



Aristotle–Confucius Symposium on Ethics for the 21st Century

*The **Aristotle–Confucius Symposium on Ethics for the 21st Century**, held from July 3 to July 8, brought together distinguished scholars from China, Greece, and various parts of the world.*

The primary objective was to explore the development of a novel global ethics for the 21st century, one that effectively addresses modern global challenges while drawing inspiration from the timeless wisdom of **China and Greece**. Throughout the symposium, the principal guides were **Aristotle and Confucius**, while also examining various classical philosophical thoughts and distinct schools of thought. The event aimed to foster a harmonious exchange of ideas and knowledge among the participating scholars to shape a more enlightened and ethical world.

The event commenced at the **Academy of Athens** from July 3 to July 5, offering participants ten thematic sessions, open discussions, cultural events, and visits to significant cultural heritage sites. Subsequently, from July 6 to July 8, the Symposium relocated to the **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**, where thematic sessions took place at ancient Stageira (the birthplace of Aristotle) and ancient Mieza (where

Aristotle taught Alexander the Great). These sessions were complemented by guided tours and sightseeing in these historically rich locations.





Throughout all sessions, the Symposium explored: "What can classical Chinese and Greek philosophy contribute to our thinking about today's world, including global ethics in support of cooperation and problem-solving for the common good?"

This collaborative Symposium was co-organized by the [United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#), [Academy of Athens](#), [Interdisciplinary Centre for Aristotle Studies of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki](#), and [China Confucius Foundation](#)/Nishan World Center for Confucian Studies. Academic institutions that supported the organization of the conference include the [ATHENA Research Center](#), [Athens University of Economics and Business \(School of Economics and Business Confucius Institute\)](#), [Blue Chip Foundation](#), and [China Development Research Foundation](#). Sponsors of the event include [AE4RIA](#), [Goulandris Natural History Museum](#), [John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation](#), and [National Observatory of Athens](#). [Sani/Ikos Group](#) and [Blue Chip Foundation](#) were grand sponsors of the Symposium.

The Symposium was held under the auspices of the **City of Athens**, the **Chinese Embassy of the Hellenic Republic**, and the **World Congress of Philosophy 2024**.

Co-Organizers



Supporting Academic Institutions

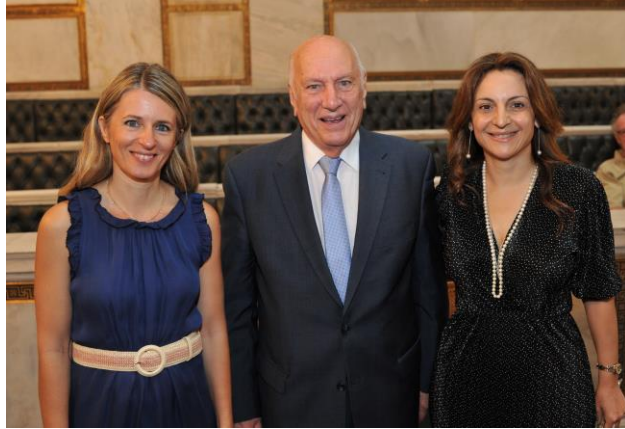


This symposium was a follow-up to the ["Workshop on Ancient Wisdom for Modern Challenges"](#), which took place in Athens, Greece from July 6 to July 8, 2022, and the Symposium titled ["Neo-Classical](#)

Economics Reconsidered within Plato's and Aristotle's Epistemological and Ethical Framework,"
organized from July 29 to August 2, 2019.









The conference videos are now available [here](#)

Monday, July 3rd - Academy of Athens

*The “Aristotle–Confucius Symposium on Ethics for the 21st Century” commenced on Monday 3 July at the prestigious **Academy of Athens**, sparking profound intellectual conversations and igniting the flame of global change! The opening session was graced by enlightening speeches from distinguished individuals, each offering valuable insights:*



Professor **Christos Zerefos**, the General Secretary of the Academy, delivered captivating opening remarks that set the tone for this remarkable event. He emphasized the historical significance of China and Greece, both being at the forefront of culture and human ideals, especially in terms of peace. He pointed out that peace has been a central theme in the philosophies of Confucius and great Greek thinkers. Today, these ideals permeate every aspect of our lives, from food and culture to modern technology and even space exploration.



