

Prof. Kai Marchal delivers the lecture at University of Leipzig

On July 12 2022 the National Central Library (NCL) of Taiwan partnered with Leipzig University Library to hold a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies in Leipzig. Prof. Kai Marchal was invited to deliver the lecture entitled “Vom Wert der Selbstlosigkeit – Überlegungen zu Ernst Tugendhats Modell einer gegenwärtigen Mystik.” The lecture was in German and moderated by Prof. Philip Clart of the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Leipzig.

Kai Marchal 馬愷之 is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at National Chengchi University in Taipei. His research interests include the history of Chinese philosophy, ethics, and transcultural political theory. Recently, he co-edited with Prof. Michael Hampe the volume *Weisheit: Neun Versuche* (Matthes & Seitz Berlin, 2021).

The reception of Chinese thinkers such as Confucius, Zhuangzi, Seng Zhao or Zhu Xi has a very long history in the German-speaking world. Scholars have used hermeneutical, historical, sociological, and sometimes also philosophical approaches to interpret these texts. Quite remarkably, in our increasingly global world, ancient teachings gain new meanings and are reinterpreted in completely different contexts. In the lecture, drawing on the controversy surrounding the German philosopher Ernst Tugendhat's book *Egocentricity and Mysticism* (from 2003), Prof. Kai Marchal revisits the question of how to interpret Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist teachings regarding the ideas of selflessness and no-self. He contrasts Tugendhat's interpretation of Daoist and Buddhist texts with a number of interpretations influential in the Chinese-speaking world (especially those of Mou Zongsan, Lao Sze-kwang, and Yang Rubin). Moreover, he discusses the philosophical plausibility of Tugendhat's approach. In the last part of the lecture, Prof. Marchal addresses the question to what extent these ancient teachings challenge our modern way of life with its need for mysticism and spirituality.



Speaker : Prof. Kai Marchal



the view of the lecture