



Effortless Action

WU-WEI AS CONCEPTUAL METAPHOR
AND SPIRITUAL IDEAL IN EARLY CHINA

Edward Slingerland

Effortless Action Wu Wei As Conceptual Metaphor And Spiritual Ideal In Early China

Sebastian Brünink



Effortless Action Wu Wei As Conceptual Metaphor And Spiritual Ideal In Early China:

Effortless Action Edward Slingerland, 2007-05-24 This book presents a systematic account of the role of the personal spiritual ideal of wu wei literally no doing but better rendered as effortless action in early Chinese thought Edward Slingerland's analysis shows that wu wei represents the most general of a set of conceptual metaphors having to do with a state of effortless ease and unself consciousness This concept of effortlessness he contends serves as a common ideal for both Daoist and Confucian thinkers He also argues that this concept contains within itself a conceptual tension that motivates the development of early Chinese thought the so called paradox of wu wei or the question of how one can consciously try not to try Methodologically this book represents a preliminary attempt to apply the contemporary theory of conceptual metaphor to the study of early Chinese thought Although the focus is upon early China both the subject matter and methodology have wider implications The subject of wu wei is relevant to anyone interested in later East Asian religious thought or in the so called virtue ethics tradition in the West Moreover the technique of conceptual metaphor analysis along with the principle of embodied realism upon which it is based provides an exciting new theoretical framework and methodological tool for the study of comparative thought comparative religion intellectual history and even the humanities in general Part of the purpose of this work is thus to help introduce scholars in the humanities and social sciences to this methodology and provide an example of how it may be applied to a particular sub field **Dao Companion to**

Contemporary Confucian Philosophy David Elstein, 2020-12-17 This edited volume presents a comprehensive examination of contemporary Confucian philosophy from its roots in the late 19th century to the present day It provides a thorough introduction to the major philosophers and topics in contemporary Confucian philosophy The individual chapters study the central figures in 20th century Confucian philosophy in China Taiwan and Hong Kong as well as the important influences on recent Confucian philosophy In addition topical chapters focus on contemporary Confucian theory of knowledge ethics politics aesthetics and views of human nature The volume brings together scholars from around the world to provide a sound overview of the philosophy of the period and illustrate the important current debates Confucian philosophy has been undergoing a revival in China for more than three decades and this book presents the most significant work of the past century and more By giving a detailed account of the philosophical positions involved explaining the terminology of contemporary Confucian philosophy and situating the views in their historical context this volume enables the reader to understand what is at stake and evaluate the arguments [Transcendence and Non-Naturalism in Early Chinese Thought](#)

Alexus McLeod, Joshua R. Brown, 2020-09-03 Contemporary scholars of Chinese philosophy often presuppose that early China possessed a naturalistic worldview devoid of any non natural concepts such as transcendence Challenging this presupposition head on Joshua R Brown and Alexis McLeod argue that non naturalism and transcendence have a robust and significant place in early Chinese thought This book reveals that non naturalist positions can be found in early Chinese texts

in topics including conceptions of the divine cosmogony and apophatic philosophy Moreover by closely examining a range of early Chinese texts and providing comparative readings of a number of Western texts and thinkers the book offers a way of reading early Chinese Philosophy as consistent with the religious philosophy of the East and West including the Abrahamic and the Brahmanistic religions Co written by a philosopher and theologian this book draws out unique insights into early Chinese thought highlighting in particular new ways to consider a range of Chinese concepts including tian dao li and you wu

