



**University of  
Zurich** <sup>UZH</sup>

**University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe**



## **What is Philosophy?**

**International Conference  
13–16 January 2011**

**Venue**

**Institute of East Asian Studies**

Room ZUB 416, 4th floor  
Zürichbergstrasse 4  
CH-8032 Zürich

**Convenors**

Robert Gassmann, Institute of East Asian Studies/URPP Asia and Europe,  
University of Zurich

Angelika Malinar, Department of Indology/URPP Asia and Europe,  
University of Zurich

Ulrich Rudolph, Oriental Institute/URPP Asia and Europe, University of Zurich

Christian Steineck, Institute of East Asian Studies/URPP Asia and Europe,  
University of Zurich

Ralph Weber, URPP Asia and Europe, University of Zurich

# What is Philosophy?

## International Conference

13–16 January 2011

The international conference “What is philosophy?” explores this central concept against the background of texts from the Islamic, Indian, Chinese and Japanese traditions. Given the constitutive role of Greek thought in the origins of philosophy in the Islamic world, the early presence of philosophy as a field of knowledge in the Indian tradition, or the discussions about the appropriateness of the term philosophy in the East Asian contexts, this question seems to necessitate different answers, to serve different purposes, and to bring into focus altogether different topics.

The conference is thus organized along four sections, each assembling a group of specialists on each regional tradition. In another sense and despite all differences, however, it is obviously one and the same question that is being posed with regard to all these traditions. The conference therefore also aims at interactively engaging the various Asian traditions and identifying possibly common challenges and concerns in the light of the question “What is philosophy?” This, then, appears to be a question that is intrinsically located “in between” Asia and Europe.



The conference is organized by the URPP Asia and Europe Research Field “Concepts and Taxonomies”. It has been made possible by the generous support of the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Hermann and Marianne Straniak Foundation, the *Hochschulstiftung der Universität Zürich*, the Division Research and Academic Career Development of the University of Zurich and the University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe.

# Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011

## Section I: Philosophy in the Islamic World

Chair: Roman Seidel, University of Zurich

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8:45 **Welcome Address**  
by Andrea Riemenschneider, Academic Director URPP Asia and Europe

### Part I: Perspectives historiques et historiographiques

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9:00–10:00 Ulrich Rudolph, University of Zurich  
9<sup>ème</sup>–12<sup>ème</sup> siècle

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10:00–10:30 Coffee Break

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10:30–11:30 Heidrun Eichner, University of Tübingen  
13<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> Century

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11:30–12:30 Anke von Kügelgen/Kata Moser, University of Bern  
19<sup>ème</sup>–20<sup>ème</sup> siècle

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12:30–14:00 Lunch Break

### Part II: Perspectives systématiques

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14:00–15:30 Nassif Nassar, University of Beirut  
Que signifie la philosophie au monde islamique aujourd'hui –  
une perspective arabe (avec la participation de Thomas Würtz)

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15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

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16:00–17:30 Javad Tabatabai, University of Teheran  
Que signifie la philosophie au monde islamique aujourd'hui –  
une perspective iranienne (avec la participation de Katajun Amirpur)

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17:30–18:00 Short Break

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18:00–18:30 Final Discussion

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19:30 Dinner

# Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011

## Section II: Philosophy in India

### Part I: Philosophy as a Distinct Field of Discourse

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9:00–9:45                      **Angelika Malinar, University of Zurich**  
From Teaching to Argument: The Role of “Transmitted Knowledge” in Delineating Philosophical Thought

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9:45–10:00                      **Coffee Break**

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10:00–11:00                      **Karin Preisendanz, University of Vienna**  
The Notion of the “Means of Knowledge” and Their Relevance for the Development of Classical Indian Philosophy

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11:00–11:30                      **Comments and Discussion: Peter Schreiner, University of Zurich**

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### Part II: Language and Being(s)

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11:30–12:30                      **Ashok Aklujkar, University of British Columbia**  
Dissolution as Solution: the Frame within which Language Philosophy Developed in India

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12:30–14:00                      **Lunch Break**

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14:00–15:00	<b>Eli Franco, University of Leipzig</b> The Contribution of Buddhism to South Asian Philosophical Discourse
15:00–15:30	<b>Comments and Discussion: Birgit Kellner, University of Heidelberg</b>
15:30–15:45	<b>Coffee Break</b>

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7

### **Part III: Indian Philosophy and Modernity**

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15:45–16:45	<b>Jonardon Ganeri, University of Sussex</b> Philosophy in Indian and the Origins of Modernity
16:45–17:45	<b>Dhruv Raina, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi</b> Reason and Civilisation: the Entangled History of Science and Philosophy in Contemporary India
17:45–18:30	<b>Comments and General Discussion: Hans-Johann Glock, University of Zurich</b>
19:30	<b>Dinner</b>

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# Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011

