

“The First Teacher Left Behind Instruction”: Images of Confucius (and Zhuangzi) in the Poetry of Tao Yuanming

Coffee Time Talks on Chinese Thought, Saint Louis University

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Tao Yuanming (c. 365 – 427) has long been seen as one of China’s greatest poets. Interpreters have debated the degree to which he might identify as Confucian or Daoist. This presentation will explore the ways Confucius and Zhuangzi appear in his poetry. More specifically, it will explore the ways Tao was fond of the *Analects* and the *Zhuangzi* while at the same time remaining aloof from wholly committing himself to the Confucian or Zhuangzist Way.



Zhiding, Yu. Portrait of Tao Yuanming. Hanging scroll; ink and color on paper, 1647-1709. Art Institute of Chicago.

Questions? Email pauline.lee@slu.edu