Confucian Ethics

A Comparative Study of Self, Autonomy, and Community

The Chinese ethical tradition has often been thought to oppose Western views of the self as autonomous and possessed of individual rights with views that emphasize the centrality of relationship and community to the self. The essays in this collection discuss the validity of that contrast as it concerns Confucianism, the single most influential Chinese school of thought. Alasdair MacIntyre, the single most influential philosopher to articulate the need for dialogue across traditions, contributes a concluding essay of commentary.

This is the only consistently philosophical collection on Asia and human rights and could be used in courses on comparative ethics, political philosophy, and Asian area studies.

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