## Section III: Philosophy in China

9:00–10:30

**First Session, Chair: Nicolas Zufferey, University of Geneva**

**Discussion of:**

Masters and Disciples in Zhuangzi: Taoist Education in “Care for Oneself”,

by **Carine Defoort, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven**

Philosophy? Positioning the Mencius,

by **Robert H. Gassmann, University of Zurich**

Wang Yangming’s (1472-1529) “Teaching in Four Propositions” 四句教 and Its Interpretations and Transformations by some of His Followers until Huang Zongxi (1610-1695),

by **Iso Kern, University of Bern**

10:30–11:00

**Coffee Break**

11:00–12:30

**Second Session, Chair: Joachim Kurtz, University of Heidelberg**

**Discussion of:**

“Self-Refutation” (bèi) in Early Chinese Argumentative Prose: Sidelights on the Linguistic Prehistory of Incipient Epistemology,

by **Wolfgang Behr, University of Zurich**

Structure and Creativeness: A Reinterpretation of the Neo-Confucian Binary Category li 理 and qi 氣,

by **Jana S. Rošker, University of Ljubljana**

Philosophy in the Clothes of History: the Case of the History of the Later Han (Hou Hanshu),

by **Nicolas Zufferey, University of Geneva**

12:30–14:00

**Lunch Break**

14:00–15:30	<p><b>Third Session, Chair: Thomas Fröhlich, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg</b></p> <p><b>Discussion of:</b></p> <p>Demodernizing Chinese Logic,  <b>by Joachim Kurtz, University of Heidelberg</b></p> <p>Moving the Target to Catch an Arrow: Qian Zhongshu’s  View of Analogies in Philosophical Reasoning,  <b>by Viatcheslav Vetrov, University of Zurich</b></p>
15:30–16:00	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
16:00–17:30	<p><b>Fourth Session, Chair: Jana S. Rošker, University of Ljubljana</b></p> <p><b>Discussion of:</b></p> <p>“Philosophy” and Civil Theology in Tang Junyi’s  Modern Confucianism,  <b>by Thomas Fröhlich, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg</b></p> <p>The Foundations of a Neo-Confucian Notion  of Philosophy and: Why Kant?,  <b>by Rafael Suter, University of Zurich</b></p> <p>Philosophy, Tu Weiming, and Tu Weiming’s  “<i>The Continuity of Being</i>” (1984),  <b>by Ralph Weber, University of Zurich</b></p>
17:40 – 18:40	<p><b>Public Discussion, Chair: Carine Defoort, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven</b>  <b>Guest Discussant: Walter Schweidler, Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt</b></p>
19:30	<p><b>Dinner</b></p>

# Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2011

## Section IV: Philosophy in Japan

### Part I: Denken im alten Japan: Philosophische Alternativen zur Philosophie?

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9:00–9:30                      **Gregor Paul, University of Karlsruhe**  
Das Konzept der Befreiung im System des buddhistischen Gelehrten Kūkai (774-835): Die Erkenntnis der Welt als ästhetische Erfahrung eines Zeichensystems, das sich selbst darstellt

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9:30–9:50                      **Paulus Kaufmann, University of Zurich**  
Zur sprachlichen Form der theoretischen Erörterungen Kūkais

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9:50–10:15                      **Discussion**

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10:15–10:45                      **Coffee Break**

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10:45–11:15                      **Ralf Müller, University of Zurich**  
Sprachkonzept und Sprachverwendung bei Dōgen:  
Zu Gebrauch und Verständnis des Japanischen im Shōbōgenzō

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11:15–11:35                      **Christian Steineck, University of Zurich**  
Dōgens Shōbōgenzō als philosophischer Text?

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11:35–11:45                      **Discussion**

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11:45–12:00                      **Walter Schweidler, Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Commentary**

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12:00–12:30                      **Discussion**

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12:30–14:00                      **Lunch Break**

## **Part II: Gebräuche und Missbräuche der modernen japanischen Philosophie**

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<b>14:00–14:30</b>	<b>Yoko Arisaka, University of Hanover</b> The Use and Abuse of “Universalism“ in Modern Japanese Philosophy
<b>14:30–14:50</b>	<b>Elena Lange, University of Zurich</b> Überlegungen zu einem “guten“ Universalismus – eine Antwort auf Yoko Arisaka
<b>14:50–15:15</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>15:15–15:45</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>15:45–16:15</b>	<b>Fabian Schäfer, University of Leipzig</b> Philosophie muss alltäglich sein: Tosaka Jun und die Aktualität der Philosophie
<b>16:15–16:45</b>	<b>Christian Uhl, University of Gent</b> Die Globalisierung des Kapitalismus und die weltweite Ausbreitung der “Philosophie“ – der Fall Japan
<b>16:45–17:15</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>17:15–17:30</b>	<b>Short Break</b>
<b>17:30–17:45</b>	<b>Katajun Amirpur, University of Zurich, Commentary</b>
<b>17:45–18:30</b>	<b>Closing Discussion</b>
<b>19:30</b>	<b>Dinner</b>

The University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe of Zurich University explores exchanges and encounters that have taken and continue to take place between Asia and Europe in the areas of culture, law, religion and society. It brings together various disciplines and faculties of the University of Zurich to create an expert and comprehensive interdisciplinary research structure, which consists of three thematically and methodologically differentiated research fields: (1) Concepts and Taxonomies, (2) Entangled Histories, and (3) Norms and Social Order(s). It promotes research by young graduate and post-graduate scholars within an interdisciplinary research environment and a structured PhD-Program.

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