

The University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychology

Departmental Seminar

Moral Models: Ancient Confucianism Vs. Modern Psychology

Date: June 16, 2015 (Tuesday)

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Room 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Speaker: Mr. Robin Curtis
University of British Columbia

What do ancient Confucian philosophers and modern psychologists have in common? They have both formulated sophisticated models of morality. While their methods and goals differ, both groups attempt to explain the causes behind moral behavior, and what techniques people can use to cultivate morality in members of society. This talk identifies key "hypotheses" from the works of Confucius, Mencius, and Xunzi, and then puts these hypotheses to the test in light of modern scientific evidence. By analyzing the key differences between ancient thought and modern scholarship, we may come to better understand both the past and the present.