Professor **Phoebe Koundouri** warmly welcomed the esteemed participants and highlighted that this symposium is being organized for the **third time** by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN), led by Prof. **Jeffrey Sachs** in collaboration with the Greek and European SDSN Hubs, which she co-chairs. She emphasized that the symposium aims to bring ancient philosophies into a meaningful dialogue, enriching discussions and inspiring solutions to the multifaceted crises the world is currently facing, such as economic challenges, climate change, ecosystem collapse, and geopolitical tensions.



Vasileios Foivos Axiotis, Vice Mayor of Urban & Building Infrastructure and City Planning, City of Athens stressed the relevance of ancient philosophical concepts like Aristotle's "Golden Mean" and Confucius' reciprocity in today's transitional and polarized world. He expressed the importance of these principles in enhancing societal harmony in the face of uncertainty and social divisions.



Junzheng Xiao, the Ambassador of China to Greece, expressed his pleasure upon hearing the speeches delivered by world-renowned philosophers and experts addressing the importance of drawing upon ancient wisdom to solve common problems of the current times. He extended his sincere well-wishes for the success of the six-day symposium and hoped for productive and meaningful discussions to take place during the event.



Chengyan Guo, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of the Confucius Foundation/Nishan World Center for Confucian Studies; emphasized the profound connection between the philosophical traditions of Greece and China, as expressed by the teachings of Confucius and Aristotle. These two philosophies, despite their disparate origins, share commonalities that could foster a more safe and sustainable global society. By embracing mutual exchange and understanding, Mrs. Guo proposed that both traditions could contribute significantly to the development of innovative solutions to combat the array of contemporary challenges faced by our world.



Dimitris Bourantonis, Rector of Athens University of Economic and Business; said: "AUEB has co-organized the Aristotel-Confucius Symposium of 2019, 2022 and 2023 with great enthusiasm, because this Symposium provides an international platform for talented scholars that draws upon ancient Greek and Chinese wisdom in order to address contemporary challenges and enable humanity to thrive and advance"



Ioannis Emiris, President and General Director of the ATHENA Research Center, emphasizes the urgency of sustainable development policies, environmental preservation, social justice, and ethical considerations in the digital age. ATHENA RC is a leading Research Center focusing on information, communication, and knowledge technologies. However, the center has also been deeply engaged in

interdisciplinary domains, such as language technology, digital humanities, health sciences, and the transition towards more environmentally friendly societies, spanning over three decades.



Eleni Andreadis, ESG Executive Director of the Sani/Ikos Group, emphasized the urgency of finding new ways to pursue prosperity that are not only beneficial to present generations but also take into account the well-being of future generations and all the diverse species that coexist on the precious planet, upon which we all depend. The Sani/Ikos Hospitality Group, as a member of the UN Global Compact, is a leader in sustainable tourism, having developed significant ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) initiatives since its establishment. Through its flagship programs, Sani Green and Ikos Green, the Group has actively contributed to sustainable practices, focused on "green" business operations, and supported local communities and ecosystems for over 15 years. Sani/Ikos Group owns and operates a collection of twelve resorts located in both Greece and Spain.

*One remarkable highlight of this gathering was the momentous signing of a **Cooperative Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)***

Spearheaded by the **Chinese Embassy of the Hellenic Republic**, this collaborative initiative brought together the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the Confucius Foundation of China, the Academy of Athens, the Athens University of Economics, the "ATHENA" Research Center, and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. This MoU signifies a shared commitment to working together, transcending borders, and forging strong international partnerships in pursuit of common goals.





Session I: Introduction to Confucius and Aristotle

Who were Confucius and Aristotle? What did their societies look like, and how did time and place influence their perspectives? The session aimed to shed light on the historical contexts of these philosophers, how their perspectives were shaped by the time and place they lived in and trace the evolution of their ideas throughout history.

