

An Exercise in Historical Conceptual Ethnography: Greek, Latin, and Chinese in a Global Comparative Context

CHINA STUDIES RESEARCH CENTRE SEMINAR

Tue 26 April, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Speaker: Professor Christoph HARBSMEIER, University of Oslo

Venue: La Trobe University's **Collins St campus** (Boardroom, Level 20, 360 Collins Street)

In this seminar I will compare some basic classical Chinese and classical Greek as well as Latin cultural keywords and basic concepts. On this basis I shall attempt a historico-philological critique of some basic presuppositions in the analytic philosophy of Donald Davidson in his important article "On the very idea of a conceptual scheme", and I shall argue for the need for "basic philosophical fieldwork" as crucial for any soundly based and non-parochial philosophy of language.

All welcome. For catering purposes, please RSVP csrc@latrobe.edu.au by COB Friday 22 April. Contact: T: + 61 3 9479 5702



Professor Christoph Harbsmeier is Professor of Chinese at the University of Oslo. His main work is in the history of science (logic), conceptual history, historical linguistics, and modern Chinese cartoons. His publications include *Language and Logic in Traditional China* (= *Science and Civilisation in China*, vol. 7.1), Cambridge University Press (1998), *Aspects of Classical Chinese Syntax* (1981) as well as *The Cartoonist Feng Zikai* (1984). His most recent book, co-authored with Françoise Bottéro, is *Chinese Lexicography on Matters of the Heart: An Exploratory Commentary on the Heart Radical in Shuo wen jie zi* (Paris 2016). He is general editor of the international project *Thesaurus Linguae Sericae*.

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