



## **Newsletter No. 4, July 2019**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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With this report we are continuing our tradition to provide a yearly newsletter to all our members. Probably many of you are now on your (certainly very well-earned) summer vacation. Still, I would like to direct your attention to some items in this newsletter.

The report from our president depicts the history and the future plans of our association. Please note in particular his invitation to the next EACP Conference at Ghent University (Belgium) from September 5–7 2019. You will find more technical details in the following parts of the newsletter.

Another important issue is the “General Assembly and Election Announcement”. New candidates for the board should submit their applications on time.

Last not least, we are grateful that we already have a candidate to host the EACP conference in 2021. If you also consider organizing the conference in 2021 (or even 2023), please make yourself known to the board.

Looking forward meeting many of you again in Ghent in early September.

*Christian Soffel*  
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**NEXT NEWSLETTER ISSUE:  
May 2020**

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:  
April 15 2020**

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## **REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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Dear EACP members!

This year marks a modest but important achievement for our European Association of Chinese Philosophy. In February, we have been celebrating our 5th anniversary. Since the establishment of our association, our activities have grown considerably and our membership numbers have increased. Today we also look back with joy and satisfaction at three conferences: one inaugural session in October 2014 in Ljubljana, organized by Jana S. Rošker, and two EACP conferences, in 2016 in Vilnius and in 2017 in Basel respectively. The conferences from now onward will take place biennially, that is every other year of the European Association of Chinese Studies (EACS) conferences. Our next gathering will be the 3rd Biennial Conference, which we will hold in Ghent from September 5–7, 2019 and which is co-organized by Bart Dessein and Ady Van den Stock.

Our conferences are doubtlessly of great value. They provide a public plat-

form to put our research on the agenda and to display the topics we deem relevant for our contemporary times. They are a wonderful opportunity to learn about each other's work in direct exchange and expand our horizons in many ways. But when all talks are heard and all public comments are given, the magic of conferences – as is well known – often just begins (usually over a cup of coffee or a glass of wine). Our conferences also serve this function, and they have served it well over the last 5 years in line with the aims of our association as stated on our homepage (<https://ea-cp.eu/>).

The academic study of Chinese philosophy is an exciting field with large stretches of uncharted territory still to discover for the curious intellect. How many histories (and histories of histories) are yet to be written, and how many conceptual histories, genealogies, connected and entangled histories, global histories? How much constructive dialogue (and debate) is still to be held, bringing new perspectives and people to the table and making sure that our academic study is not operating out of sync with the specific challenges and hopes of our times? How many Chinese philosophers (and students thereof), past and present, can yet be included in the conversation? How much philosophical argument awaits to see the light of day? Finally, how can we make sure that all of this happens in a manner that advances the professional standards of the study of Chinese philosophy and avoids un-

wanted politicization of its subject matter?

These are all crucial questions for our association. In our dealings, we have consciously chosen a pluralistic and open-minded approach and have not shied away from controversy that naturally arises from such an approach. The board of our association and the members at large bring together a great variety of scholars with different understandings of Chinese philosophy and of the fashion in which it should be studied. In spite of that, the discussions that we have are based on a shared commitment to the association and exhibit a high level of mutual respect, good will and collegiality. The coffee breaks, lunches and dinners at our conferences have their part in this, too. I fancy this to be the best possible promise for a successful future of our association.

Sure, there is much we can do—and much we should do—to create our own successful future. Here are a few thoughts. We should build and strengthen our professional networks and expand our membership numbers. We need to introduce our association to many colleagues working in the broad field of Chinese philosophy, drink a cup of coffee or tea with them, and invite them to join. Every member is called upon to help us reach this goal. Associations, even in the digital age, have a future because they provide a meeting ground for real people interacting in real time without the pro-

tective layers of anonymity and distancing that the virtual world affords. Of course, we should also embrace the opportunities that the new technologies offer, use them to maximize the flow of information and to run the association in a manner that appeals to digital natives. There is much potential in this realm, and we should tap into it wisely.

An association such as ours in addition should play an active role in attracting young scholars, who are often looking for institutional networks and contacts with peers across all career levels. This is especially important given that Chinese philosophy often finds itself represented in any one university by barely more than one or two specialists. It is good to know that one is not alone, particularly when one intends to start an academic career in a specialist area like Chinese philosophy. I am therefore extremely happy to see that our 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference continues the format of the Young Scholar Award, which represents a modest attempt at including the future generation of our discipline.