The session was chaired by **Phoebe KOUNDOURI**, Professor at Athens University of Economics and Business and Technical University of Denmark, Director of SDU ATHENA RC

Speakers:

- **Jeffrey SACHS**, President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and University Professor at Columbia University. His contribution focused on the historical significance of Confucius and Aristotle's ideas and how they continue to shape contemporary thought.
- **Yong LI**, Professor of Philosophy and Associate Dean of the School of Philosophy at Wuhan University provided a unique perspective from the Chinese context. He delved into Confucius's philosophy and its profound impact on Chinese society and culture.





Session II: The Historical Legacy of Ancient Chinese and Greek Wisdom

Both China and Greece produced the world's virtue ethics, as taught by Confucius and his followers, and by the Greek philosophers—Socrates, Plato, Aristotle—and others. Both civilizations recognized that human thriving depends on the cultivation of human excellence, including knowledge, respect for culture, the search for truth, and the moderation of individual desires in pursuit of social harmony. World leading philosophers will compare the virtue ethics of ancient China and Greece, and their profound historical legacy up to today.

The session was chaired by **Bryan VAN NORDEN**, Professor of Philosophy and James Monroe Taylor Chair in Philosophy, Vassar College

Speakers:

- **Bryan VAN NORDEN**, Professor of Philosophy and James Monroe Taylor Chair in Philosophy, Vassar College, delivered a presentation on "Learning from Chinese Philosophy."
- **Cancan LIAO**, Professor of Philosophy, Wuhan University, presented on "The Doctrine of the Mean as Virtue and Practical Wisdom in Confucianism."
- **Efthymios NIKOLAIDIS**, Research Director, Hellenic Research Foundation presented on "Illustrations of Yixiang tu: astronomy"
- **Hui WANG**, Intellectual Historian, Tsinghua University discussed "The Equality of All Things in Zhuangzi."
- **Doukas KAPANTAÏS**, Research Director, Research Centre for Greek Philosophy- Academy of Athens, gave a presentation on "Free Will in Aristotle"
- **Cathay LIU**, Professor of Philosophy, National University of Singapore College, talked about "The Craft of Learning in Xunzi"







Session III: Individual Freedom, Collective Responsibility

Harmonious societies depend on the balance of individualism and collective responsibility. We will explore the relationship of the individual to society through various perspectives and discuss the role of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the 21st century, lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the challenge of vast inequalities of wealth in modern economies.

The session was chaired by **Matthew WALKER**, Professor of Philosophy, Yale-NUS College

Speakers:

- **Matt WALKER**, Professor of Philosophy, Yale-NUS College
- **Tao JIANG**, Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Rutgers University, Director of Rutgers Center for Chinese Studies, presented "The private domain and personal freedom in Chinese Philosophy"
- **Justin TIWALD**, Professor of Philosophy, University of Hong Kong gave a presentation on "Confucianism and the power to claim one's right"
- **Qian CAO**, Doctoral Student in Philosophy, Columbia University, presented on "Collective Appearances, Individual Psyche, and Collective Responsibility"
- **Winnie SUNG**, Professor of Philosophy, Nanyang Technical University talked about "Being trustworthy"

- **Yanhua WEI**, Ph.D in History, Confucius Research Institute, Confucius Foundation gave a presentation on "The wisdom of He Shi Sheng Wu and the diversity if human civilization"







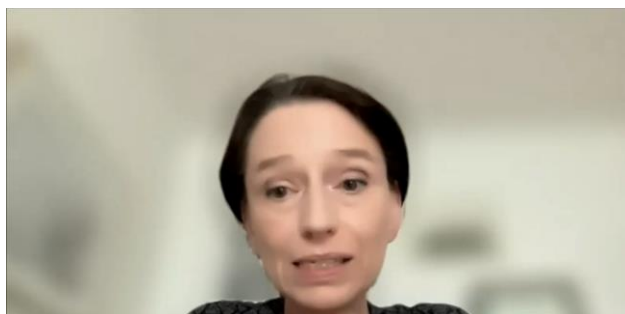
Session IV: The Concepts of Thriving, Happiness, and Wellbeing

Both Confucius and Aristotle propounded theories of human excellence. In each case, thriving depends on personal responsibility, the moderation of desire, the just treatment of others, and the morality of government. We will examine the ideas of thriving in Chinese and Greek philosophy and in modern societies.

