



COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Personal Identity and Survival in the *Zhuangzi*

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Zhuangzi is widely and fairly regarded as one of the most philosophically minded thinkers in ancient China. Most of the contemporary work on Zhuangzi's philosophy has focused on his view of language and knowledge. I have tried to re-direct our attention to the issue of death, claiming that it is a core concern of Zhuangzi, and that on the basis of this concern, Zhuangzi has developed an ingenious argument for the view that self is an illusion (Cheng, 2014). In this ongoing piece of work, I further explicate Zhuangzi's view of personal identity and survival by suitably exploiting Mark Johnston's (2010) judgment-dependence account of personal identity. I try to show both in what way Johnston's theory is helpful with regard to illuminating some of the obscure but crucial passages in the *Zhuangzi*, and in what way Zhuangzi's view of survival dramatically differs from that of Johnston in particular, and from that of the Western traditions in general. I shall draw some basic contrasts between Eastern and Western ways of thinking about survival based on this work.

Friday, September 5th, 2014

Room: 3228 River Building

Time: 3:00 pm

All are welcome!