

Following the huge success of the International East-West Philosophy Conference of 1992 held in Brisbane (first of its kind in Australia), the second conference (albeit on a smaller, national, scale) was held in Adelaide over the weekend of July 9 -10th. After inaugurating the 1992 conference, Professor Robert Pargetter had told a media reporter that if Australia is to forge links with Asia then there has to be a better understanding of Asia's culture and ideas. The 1993 East-West Philosophy Conference continued the spirit of this message. The conference was co-sponsored by the Asian and Comparative Philosophy Society of Australasia and the Asian-Crosscultural Thought Program (Monash/Deakin). The convenors were John Makeham (Adelaide) and Dr Purushottama Bilimoria respectively.

This conference was billed as the "inaugural" conference of the Asian and Comparative Philosophy Society of Australasia, even though two previous East-West Philosophy conferences in Australia were hosted by the Society (as inscribed by the indomitable historian, Dr Ian Mabbett, in the widely circulated newsletters). But with this year's conference the Society has, as the saying goes, come to its own, after having being formally constituted at the 1992 Brisbane conference. The conference was held at the University of Adelaide and Aquinas College in conjunction with the annual conference of the Australasian Association of Philosophy and the 1993 Women in Philosophy Conference as well as the 1993 Logic Conference.

The theme for this year's conference was Chinese philosophy.

Among the papers presented were (in the order of presentation):

"Nietzsche and the Asian Connection" (P. Bilimoria, Deakin)
"Moral Vegetarianism and Indian Thought" (R. Perrett, Massey, NZ)
"Environmental Karma: Cha'an Ideas on the Environment" (J Jorgensen, Griffith)
"East-West Spirituality and the Ethics of Ecology" (I.Mills, Victoria)
"East and West in the Philosophy of E.A. Burtt" (F. Moriarty (Adelaide))
"Information Sequencing in Chinese Reasoning" (A. Kirkpatrick, ANU)
"Li Zehou and Confucianism" (S. Chan, Adelaide)
"Freedom, Autonomy and Heteronomy in Confucius' Philosophy" (K.Lai, Sydney)
"Chinese Gardens and Philosophy" (J Makeham, Adelaide)
"Translating Yuan ye (Craft of Gardens): Some Theoretical Issues" (S. Fung, Adelaide)
"Stirner and Zen: Introduction and Defence" (R. Miller, RMIT)

The next International East-West Philosophy Conference is planned for August 1994 to be held in Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Inquiries may be directed to Asian-Crosscultural Thought Program, c/o Centre of South Asian Studies (or Asia Institute?) in Monash.

(Purushottama Bilimoria)