

‘Cultivating Oneself’ and ‘Governing Others’ in Modern Times: Xu Fuguan’s Confucian Democracy

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Abstract

My work discusses the prominent New Confucian Xu Fuguan’s account of Confucian democracy. His political thinking is not only important in its own right but can help to shed light on contemporary discussions on Confucian political theory. My main arguments revolve around Xu’s key distinction between Confucian ethics and politics. More specifically, first, Xu’s reading reconciles Confucian virtue politics with democratic rule by reconceiving Confucian reasoning for democracy and the normative features of Confucian democracy from the vantage point of the intellectuals. Second, Xu’s Confucian democracy is tailor-made for Chinese culture though it is open to global engagement.

About the Speaker

Yutang Jin is an Assistant Professor of Political Theory in the Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Hong Kong. His research interests include Chinese political thought and comparative political theory. His articles have appeared in *Philosophy & Social Criticism*, *Political Theory*, the *Journal of Value Inquiry*, and *Philosophy East and West*, among others. Before joining HKU, he was a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Politics Department of Princeton University (2021-22). He was educated at Peking University (LL.B., international relations), London School of Economics (M.Sc., European studies), and Oxford University (M.Sc., DPhil., political theory).