

## Who Qualifies as an Advisor? Discussions on Giving Political Advice in the *Zhuangzi*.

Despite some of its more elevated discussions, there is a growing recognition that human interaction is of central importance to the *Zhuangzi*. One particular setting of human interaction is the field of political advice. While some passages caution not to engage with the centres of power, other passages, such as the opening section of chapter 4, open up a path for offering political advice, provided that the advisor has the right mindset and acts accordingly. In this paper, I will examine such passages as they appear outside of the well-trodden Inner Chapters, with a special emphasis on a select number passages from *Zhuangzi* 25. Through a study of positive and negative exemplars, my aim is to discuss what kind of competences (e.g. epistemic, emotional, interpersonal) a Zhuangzian political advisor is to have and how he acquires those, what advice he offers and how he does that, and what changes he effects on the part of a ruler.