The session was chaired by **Owen FLANAGAN**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Duke University

Speakers:

- **Owen FLANAGAN**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Duke University discussed "Actualising one's potential: the good, the true, the beautiful"
- **Katja VOGT**, Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University (ZOOM), talked about "Happiness - Eudaimonia"
- **Sai Ying NG**, Doctoral Student in Philosophy, City University of New York
- **Yolonda WILSON**, Professor of Healthcare Ethics, University of St. Louis
- **Stelios VIRVIDAKIS**, Professor of Philosophy, University of Athens, presented "Queries regarding construal of Aristotle's ethics"
- **Jie TIAN**, Professor of Philosophy, Shandong University, Confucius Foundation, gave a presentation on "The concept of transcendence and happy life in Aristotle and Confucius"
- **Haiming WEN**, Professor of Philosophy, Renmin University of China, Confucius Foundation presented " How Sage - ruling or Philosopher -king influence Human thriving, happiness and wellbeing"









An evening of events at the National Observatory of Athens (NOA)

Special Session on Economics in the Digital Age: Human-centric Decision-Making Processes

Current economic theory is based on the principle of expected utility maximization. This principle is based on the view that the decisions of the economic agent are determined by her desires and beliefs as captured by her utility and subjective probability functions, respectively. A basic premise of the theory is that desires and beliefs are independent, or in other words, that desires are not caused by beliefs. In philosophy, there is an alternative view that desires are driven by beliefs, the so-called "desires as beliefs" thesis. The origins of this thesis are traced back to Plato. The important question is, what happens to current economic theory if we drop the independence between desires and beliefs and instead adopt the Platonic view of "desires as beliefs"? The question becomes even more challenging if we consider "desires-beliefs independence" and "desires as beliefs" as just two ends of a continuous spectrum and that beliefs may partially influence desires at an arbitrary level that is between the two ends.

The session was chaired by **Phoebe KOUNDOURI**, Professor at Athens University of Economics and Business and Technical University of Denmark, Director of SDU ATHENA RC

Speakers:

- **Nikitas PITTIS**, Professor of Financial Econometrics, University of Piraeus
- **Alessandra PALMIGIANO**, Professor of Logic in the Department of Ethics, Governance and Society, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- **Yannis IONNIDIS**, Professor of Informatics and Telecommunications, University of Athens







Special Session on Nature and Humanity in the Works of Lao Tzu and Aristotle *Lao Tzu and the Significance of his Way of Nature to Contemporary Humanity*

Speaker: **Pavlos KAVOURAS**, Professor Emeritus, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, UNESCO Chair of "Anthropology of Traditional Music: Representing and Repositioning Intangible Cultural Heritage"

Lao Tzu teaches us how to align the way of people with the way of nature. Based on his most seminal work, *Tao Te Ching*, Taoism is the art and science of competence and positioning rather than devotion and competition. Lao Tzu's deep understanding of nature and people as a unified whole is crucial for our survival as a species. Our species, *Homo sapiens sapiens*, faces extinction as a result of overpopulation, diminishing resources, nuclear warfare, extended pollution, and destructive climate change. As a consequence, one might argue that our way of thinking is problematic and needs to be thoroughly modified. Lao Tzu's wisdom could help contemporary humanity realize the significance of introspection and self-realization for its survival on the planet. Taoist simplicity permeates and transcends boundaries

of race, religion, culture, ideology, science, and education by establishing itself in the fluidity of nature and humanity.

Acoustic Ecology as a Source for Diachronic Philosophical Values in Aristotle's Thought (25 mins)

Speaker: **Anastasia GEORGAKI**, Chair of Music Studies Department, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Important philosophical and poetic references deal with the diachronic aesthetic value of birds and insects (especially cicadas) in Ancient Greek mythology and philosophy, as well as in Classical, Byzantine, and Modern Greek literature (including Hesiod, Anacreon, Aesop, Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Thucydides, Ritsos, Elytis, and Seferis). In our day, entomologists, sociologists, cultural anthropologists, and composers in acoustic ecology use signal processing tools and techniques to understand bird and insect ethology, "social" organization, and how birds and insects are divided into distinct groups all over the world. In the session, we will examine two different approaches that connect the research fields of the acoustic behavior of birdsongs and cicadas according to Aristotle (*Historia Animalia* and *Problems*) to the problems that differentiate the voicings of the animal world and the voice of human beings.