Asian Philosophies and the Idea of Religion Sonia Sikka,Ashwani Peetush,2020-09-28 With a focus on Asian traditions this book examines varieties of thought and self transformative practice that do not fit neatly on one side or another of the standard Western division between philosophy and religion It contains chapters by experts on Buddhist Confucian Taoist Hindu and Jain philosophies as well as ancient Greek philosophy and recent contemplative and spiritual movements The volume also problematizes the notion of a Western philosophical canon distinguished by rationality in contrast to a religious Eastern other These original essays creatively lay the groundwork needed to rethink dominant historical and conceptual categories from a wider perspective to arrive at a deeper more plural and global understanding of the diverse nature of both philosophy and religion The volume will be of keen interest to scholars and students in the Philosophy of Religion Asian and Comparative Philosophy and Religious Studies In the Shadows of the Dao Thomas Michael,2015-09-25 Thomas Michael s study of the early history of the Daodejing reveals that the work is grounded in a unique tradition of early Daoism one unrelated to other early Chinese schools of thought and practice The text is associated with a tradition of hermits committed to yangsheng a particular practice of physical cultivation involving techniques of breath circulation in combination with specific bodily movements leading to a physical union with the Dao Michael explores the ways in which the text systematically anchored these techniques to a Dao centered worldview Including a new translation of the Daodejing In the Shadows of the Dao opens new approaches to understanding the early history of one of the world s great religious texts and great religious traditions **The Right to Resist** Mario Wenning,Thomas Byrne,2023-01-12 While the idea of total revolution seems anachronistic today there is increasing consensus about the importance of new forms of political ethical and aesthetic resistance In the past resistance was often motivated as a form of protest against specific institutions Increasingly dissent has become integrated into the fabric of modern life This volume addresses new forms of resistance at a level that combines a rootedness in the philosophical tradition and a sensitivity to rethinking the possibility of emancipation in today s age The work focuses on contemporary social and political philosophy from a perspective informed by critical theory The text specifically addresses three challenges 1 Critical theorists need to investigate in which ways resistance conformism and oppression oppose and constitute each other 2 The relationship between the theory and the practice of resistance needs to be posed anew given recent protest movements and media of protest 3 It needs to be shown in which ways different areas of society such as the arts religion and social media establish divergent practices of resistance

The chapters are written by scholars from Asia Europe and North America These experts in resistance discourse focus on practices of dissent ranging from traditional forms of civil disobedience to more recent practices such as guerrilla protest art and resistance in digital networks including social media What unites them is a shared concern for the dimensions of political acts of resistance in an age that is characterized by a tendency to integrate and thereby neutralize those very acts **Death and Dying** Timothy D Knepper, Lucy Bregman, Mary Gottschalk, 2019-09-02 The medicalization of death is a challenge for all the world's religious and cultural traditions Death's meaning has been reduced to a diagnosis a problem rather than a mystery for humans to ponder How have religious traditions responded What resources do they bring to a discussion of death's contemporary dilemmas This book offers a range of creative and contextual responses from a variety of religious and cultural traditions It features 14 essays from scholars of different religious and philosophical traditions who spoke as part of a recent lecture and dialogue series of Drake University's The Comparison Project The scholars represent ethnologists medical ethicists historians philosophers and theologians all facing up to questions of truth and value in the light of the urgent need to move past a strictly medicalized vision This volume serves as the second publication of The Comparison Project an innovative new approach to the philosophy of religion housed at Drake University The Comparison Project organizes a biennial series of scholar lectures practitioner dialogues and comparative panels about core cross cultural topics in the philosophy of religion The Comparison Project stands apart from traditional theistic approaches to the philosophy of religion in its commitment to religious inclusivity It is the future of the philosophy of religion in a diverse global world

The Routledge History of Chinese Philosophy Bo Mou, 2008-10-27 The History of Chinese Philosophy is a comprehensive and authoritative examination of the movements and thinkers that have shaped Chinese philosophy over the last three thousand years An outstanding team of international contributors provide seventeen accessible entries organised into five clear parts Identity of Chinese Philosophy Classical Chinese Philosophy I Pre Han Period Classical Chinese Philosophy II From Han Through Tang Classical Chinese Philosophy III From Song Through Early Qing Modern Chinese Philosophy From Late Qing Through 21st Century This outstanding collection is essential reading for students of Chinese philosophy and will be of interest to those seeking to explore the lasting significance this rich and complex philosophical tradition