Lastly, we should deepen our institutional relations with other associations (FISP, EACS) and actively participate in their meetings. I was happy to give a talk about our association at a special meeting of European academic China-related associations during the 2018 EACS in Glasgow and thrilled to see some of our members, who presented their work at the conference. These are important venues for us to promote

Chinese philosophy as an academic field of research and to connect with scholars working in neighboring fields.

Please join us at our conference in Ghent. We have gathered good momentum as an association in its 5th year of existence. We now want to take the next steps in developing our platform further. We count on our members in this common effort to promote the academic study of Chinese philosophy across all of Europe (and beyond). In closing, I would be remiss if I did not use the opportunity to thank the members of the Executive Committee and the Board, and especially our colleagues at the headquarters in Slovenia (Jana, Helena, Matej, Mitja) for their continuing and voluntary efforts. They all put in many extra hours to help manage the association, compose this newsletter, keep our books and maintain our homepage, and much more. Thank you all, and see you in Belgium!

*Ralph Weber*  
EACP President

## **3rd BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE EACP**

**GHENT ,  
SEPTEMBER 5–7 2019**

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The **3rd Biennial Conference of the European Association for Chinese Philosophy (EACP)** will take place at Ghent University (Belgium) from September 5–7 2019. The conference theme of this edition will be *Paradigms of Change and Changing Paradigms in Chinese Philosophy*.

To encourage participation and inclusion of young researchers, there will be a **Young Scholars Award**. Winners of the award will be receiving a full travel grant as well as prize money.

The official languages of the conference are English and Chinese.

Keynote speakers will be Leigh Jenco (London School of Economics) and Haiming Wen 温海明 (Renmin University).

A continuously updated version of the preliminary program and other information can be found on the conference website:

<https://www.eacp2019.ugent.be/>

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

**GHENT, SEPTEMBER 7 2019**

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The next General Assembly of the European Association for Chinese Philosophy (EACP) will be held during the Biennial Conference in Ghent. Currently it is scheduled on Saturday, September 7 2019, 1:00–2:00 pm.

Members of the EACP will receive notice with the provisional agenda of the General Assembly ahead of time.

The General Assembly shall elect the next Board members with the President for a period of two years (2019–2021). Re-election is possible for two further consecutive terms of office.

**Candidates for membership of the Board (with the President) shall apply formally to the Secretary before August 31 2019.**

*Christian Soffel*  
EACP Secretary  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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On Oct 11 2019 there will be a workshop with and guest lecture by Giray Fidan (Gazi University, Turkey) on **Kang Youwei: A Chinese Witness of**

**the Young Turk Revolution** at the Institute for European Global Studies, University of Basel.

The **International conference “Taiwanese Philosophy and the Preservation of Confucian Tradition”** will take place October 17–19 2019. It is organized by University of Ljubljana, EARL Ljubljana, and the Center for Chinese Studies at the National Central Library in Taipei. The conference will be located in the main building of the University of Ljubljana, Kongresni trg 2.

The **12th East/West Philosopher’s Conference “Walls: Thinking Through Insularity”** in May 22-29, 2020 at University of Hawai’i will be dedicated to the topic of walls. While walls can be physical, they can also be psychological, social, political, economic, and ontological. Understood metaphorically, walls are any real or virtual barrier to the uninhibited flow of people, products, affects, and ideas. You are invited to submit proposals for individual papers and panels by sending a 250-300 word abstract to the Conference organizers via:  
<[ewpc2020@hawaii.edu](mailto:ewpc2020@hawaii.edu)>

More information can be found on the EACP homepage.

## **EACP Membership Payment**

If you would like to become a member of the European Association for Chinese Philosophy, please:

1. Create a user account at the EACP page: <http://ea-cp.eu/user/register>
2. Complete the application form (You must be logged in to view the form. Please be sure to include all the required information).
3. After your membership is approved, you will be notified immediately.
4. The payment of the membership fee should be done to the EACP account according to the instructions at: <http://ea-cp.eu/members/membership-fee>
5. You will become an active member after the payment of the membership fee.

Welcome!

# EACP OFFICERS

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Ralph Weber

***Vice-President***

Bart Dessen

***Secretary***

Christian Soffel

***Treasurer***

Helena Motoh

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