Thursday July 4th - Academy of Athens

Session V: Political Excellence in Chinese and Greek Traditions

China and Greece are each the progenitor of models of political excellence, yet with distinct traditions, insights, and forms of statecraft. Ancient China produced a model of statecraft that has helped guide China for more than two millennia. Ancient Greece gave Western civilization the first model of participatory democracy. This session discussed the 21st-century challenges of political excellence, drawing on Chinese and Western statecraft and political philosophy.

The session was chaired by **Michele MOODY-ADAMS**, Joseph Straus Professor of Political Philosophy and Legal Theory, Columbia University

Speakers:

- **Michele MOODY-ADAMS**, Joseph Straus Professor of Political Philosophy and Legal Theory, Columbia University, delivered a presentation titled "The Enduring Value of Aristotelian Civic Friendship."
- **Dhananjay JAGANNATHAN**, Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University, presented on the topic "Aristotelian Justice and Cosmopolitan Concern."
- **Wenqing ZHAO**, Professor of Philosophy, Whitman College, discussed "Confucian Political Excellence: Social Policy Support for Mourning the Dead without Regret."
- **Ke MENG**, Professor of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University, gave a presentation entitled "Reflecting on Forms of Government: Great Divergence in Ancient Chinese and Greek Political Thought."
- **Fr. James Dominic ROONEY**, Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Hong Kong Baptist University, delivered a presentation titled "The Apotheosis of the State."
- **Houliang LYU**, Professor of History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, presented on "Nature and Origin of Xenophon's Cyropaedia."









Session VI: Ethics and Business

There has been a dramatic shift in views about the role of the private sector in the age of sustainable development. Instead of a narrow focus on profits, businesses are expected to take responsibility for their stakeholders and the community at large, and express their values on such issues as race, fake news, climate change, and sanctions against invading countries. There remain strong critics who believe that “woke capitalism” dangerously entangles businesses in the realm of politics. Understanding the role of the private sector in the age of sustainable development requires a deep dive into moral and political philosophy. Ancient philosophers have had a strong influence on business ethics in a broad range of issues, including the purpose of business and its relation to society and politics. This session will look at these complex issues and discuss how our ancient philosophers might address them.

The session was chaired by **Andreas PAPANDEOU**, Professor of Economics, University of Athens, Co-Chair of UN SDSN Greece

Speakers:

- **Andreas PAPANDEOU**, Professor of Economics, University of Athens, Co-Chair of UN SDSN Greece
- **Nachoem WIJNBERG**, Professor of Economics and Business, University of Amsterdam
- **Qian LIU**, Managing Director of The Economist Group, Greater China
- **Harry PLATANAKIS**, Professor of Political Theory, University of Athens, gave a presentation on "Aristotle on the political *telos*"
- **Zequan LU**, Researcher at the International Exchange Department of the Nishan World Center for Confucian Studies/Confucius Foundation
- **Colin MAYER**, Peter Moores Professor of Management Studies, University of Oxford, gave a presentation on "Ethics and Business"







Session VII: Multicultural Contributions to Environmental Ethics

Extreme temperatures, droughts, extinctions, intensifying storms, flooding, and other disasters are afflicting nations around the world. Rich developed countries are still failing to fulfill their pledges to decrease carbon emissions, even as climate disasters are having an unjust impact on the most vulnerable communities. Scientists now predict the world will surpass the 1.5C warming limit set by the Paris Agreement, resulting in severe impacts for billions of people. It is time to radically reevaluate how we conduct ourselves in relation to the natural world. What obligation do we have to future generations, other species, and our ecosystems? What can the philosophical traditions of China and Greece contribute to contemporary discussions about climate justice? In this session, we will draw on multicultural theories of nature to discuss the possibility of a shared environmental ethic for the age of the climate emergency.

