

CULTURAL TRANSLATION IN A POST-GLOBAL ERA:
“EAST / WEST” FABLES:

Seminar followed by Roundtable Discussion

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27: 4:00 p – 6:15, Hu 290

Kyoo Lee

**Associate Professor of Philosophy
City University of New York**

“If China Travelled to Descartes:
Cartesianism in Transit—
with a Franco-Sino Twist”

What was “China” for Descartes, literally or figuratively? What was this, then budding, modern French philosopher thinking when he entertained “... the same mind this individual would have possessed had he lived always among the Chinese or with savages ...” (*Discourse on Method*)? Indeed, how & why should one mind that intimate distance between Descartes and China, then and now, whatever is shuttling between and across the two? Taking the cue from “China” or “Chinese” passages in the *Discours de la méthode* (1637), where metonymy dis/orients metered cogitation, this talk sets out to explore some other, more schizoid dimensions of Cartesian cogitation in motion, along with its implications for theorizing posthumanism or transhumanism today: an underexplored, alternative Cartesianism today, as it were, that would transcend & transform its own geo-historical limitations & applications.

Professor Kyoo Lee, Associate Prof. of Philosophy at the City University of New York, is a trans-national and trans-theoretical philosopher and cultural critic who frequently teaches abroad including in China, and whose work and styles seem to elude all known binaries. She is author of *Reading Descartes Otherwise: Blind, Mad, Dreamy, and Bad* (2012, Fordham UP), and co-editor of *Women’s Studies Quarterly* on “Safe” Issue (2011, The Feminist Press) and *Critical Philosophy of Race* on “Xenophobia & Racism” Issue (2014, Penn State UP). At CUNY, she teaches courses at all levels, intro to doctoral: Modern European Philosophy to Classical Chinese Philosophy; Critical/Gender/Justice/Race Theories to Theories of Reading.

■ Break

PART II-- 5: 15 p.m. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

“East / West”—Broken Mirror Stage?

Topic: “East / West” convergence and rifts in a post-global era—the panel will discuss mutations in pop culture, academics, geo-political rifts (between post-capitalist and post-communist orders) before the background of a 21st century backdrop and the emergent logics of “climate change”:

Professor Wenling Lu (Associate Professor, Yunnan Normal University), on the politics of trans-Asian / Western music video culture

Professor Charles Shepherdson (M.A.L.S., UA), on trans-national education

Professor Lexiang Yi (Associate Professor, Shanghai Second Polytechnic University), on Chinese and Western science fiction

Professor Thomas Bass (Journalism, UA) on teaching journalism in post-communist Vietnam

Moderator: **Tom Cohen** (English, UA); Respondents: **Kyoo Lee** (Philosophy, C.U.N.Y.), **Mike Hill** (English, University at Albany), **Helen Elam** (English, University at Albany)

**Short reference article for discussion on “East / West” reconfiguration before climate change:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kevin-rudd/east-west-climate-change_b_8204072.html?utm_hp_ref=world

Hosted by the Department of English, Harvey Charles, Vice Provost and Dean of International Education, and the M.A. in Liberal Studies