Philosophy of Emotions and Sentiments in Early Chinese Thoughts

Dennis Kat Hung Cheng, The Education University of Hong Kong

Traditional texts such as "yueji" (樂記, A record of music) and "Zhongyong" (中庸, Doctrine of the Mean) of the *Liji* (禮記, The Book of Rituals), and excavated texts such as chapter "wu-xing" (五行, Five phases) of the Guodian chu jian (郭店楚簡, bamboo slips from the Guodian tombs) elaborate the philosophy of emotions/sentiments. Contemporary scholars are well aware of the importance of the issue in early Chinese intellectual history. Studies point out the role of emotions and sentiments in early Confucianism but may not notice the philosophy of integration as well as moderation of emotions/sentiments (happy, anger, sadness, joy etc) are actually the major highlights. A junzi (君子, profound person) should be capable to manage all of these emotions to pursue for superior equilibrium. The above argument would be the main theme of this paper.