The session was chaired by **Marion HOURDEQUIN**, Professor of Philosophy, Colorado College

Speakers:

- **Marion HOURDEQUIN**, Professor of Philosophy, Colorado College, presented on "Confucianism, Sustainability, & Intergenerational Ethics."
- **John Baird CALLICOTT**, University Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus and Regents Professor of Philosophy, University of North Texas, discussed "Which Came First, The City (Πολις) or Humanity (Ανθρωπος)?"
- **Chelsea HARRY**, Professor of Philosophy, Southern Connecticut State University, delivered a presentation on "Aristotle and Surviving vs. Thriving."
- **Monika KIRLOSKAR-STEINBACH**, Professor of Philosophy and Diversifying Philosophy Chair, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, presented on "Experiencing Nature Through an Artistic Tagorean Perspective."
- **Huiqiang CHENG**, Deputy Secretary General, China Development Research Foundation

- **Xia CHEN**, Professor at the Institute of Philosophy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Fellow at Berggruen China Center, gave a presentation on "Ancient Wisdom for Contemporary Problems - Daoism and the Building of an Ecological Civilization."







An evening of events at the Goulandris Natural History Museum:

Financing the Transition to Climate Neutrality and Sustainability: An insightful discussion between Jeffrey Sachs and Phoebe Koundouri

Prof. **Jeffrey Sachs** and Prof. **Phoebe Koundouri** talked about the critical topic of financing the transition to climate neutrality and sustainability. They explored innovative ways to support sustainable development financially and the challenges of funding large-scale projects, exploring options like public-private partnerships and international cooperation. Moreover, they emphasized the role of economic policies, technological advancements, and responsible investments in propelling the much-needed transformative changes.







Introducing Interactive Software for Teaching Aristotelian Logic

This project is being developed by the Research Centre for Greek Philosophy at the Academy of Athens and funded by the ERC Water Futures Project at the Athens University of Economics and Business. The project is led by **Thanassis Gkatzaras** as Specially Appointed Researcher and Phoebe Koundouri as Principal Investigator.

Introducing Logic Made Accessible

Johnathan Tanaka, Founder of Logic Made Accessible, presented an international curriculum project for advancing the learning of ancient logic.







Following the speeches, an enchanting dinner was hosted in the Museum's garden.







Wednesday, July 5th - Academy of Athens

Session VIII: Feminist Conversations with Confucius and Aristotle

Although Confucius and Aristotle are often considered beholden to the historical limitations of philosophical discourses on gender, it has also been argued that a feminist conversation with them can be profoundly productive. On this panel, we invite feminist scholars to engage in discussions with Confucius and Aristotle on care ethics, virtue ethics, and other aspects of their philosophies. How do we imagine a Confucian discourse on gender equality in the 21st century? How do we envision an Aristotelian framework that can enrich our thinking about developmental economics, as suggested by

Martha Nussbaum? Such feminist engagements not only challenge certain gendered assumptions in ancient texts but also revitalize and deepen insights that can already be found in the Confucian and Aristotelian traditions.

The session was chaired by **Robin WANG**, Professor of Philosophy, Loyola Marymount University

Speakers:

- **Robin WANG**, Professor of Philosophy, Loyola Marymount University
- **Ying WANG**, Professor at the Institute of Literature, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences presented " Aristotle and Confucius' gender concept based on Harmony"
- **Ann PANG-WHITE**, Professor of Philosophy and Director of Asian Studies, University of Scranton gave a presentation on " Confucian Care Ethics and Aristotle's virtual theory - A multicultural perspective"
- **Dhananjay JAGANNATHAN**, Professor of Philosophy, at Columbia University, discussed "Aristotelian Feminism and human development"
- **Shailendra MEHTA**, President, Director, and Distinguished Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad India (ZOOM) gave a presentation on "Feminine Centricity in India, Pluralism and the Links to Greece and China"
- **Anna SUN**, Professor of Religious Studies, Duke University (ZOOM), presented on "Woman and Confucian Rituals: From the past to the present"







Session IX: Ethics of the Digital Age

On the one hand, digital technologies and artificial intelligence make possible new forms of services that can accelerate human well-being. E-education, E-health, E-commerce, and E-governance are all in active development. And yet the digitalization of society also threatens us with new kinds of instability: fake news, loss of privacy, financial destabilization, cyberwarfare, psychological addictions, technological unemployment, and AI biases. How can the world best achieve the promise of the Digital Age while avoiding its potential dangers and pitfalls? This session discussed how ancient philosophy can guide our ethics for the Digital Age.

