zhuangzi*
3. On the Daoist Academic Context of Zhou Dunyi’s Illustration of Tai Chi

**Livia Kohn**
Professor Emerita, Boston University
Research Fields: East Asian Studies

Selected Publications:
1. *Zhuangzi: Text and Context*
2. *Daoist Dietetics*
3. *Daoist Body Cultivation*

**LI Jinglin (李景林)**
Beijing Normal University
Research Fields: Chinese Philosophy (Confucianism and Daoism)

Selected Publications:
1. Confucian Philosophies in Ancient Burial and Sacrificial Ceremonies and Their Ultimate Concern
2. Zhu Xi’s Theory of Mind (*xin*) and Its Significance for the Creative Reconstruction of the Theory of Human Nature (*qing*) in Pre-Qin Confucianism (co-authored)
3. “Guo Xue”: the Home of Chinese Academic Culture (co-authored)
About the Speakers

**Dennis Schilling**
Renmin University of China  
Research Fields: Chinese Philosophy, Buddhism, Comparative Philosophy

Selected Publications:
1. Spruch und Zahl: Die Chinesischen Orakelbücher “Kanon des Höchsten Geheimen” (Taixuanjing) und “Wald der Wandlungen” (Yilin) aus der Han-Zeit  
2. Zhuang zi: Ethics at Ease  
3. Imitatio Confucii: Eine Studie zur Poetologie der Nachahmung in Yáng Xiōng’s Fǎ Yán

**LIU Xiaogan**（刘笑敢）
Professor Emeritus, The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Beijing Normal University  
Research Fields: Daoist Philosophy, Chinese Religion and Culture

Selected Publications:
1. The Confucian Ren (仁) and Laozi’s Naturalism: A New Insight into the Relationship between Confucianism and Taoism  
2. Two Kinds of Xiaoyao (逍遥) and Two Kinds of Freedom  

**Thomas Michael**
Beijing Normal University  
Research Fields: Chinese Philosophy, Daoism, Shamanism

Selected Publications:
1. In the Shadows of the Dao: Laozi, the Sage, and the Daode Jing  
2. The Pristine Dao: Metaphysics in Early Daoist Discourse  
3. “Mountains and Early Daoism in the Writings of Ge Hong”
About the Speakers

ZHANG Weiwen (章伟文)
Beijing Normal University
Research Fields: Chinese Philosophy, Daoism, Philosophy of History

Selected Publications:
1. On the Contemporary Meaning of the Chinese Traditional Values
2. A Scrutiny of the Relationship between the Chart of the Former Heaven (Xian Tian)
3. Sequence, Former Heaven Learning, and the Daoist Alchemy Refinery Theory

Friederike Assandri
University of Heidelberg
Research Fields: Daoist-Buddhist Debates, Chongxuanxue

Selected Publications:
1. Beyond The Daode Jing: Twofold Mystery In Tang Daoism
2. From Early Tang Court Debates to China’s Peaceful Rise
3. Brahman and DAO: Comparative Studies of Indian and Chinese Philosophy and Religion

JIANG Limei (蒋丽梅)
Beijing Normal University
Research Fields: Chinese Philosophy, Daoism

Selected Publications:
1. Being and Nothingness of Dao: A Reconsideration of the First Chapter of Daode Jing
2. Utmost Tenderness, Utmost Simplicity, and Utmost Emptiness: On Laozi’s Concern for Individual Lives
3. The Spirit of Zhuangzi From Wangbi’s Xuanxue
About the Speakers

Romain Graziani (葛浩南)
École Normale Supérieure de Lyon
Research Fields: Daoism, Chinese Studies

Selected Publications:
1. Les Corps dans le Taoïsme ancien
2. Écrits de Maître Guan. Les Quatre chapitres de l’Art de l’esprit (Xinshu chapters from the Guanzi)
3. Of Self and Spirits. Exploring Shen 神 in China

Mark Csikszentmihalyi
University of California, Berkeley
Research Fields: Religions, Philosophies, and Cultures of Early China

Selected Publications:
1. Material Virtue: Ethics and the Body in Early China
2. Readings in Han Chinese Thought
3. Religious and Philosophical Aspects of the Laozi (co-edited)

Qiang Yu (强昱)
Beijing Normal University
Research Fields: Daoism, Buddhism

Selected Publications:
1. The Understanding of Self-so of Cheng Xuanying: The Development from the Daode Jing Commentary to the Zhuangzi Commentary
2. The Daoist View on Living
3. Cheng Xuanying’s Research On “Exploring Thoroughly the Logos and the Intrinsic Character to Get the Natural Regulations”
BNU Philosophy Summer School
Host: School of Philosophy, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China
Sponsors: Confucius China Studies Program, Confucius Institute Headquarters, Beijing Normal University
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E-mail: taoyuan@bnu.edu.cn