



## CEACOP seminar

# Why the Political Is Also Personal?

: Insights from the Cheng Brothers

**Date: 4 November 2022**

**Time: 10:00 am (HKT)**

**Venue: Online (This talk will be held via ZOOM)**

**Speaker: Yong Huang, The Chinese University of  
Hong Kong**



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### Abstract

Contemporary liberalism makes a distinction between the political and the personal. The political is not personal in the sense that it doesn't care what kind a person one is, virtuous or vicious, as long as they act within the rule of laws; the personal is not political in the sense that it is off the limit of the governmental interference. While contemporary feminist thinkers have made a strong case that the personal, to a great extent, is also political, as ensuring justice within a family, for example, is a legitimate function of government, I shall argue that the political is also personal, as laws and social policies of a society play an important role in shaping the characters of the persons to whom they are applied. In doing this, I shall heavily draw on the work of the neo-Confucian Cheng Brothers.

### Short Biography

Yong Huang, Ph.D. (Fudan) and Th.D. (Harvard), is currently a professor and the chairperson of Philosophy Department at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is the founding editor of *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* and *Dao Companions to Chinese Philosophy* (a book series), both by Springer. His research interests include ethics, political philosophy, and Chinese and comparative philosophy. Author of three monographs in English and five in Chinese, he has also published over 100 journal articles and book chapters each in English and Chinese.

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