

The Daodejing Through the Ages

Variety and Creativity in Global Laozegetics

ABOUT THIS TALK

The Laozi (or Daodejing) is unique among Chinese philosophical classics, as it offers an endless source of inspiration for traditional commentators and even more impressively has been translated 2052 times in 97 languages. Each commentary and translation present novel reconceptions of the text and its philosophy, forming a special body of knowledge termed "Global Laozegetics" by Misha Tadd. Drawing on this rich intellectual tradition, the present talk will introduce eclectic examples of traditional Chinese understandings of the Laozi from the Legalist vision of Hanfeizi to the Religious Daoist Xiang'er commentary, before presenting modern ideological readings that include fascist, anarchist, Marxist, and hippy ones.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



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Misha Tadd is an Associate Professor in the College of Philosophy at Nankai University. He is also Director of Nankai University's *Global Laozegetics Research Center*. He has edited and translated multiple books (*Parasites, Worms, and the Human Body in Religion and Culture; Order in Early Chinese Excavated Texts; Comprehensive Summary Collection of the Classics of Chinese Philosophy; Liber Sinicus Tao Te Kim*) and published in English journals like *Diogenes, Religions,* and *Journal of the History of Ideas*, and top Chinese journals like *Philosophical Research, History of Chinese Philosophy,* and *Xinhua Digest*. He published *The Complete Bibliography of Laozi Translations* in 2022 and recently published a transcription of the oldest Daodejing translation *Liber Sinicus Tao Te Kim inscriptus*, in Latinum idioma Versus.