

HKU03x Humanity and Nature in Chinese Thought

Week 8: Xunzi and Legalism (Han-Fei-zi)

Section 1: Back to a ritual morality

- Back to the Confucian form, 禮 *lǐ*^{ritual} 義 *yì*^{morality}.
- As human beings, we care about staying alive.
- Xunzi says we rely on human daos; not daos within nature.
- Only humans make 是非 *shì-fēi*^{this-not this} judgements; they do not occur in nature.
- Xunzi borrows and perverts Mozi's 法 *fǎ*^{Measurement}: appeals to a Confucian elite authority.
- Xunzi thinks there is no natural normative 道 *dào*^{path}; no natural guidance.