Philosophy of Language, Chinese Language, Chinese Philosophy Bo Mou, 2018-06-26 From the constructive engagement vantage point of doing philosophy of language comparatively this anthology explores 1 how reflective elaboration of some distinct features of the Chinese language and of philosophically interesting resources concerning language in Chinese philosophy can contribute to our treatment of a range of issues in philosophy of language and 2 how relevant resources in contemporary philosophy of language can contribute to philosophical interpretations of reflectively interesting resources concerning the Chinese language and Chinese texts The foregoing contributing fronts constitute two complementary sides of this project This volume includes 12 contributing essays and 2 engagement background essays which

are organized into six parts on distinct issues The anthology also includes the volume editor's theme introduction on comparative philosophy of language and his engaging remarks for three parts

The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Agency Luca Ferrero, 2022-01-25 One of the most basic and important distinctions we draw is between those entities with the capacity of agency and those without As humans we enjoy agency in its full blooded form and therefore a proper understanding of the nature of agency is of great importance to appreciate who we are and what we should expect and demand of our existence The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Agency is an outstanding reference source to the key issues problems and debates in this exciting subject and is the first collection of its kind Comprising 42 chapters by an international team of contributors the Handbook is divided into eight clear parts The Metaphysics of Agency Kinds of Agency Agency and Ability Agency Mind Body and World Agency and Knowledge Agency and Moral Psychology Agency and Time Agency Reasoning and Normativity A broad range of topics are covered including the relation of agency to causation teleology animal agency intentionality planning skills disability practical knowledge self knowledge the will responsibility autonomy identification emotions personal identity reasons morality the law aesthetics and games The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Agency is essential reading for students and researchers within philosophy of action philosophy of mind metaphysics philosophy of psychology and ethics

Dao Companion to the Philosophy of the Zhuangzi Kim-chong Chong, 2022-09-21 This comprehensive collection brings out the rich and deep philosophical resources of the Zhuangzi It covers textual linguistic hermeneutical ethical social political and philosophical issues with the latter including epistemological metaphysical phenomenological and cross cultural Chinese and Western aspects The volume starts out with the textual history of the Zhuangzi and then examines how language is used in the text It explores this unique characteristic of the Zhuangzi in terms of its metaphorical forms its use of humour in deriding and parodying the Confucians and paradoxically making Confucius the spokesman for Zhuangzi's own point of view The volume discusses questions such as Why does Zhuangzi use language in this way and how does it work Why does he not use straightforward propositional language Why is language said to be inadequate to capture the dao and what is the nature of this dao The volume puts Zhuangzi in the philosophical context of his times and discusses how he relates to other philosophers such as Laozi Xunzi and the Logicians

Learning from Chinese Philosophies Karyn Lai, 2016-04-22 Learning from Chinese Philosophies engages Confucian and Daoist philosophies in creative interplay developing a theory of interdependent selfhood in the two philosophical traditions Karyn Lai draws on the unique insights of the two philosophies to address contemporary debates on ethics community and government Issues discussed include questions on selfhood attachment moral development government culture and tradition and feminist queries regarding biases and dualism in ethics Throughout the book Lai demonstrates that Chinese philosophies embody novel and insightful ideas for addressing contemporary issues and problems

Dao Companion to the Analects Amy Olberding, 2013-10-24 This volume surveys the major philosophical concepts

arguments and commitments of the Confucian classic the Analects In thematically organized chapters leading scholars provide a detailed scholarly introduction to the text and the signal ideas ascribed to its protagonist Confucius The volume opens with chapters that reflect the latest scholarship on the disputed origins of the text and an overview of the broad commentarial tradition it generated These are followed by chapters that individually explore key areas of the text s philosophical landscape articulating both the sense of concepts such as ren li and xiao as well as their place in the wider space of the text A final section addresses prominent interpretive challenges and scholarly disputes in reading the Analects evaluating for example the alignment between the Analects and contemporary moral theory and the contested nature of its religious sensibility *Dao Companion to the Analects* offers a comprehensive and complete survey of the text s philosophical idiom and themes as well as its history and some of the liveliest current debates surrounding it This book is an ideal resource for both researchers and advanced students interested in gaining greater insight into one of the earliest and most influential Confucian classics

