

University Research Priority Program (URPP)

**Asia and Europe**



University of Zurich



# Researching Philosophy in Asian Contexts

Public Lecture Series  
Spring 2010

## Public Lecture Series Spring 2010

Academic philosophy today no longer considers its subject-matter exclusively in terms of a Greek invention and European tradition. Asian texts and contexts are increasingly included in philosophical work across all disciplines – from epistemology to environmental ethics. Figures such as Avicenna, Gotama, Confucius and Nishida Kitarō are each being researched in their own right as well as in cross-reference to Aristotelian, Kantian or Heideggerian philosophy. We have invited four leading scholars to present their work and to exemplify how philosophy can be researched today in the respective contexts of the Arabic-Islamic world, India, China and Japan.

The Spring 2010 Lecture Series is an activity of the URPP's Research Field "Concepts and Taxonomies".

### Organizers

**Prof. Dr. Christian Steineck,**

Institute for East Asian Studies/URPP Asia and Europe

**Prof. Dr. Ulrich Rudolph**

Oriental Institute/URPP Asia and Europe

**Dr. Ralph Weber**

URPP Asia and Europe

The *URPP Asia and Europe Public Lecture Series* is designed to present cutting-edge scholarship of general interest that lies at the core of our research. Previous lecture series have focused on "Border Crossings" (Spring 2007), "Mirrored Histories" (Spring 2009), and "Governance and Development" (Autumn 2009), and have featured scholars such as Johann Arnason, Sadiq Jalal al-Azm, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Jürgen Osterhammel, Helen Siu, Gayatri Spivak and many others.

# Researching Philosophy in Asian Contexts

**Tuesday, 13 April 2010, 18:15 – 20:00**

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KO2 F-152, Universität Zürich Zentrum, Karl Schmid-Strasse 4, 8006 Zürich

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**Prof. Dr. Dimitri Gutas**

Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Yale University

## **The Centrality of Philosophy in the Pre-Modern Islamic Intellectual Tradition**

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**Tuesday, 11 May 2010, 18:15 – 20:00**

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KO2 F-152, Universität Zürich Zentrum, Karl Schmid-Strasse 4, 8006 Zürich

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**Prof. Dr. Arindam Chakrabarti**

Department of Philosophy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## **Classical Indian Theories of Knowledge and Error**

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**Tuesday, 18 May 2010, 18:15 – 20:00**

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KO2 F-152, Universität Zürich Zentrum, Karl Schmid-Strasse 4, 8006 Zürich

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**Prof. Dr. Roger T. Ames**

Department of Philosophy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## **Confucian Role Ethics in a Changing World Culture**

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**Tuesday, 1 June 2010, 18:15 – 20:00**

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KO2 F-152, Universität Zürich Zentrum, Karl Schmid-Strasse 4, 8006 Zürich

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**Prof. Dr. John C. Maraldo**

Department of Philosophy, University of North Florida

## **The Sense and Significance of Japanese Philosophy**

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**Dimitri Gutas** is Professor of Arabic and Graeco-Arabic at Yale University in New Haven. He studies and teaches medieval Arabic and the medieval intellectual tradition in Islamic civilization, focusing on the transmission of Greek scientific and philosophical works into the Islamic world. Professor Gutas has concentrated in particular on Ibn Sina (known as Avicenna in the medieval Latin world), on whom he wrote *Avicenna and the Aristotelian Tradition* (1988). His award-winning *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture* (1998) has been translated into seven languages.

**Arindam Chakrabarti** currently is Research Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore and a tenured Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hawai'i. After being trained as an analytic philosopher of language at Oxford, he has spent several years receiving traditional training in Indian logic (Navya Nyāya) and metaphysics which made him fluent in Sanskrit. Professor Chakrabarti has edited or authored several books and articles, including *Knowing from Words* (with B. K. Matilal, 1995), *Denying Existence* (1997) and *Universals, Concepts, and Qualities* (with P. Strawson, 2006).

**Roger T. Ames** is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hawai'i and editor of *Philosophy East & West* (since 1987). Recently, he has been visiting professor at Beijing University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Wuhan University. He has published translations of a great number of Chinese classics and many interpretative studies of Chinese philosophy and culture, such as the influential trilogy with D. L. Hall: *Thinking Through Confucius* (1987), *Anticipating China* (1995) and *Thinking from the Han* (1998). His latest work is *The Chinese Classic of Family Reverence* (with H. Rosemont, 2009).

**John C. Maraldo** is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of North Florida. He earned a Dr.phil. from the University of Munich with a dissertation on Schleiermacher, Dilthey und Heidegger and then spent several years in Japan studying Japanese philosophy and Zen Buddhism. He has been a guest professor at the University of Kyoto and the Catholic University in Leuven, and last year held the Roche Chair in Interreligious Research at Nanzan University. Professor Maraldo is currently co-editing *Japanese Philosophy: A Sourcebook* (with J. W. Heisig and T. P. Kasulis).

*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 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.*