The session was chaired by **Lan XUE**, Cheung Kong Chair Distinguished Professor and Dean of Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University

Speakers:

- **Lan XUE**, Cheung Kong Chair Distinguished Professor and Dean of Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University, delivered a presentation on the topic "Channeling Ethical Deliberation for AI Governance."

- **Bing SONG**, Senior Vice President of the Berggruen Institute and Director of the Berggruen China Center, presented on "Universal Camaraderie – Reframing the Human-AI Relationship"
- **Johnathan FLOWERS**, Professor of Philosophy and Religion, California State University Northridge, delivered a presentation titled "Li, Zhi, Zhong, and Algorithmic Technologies."
- **Anastasia GIANNAKIDOU**, Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies, University of Chicago, presented on the subject "Cyber-phronesis, Language, and Truth in the Digital World."
- **Weiwen DUAN**, Professor and Director of the Department of Philosophy of Science and Technology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, shared insights in a presentation titled "Self-Ethics in the Age of Artificial Intelligence."
- **Rethy Kieth CHHEM**, Distinguished Professor of Technology and Humanities, Dean Center for Buddhist AI Ethics, CamTech University, Cambodia, discussed the topic "Can AI be morally responsible according to Buddhist lens?"









Session X: Universal Ethics, the United Nations System, and Peaceful Multilateralism

Our intense interdependence obliges us to build a new shared ethics for the 21st century. Our ancient cultural heritages give us tools for such a profound effort, but we must find the shared wisdom of these ancient cultures and apply it to our modern circumstances. The UN system, now 75 years old, must be reinvigorated with that new ethical impulse. Sustainable development, the flagship of UN development

efforts today, provides an important direction for this new common ethic. This session will explore the role of the UN system in the 21st century.

The session was chaired by **Jeffrey SACHS**, President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and University Professor at Columbia University

Speakers:

- **Jeffrey SACHS**, President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and University Professor at Columbia University
- **Michele MOODY-ADAMS**, Joseph Straus Professor of Political Philosophy and Legal Theory, Columbia University, delivered a thought-provoking presentation titled "The UN's Sustainable Development Agenda as an Interpretation of Aristotelian Eudaimonia."
- **Thanassis GKATZARAS**, Researcher, Academy of Athens, shared insights during a presentation entitled "The Three Types of Dialogue: A Lesson from Plato."
- **Tingyang ZHAO**, Professor of Philosophy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Senior Fellow at Berggruen China Center
- **Jing HU**, Lecturer of Chinese, University of Pennsylvania, discussed the topic "Hu Shih on Universal Ethics."
- **Ioannis LIRITZIS**, Professor of Archaeometry-Natural Sciences, Henan University, and European Academy of Sciences & Arts, Austria, presented "Global Ethics: Self-critique and Dialectics on unchangeable morality principles"
- **Luca Maria SCARANTINO**, President of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies and the 25th World Congress of Philosophy in Rome, 2024









On the final day of the Athens sessions, attendees were treated to a dinner hosted by the City of Athens









SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



**Eleni
Andreadis**



**Jennifer
Gross**

*The Symposium was generously sponsored by the **Blue Chip Foundation** and the **Sani/Ikos Group**. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to **Jennifer Gross**, the founder of the Blue Chip Foundation, and **Eleni Andreadis**, ESG Executive Director of the Sani/Ikos Group, for their valuable contributions and unwavering support.*

Sponsors of the Athens Section



AE4RIA: The Alliance of Excellence for Research and Innovation on Aephoria (AE4RIA) is an initiative for collaboration between research institutions, innovation accelerators and science-technology-policy interface networks, focused on sustainable development with a mission to facilitate a science driven and human centric transformation towards the joint implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of UN Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the European Green Deal.

Blue Chip Foundation: The Blue Chip Foundation is invested in supporting partner organizations and institutions that are advancing innovative solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Eradicating poverty requires collaboration from every country, sector, and citizen. The Blue Chip Foundation selects global partners that specialize in health, education, macroeconomic development, and public policy to develop a holistic framework for solving the interconnected challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Goulandris Natural History Museum: The Goulandris Museum of Natural History is a public benefit institution dedicated to the study, conservation and protection of the natural environment. Since its inception in 1964, it has charted a pioneering course, a new approach to man with the natural environment.