Embodiment Theory and Chinese Philosophy Margus Ott, 2024-07-25 This book analyses some of the seminal texts of the Chinese tradition in light of the embodied tradition the Analects of Confucius the Zhuangzi and the Treatise on Music Margus Ott s study shows how they exemplify aspects of embodiment theory while highlighting others that have been neglected in contemporary work Ott also develops far reaching possibilities of an embodied philosophy The embodied understanding did not go unchallenged in Ancient China There were important counter currents most notably the Mohists and the so called Legalists It has been argued that this challenge set the Chinese philosophical tradition in motion By using embodiment theory Ott demonstrates how these ideas can be seen as a decontextualizing tendency of thought that plays an important role in human affairs

Skill and Mastery Karyn Lai, Wai Wai Chiu, 2019-07-12 *Skill and Mastery Philosophical Stories from the Zhuangzi* presents an illuminating analysis of skill stories from the Zhuangzi a 4th century BCE Daoist text In this intriguing text that subverts conventional norms and pursuits ordinary activities such as swimming cicada catching and wheelmaking are executed with such remarkable efficacy and spontaneity that they seem like magical feats An international team of scholars explores these stories in their philosophical historical and political contexts Their analyses highlight the stories underlying conceptions of agency character and cultivation and relevance to contemporary debates on human action and experience The result is a valuable collection opening up new lines of inquiry in comparative East West philosophical debates on skill cultivation and mastery as well as cross disciplinary debates in psychology cognitive science and philosophy

After Confucius Paul R. Goldin, 2017-04-01 *After Confucius* is a collection of eight studies of Chinese philosophy from the time of Confucius to the formation of the empire in the second and third centuries B C E As detailed in a masterful introduction each essay serves as a concrete example of thick description an approach invented by philosopher Gilbert Ryle which aims to reveal the logic that informs an observable exchange among members of a community or society To grasp the significance of such exchanges it is necessary to investigate the networks of meaning on which they

rely Paul R Goldin argues that the character of ancient Chinese philosophy can be appreciated only if we recognize the cultural codes underlying the circulation of ideas in that world Thick description is the best preliminary method to determine how Chinese thinkers conceived of their own enterprise Who were the ancient Chinese philosophers What was their intended audience What were they arguing about How did they respond to earlier thinkers and to each other Why did those in power wish to hear from them and what did they claim to offer in return for patronage Goldin addresses these questions as he looks at several topics including rhetorical conventions of Chinese philosophical literature the value of recently excavated manuscripts for the interpretation of the more familiar received literature and the duty of translators to convey the world of concerns of the original texts Each of the cases investigated in this wide ranging volume exemplifies the central conviction behind Goldin s plea for thick description We do not do justice to classical Chinese philosophy unless we engage squarely the complex and ancient culture that engendered it

The Making of the Global Yijing in the Modern World Benjamin Wai-ming Ng,2021-02-26 This book represents an ambitious effort to bring leading Yijing scholars together to examine the globalisation and localisation of the Book of Changes from cross cultural and comparative perspectives It focuses on how the Yijing has been used to support ideologies converted into knowledge and assimilated into global cultures in the modern period transported from the Sinosphere to British American and French cultural traditions travelling from East Asia to Europe and the United States The book provides conceptualised narratives and cross cultural analyses of the global popularisation and local assimilation of the Yijing highlighting the transformation and application of the Yijing in different cultural traditions and demonstrating how it acquired different meanings and took on different roles in the context of a global setting In presenting a novel contribution to understandings of the multifaceted nature of the Yijing this book is essential reading for scholars and students interested in the Classic of Changes It is also a useful reference for those studying Chinese culture Asian philosophy East Asian studies and translation studies

