

Title: "To Name or not to Name: That is the Question in Early Chinese Philosophy"

Abstract: There seems to be a remarkable agreement on a variety of issues among early Chinese masters of all nominations. The condemnation of 'regicide' and 'chaos', for instance, is largely shared, and so is the positive appreciation of 'loyalty' and 'filiality'. Hidden under this veil of apparent agreement, there exists however an layer of lively disagreements among and even within master-texts on what one calls, and consequently evaluates as such. By only looking for obvious and explicit types of disagreement, one risks to miss out on the ongoing controversies in these debates. An analysis of the argumentative strategies in terms of how to call things leads to a number of conclusions concerning the dominant metaphors in early texts, some major evolutions, and the intellectual suspension in naming.