

H. Hashi (GSSR / IFiSPAN)
Seminar: Postmodern Buddhist Philosophy

Seminar Syllabus

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Spring Semester 2022

Seminar:

Postmodern Buddhist Philosophy from the Viewpoint of Comparative Philosophy

Comparative philosophy is a method of thinking in which a certain subject is treated comparatively and critically by members of various schools of thought in the context of different cultures and ways of thinking. In our contemporary world of globalization and digital networking, this manner of thinking is timely indeed. Following various streams of thought and lively interactions between different ways of thinking, authors, cultures, and disciplines has become a prerequisite of our everyday life.

Comparative philosophy emerged in the middle of the 1950s in the U.S. and then spread to East Asia, South Asia, and the broader pan-Pacific regions. Because comparative philosophy is rooted in a method of thinking, it is sometimes quite different on the whole and in its details from intercultural philosophy—in comparative philosophy not only can thinkers from different cultures but also those belonging to the same historical schools of thought, for example, Plato and Aristotle, Kant and Hegel, become the subject of investigation. We will discuss the method of comparative philosophy in detail during our first meeting.

The seminar includes 4 units; each unit has a duration of 90 minutes. (If discussion develops fruitfully, the time limit may be extended to a maximum of 120 minutes.)

Dates: March, April, May, and June 2022 (Tuesday)

The meeting in March will be held online.

If financial resources are successfully secured, lectures and discussion will take place in a classroom setting.

The basic text or the seminar is

The Teaching of Buddha, published by the BDK, Society of Promotion for Buddhism in 2014. (Language: English)

March 2022: Orientation: What is Comparative Philosophy?

Basic text:

GLOY, Karen: The One Truth and the Many Theories of the Truth, in H. Hashi and J. Niznik, *What is Truth?*, Vienna / Warsaw 2011, Polish Academy of Sciences
HASHI, Hisaki: Comparative Philosophy as the fundamental method for interdisciplinary research, in Hashi, *Denkdisziplinen von Ost und West* -

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(Thinking Discipline of East and West), Nordhausen 2015

HATTORI, Eiji: Towards the transcultural dialogue: the role of UNESCO in the development of transdisciplinarity, in *Scientific Essays*, (Symposium “Cultural Diversity and Transversal Values”), Paris 2005: UNESCO

NIŽNIK, Józef: Philosophy and the Dynamics of Symbolic Universe in a Globalized World, in: H. Hashi, *Denkdisziplinen von Ost und West – Interdisziplinäre Philosophie in einer globalen Welt* (Thinking Discipline of East and West – Interdisciplinary Philosophy in a Global Word), Nordhausen 2015

April 2022: Concepts of the “Society of Humans” in Buddhism and Christianity

Basic texts: *The Teaching of Buddha*, chap. Building a Buddha Land, p. 446ff.
The New Testaments, The Gospel according to Matthew, chap. 13

Reflecting in comparative philosophy:

BUBER, Martin: *I and Thou*, translated by R. G Smith, London 1937

NISHIDA, Kitarō: *I and you (ware to nanji)*, in Complete Works vol. 6, p. 341ff.
Tokyo 1965

May 2022: The Truth – The Eternal Buddha

Basic text: *The Teaching of Buddha*, chap. The Eternal Buddha, p. 28ff.

Comparative reflections in:

Dōgen, shōbō genzō (Reflecting the True *dharma* of Buddha), vol. genjō kōan
(The Actualization of the Truth), translated by G. Nishijima.

Translated and commented by H. Hashi (German), in *Lebendiger Zen – Lebendige Philosophie* (The Vivid Zen – The Vivid Philosophy),
Wien /Berlin 2020

LEIBNIZ, *Monadologie* (Monadology), Stuttgart 1990

REININGER, Robert: *Philosophie des Erlebens* (Philosophy of Experience),
Wien 1976

June 2022: The World View of the Buddhism

– **Theory of relations of all beings and non-beings**

Basic text: *The Teaching of Buddha*, chap. „Dharma: One Causation“: p. 74ff.

Reflections in comparative philosophy:

Suffering and Pleasure: udānavarga (Early Buddhism), translated by H. Nakamura
(Japanese, *kankyō no kotoba*), Tokyo 1991

Eudaimonia by ARISTOTLE, *Nikomachsche Ethik* (Nicomachean Ethics),
Hamburg 2001

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PLATO, the insight and view to the *idea: Phaidon*, Stuttgart 1984

HEINTEL, Erich: *Die Stellung der Philosophie in der "Universitas Litterarum"*
(The Position of the Philosophy in the "Universitas Litterarum"), Wien 1990,
Austrian Academy of Sciences

Method:

During every seminar meeting, a keynote speech will be given by Dr. Hashi. The aim is to generate a lively discussion. Whether at the beginner or advanced level, philosophical education begins with critically reflective dialogue. As shown in a Platonic dialogue, philosophy can be experienced through expressive dialectics. Experiencing and savoring what one experiences, building up one's own thinking step by step, is needed in our digital age. This is because in the present time, the essential aim of philosophy, or of any process of gradual reflection, is generally ignored in favor of short pieces of "information." The spirit of philosophy can be allowed to come alive within dialogue.

The PowerPoint document that will be used during the seminar may be viewed and downloaded upon the conclusion of the seminar.

Examination and grading:

Grading will be based on a 7-10 page seminar paper.

Submission deadline: September 30th, 2022 via e-mail attachment to:
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