

# Neo-Confucianism as Philosophy



**Stephen C. Angle** is Mansfield Freeman Professor of East Asian Studies and Professor of Philosophy at Wesleyan University. Angle specializes in Chinese Philosophy, Confucianism, Neo-Confucianism, and comparative philosophy.

Recent books include *Contemporary Confucian Political Philosophy: Toward Progressive Confucianism* (2012; Chinese edition, 2015) and *Neo-Confucianism: A Philosophical Introduction* (2017), which he co-authored with Justin Tiwald. His blog on Chinese and comparative philosophy is [warpweftandway.com](http://warpweftandway.com)

In this lecture, Dr. Stephen C. Angle argues that Neo-Confucianism—the great revival of Confucian thought and practice beginning in China around 1000 C.E.—can be fruitfully understood as a kind of philosophy, and that we can do this while remaining true to the core concerns of Neo-Confucianism itself. The first half of the lecture lays out what is at stake in interpreting a tradition as philosophy. The second half illustrates the method by examining Neo-Confucian views of the “Four Beginnings (siduan 四端).”

**Friday, October 27th**  
**3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

Room 325  
School of Theology  
Boston University  
745 Commonwealth Ave.  
Boston, MA 02215

**Respondent: Robert C. Neville, PhD**  
Professor of Philosophy, Religion and Theology at Boston University

**Respondent: Yair Lior, PhD**  
Lecturer of Religious Studies at Boston University

**Respondent: Lawrence A. Whitney**  
University Chaplain and PhD Candidate of Theology at Boston University

**Moderator: Bin Song, PhD**  
(Philosophy, 2009), PhD Candidate of Religious Studies at Boston University, President of BUCA