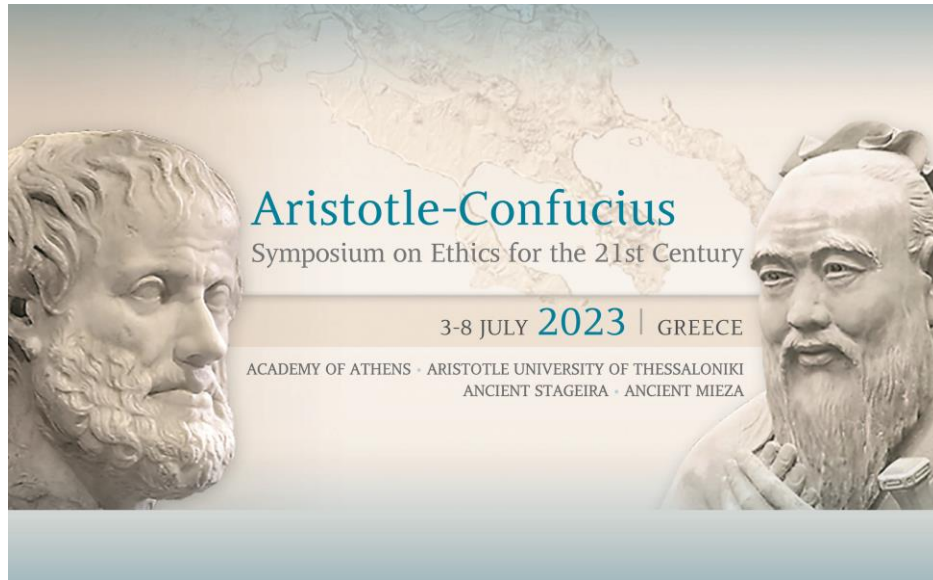
John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation: The John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation, an independent, non-profit organization, was established in 2005 with the aim of undertaking and supporting a variety of public benefit activities in the areas of science, education, culture, arts, social welfare, environmental protection etc. in Greece and abroad.

National Observatory of Athens: The National Observatory of Athens (NOA) was founded in 1842, as the first research centre of Modern Greece. Its history is inextricably linked with the evolution of basic and applied research, the development of services provided to the Greek State and society at large, and the promotion and popularisation of science.

Sani/Ikos Group: The Sani/Ikos Group is an innovative and fast-growing group of luxury resorts in unique beachfront locations in the Mediterranean. Under the brand names Sani Resort and Ikos Resorts, the Group develops, owns, and operates over 3,450 rooms and suites spread across 12 unique resorts in Greece and Spain, all ranked amongst the best luxury resorts in the world. The Group has secured additional projects of almost 1,000 rooms, suites, and villas for further expansion of the Ikos brand in Greece (Crete) and Portugal (Algarve), with launch planned in 2025 and 2027 respectively, while new destinations are being added in the pipeline. The Sani/Ikos Group aims to continue expanding the Sani Resort and Ikos Resorts brands in Greece and abroad, delivering unparalleled guest hospitality and experiences, as well as creating growth opportunities for its people, significant benefits for the ecosystems surrounding its resorts, and value for its investors. As a leader in sustainable hospitality, the Group has an ambitious ESG agenda and is a member of the United Nations Global Compact. Sani/Ikos Group has received numerous awards and accreditations for its sustainability programs, including EU Blue Flag awards, Travelife and Green Key certifications, ISO 14001, ISO 55000, ISO 14064, ISO 22000, as well as the "World's Leading Luxury Green Resort" distinction at the World Travel Awards (2020, 2021, 2022), the TTG Sustainability Hero of the year 2022, and the Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Low-Carbon award 2021 by Global Forum on Human Settlements.

Under the Auspices of





Save the date!

Next July, from 8th to 12th, 2024, we gather at the renowned birthplace of Confucius in China! The event will take place at the prestigious Confucius Foundation/Nishan World Center for Confucian Studies.