Zhuangzi's Critique of the Confucians Kim-chong Chong,2016-10-24 The Daoist Zhuangzi has often been read as a mystical philosopher But there is another tradition beginning with the Han dynasty historian Sima Qian which sees him as a critic of the Confucians Kim chong Chong analyzes the Inner Chapters of the Zhuangzi demonstrating how Zhuangzi criticized the pre Qin Confucians through metaphorical inversion and parody This is indicated by the subtitle Blinded by the Human which is an inversion of the Confucian philosopher Xunzi s remark that Zhuangzi was blinded by heaven and did not know the human Chong compares Zhuangzi s Daoist thought to Confucianism as exemplified by Confucius Mencius and Xunzi By analyzing and comparing the different implications of concepts such as heaven heart mind and transformation Chong shows how Zhuangzi can be said to provide the resources for a more pluralistic and liberal philosophy than the Confucians

Technical Arts in the Han Histories Mark Csikszentmihalyi,Michael Nylan,2021-11-01 While cultural literacy in early China was grounded in learning the Classics basic competence in official life was generally predicated on acquiring several forms of technical knowledge Recent

archaeological finds have brought renewed attention to the use of technical manuals and mantic techniques within a huge range of discrete contexts pushing historians to move beyond the generalities offered by past scholarship To explore these uses Technical Arts in the Han Histories delves deeply into the rarely studied Treatises and Tables compiled for the first two standard histories the Shiji Historical Records and Hanshu History of Han important supplements to the better known biographical chapters and models for the inclusion of technical subjects in the twenty three later Standard Histories of imperial China Indeed for a great many aspects of life in early imperial society they constitute our best primary sources for understanding complex realities and perceptions The essays in this volume seek to explain how different social groups thought of disseminated and withheld technical knowledge relating to the body body politic and cosmos in the process of detailing the preoccupations of successive courts from Qin through Eastern Han in administering the localities the frontier zones and their numerous subjects at the time roughly one quarter of the world s population

Teaching Confucianism

Jeffrey L. Richey, 2008-02-05 Even the most casual observer of Chinese society is aware of the tremendous significance of Confucianism as a linchpin of both ancient and modern Chinese identity Furthermore the Confucian tradition has exercised enormous influence over the values and institutions of the other cultures of East Asia an influence that continues to be important in the global Asian diaspora If forecasters are correct in labeling the 21st century the Chinese century teachers and scholars of religious studies and theology will be called upon to illuminate the history character and role of Confucianism as a religious tradition in Chinese and Chinese influenced societies The essays in this volume will address the specifically pedagogical challenges of introducing Confucian material to non East Asian scholars and students Informed by the latest scholarship as well as practical experience in the religious studies and theology classroom the essays are attentive to the various settings within which religious material is taught and sensitive to the needs of both experts in Confucian studies and those with no background in Asian studies who are charged with teaching these traditions The authors represent all the arenas of Confucian studies from the ancient to the modern Courses involving Confucius and Confucianism have proliferated across the disciplinary map of the modern university This volume will be an invaluable resource for instructors not only in religious studies departments and theological schools but also teachers of world philosophy non Western philosophy Asian studies and world history

The Top Books of the Year Effortless Action Wu Wei As Conceptual Metaphor And Spiritual Ideal In Early China The year 2023 has witnessed a remarkable surge in literary brilliance, with numerous compelling novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of popular books, exploring the engaging narratives that have enthralled audiences this year. The Must-Read : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This poignant tale of love, loss, and resilience has captivated readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover skillfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can triumph. Effortless Action Wu Wei As Conceptual Metaphor And Spiritual Ideal In Early China : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This intriguing historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids compelling storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Discover the Magic : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This evocative coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens weaves a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, entrancing readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These top-selling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of engaging stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a brilliant and gripping novel that will keep you guessing until the very end. The novel is a warning tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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