

Poetics of the Unknown: Verses from the Outskirts of the Chinese Lyrical Tradition and the Gesture of “Restoring Ambiguity”歸隱

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This lecture will present a part of my work on 歸隱, a popular topic in Tang and Song literati poetry, to which many authors have added the quality of a poetic "gesture" indicating an encoded, non-verbal mode of being. Historically this bearing can be retraced to Tao Qian's (365 - 427) famous line of conclusion in the fifth poem of the series "On Drinking" 飲酒: "Herein lies a true meaning, indeed, / You may want to discuss after forgetting words." 此中有真意，欲辯已忘言. However, my research focuses on three later poets whose styles are not only extremely different from each other but also, each in its own quality, flaunt aesthetic values widely accepted within the tradition of literary criticism established under Song (960 - 1279) and subsequently: Li He (李賀, 790 - 816), Lin Bu (林逋, 967 - 1028) and Liu Yong (柳永, ?987 - ?1053).

The lecture will first discuss the hypothesis that the traditional topic of "retreat into seclusion" 歸隱 can be transformed into a critical paradigm labeled "restoring ambiguity". Furthermore I will discuss a selection of lyrical pieces from the works of Li He and outline the strategy this poet employed in order to substantiate a mode of being in a sphere that lies beyond the potential meanings of words. I will conclude by foreshadowing some aspects of comparative analysis of the styles of Li He, Lin Bu and Liu Yong, arguing that through an understanding of their characteristic differences the common gesture of "restoring ambiguity" becomes evident.

主講人簡介：

柯世浩 (Frank Kraushaar)，德國籍，現任拉脫維亞大學人文學院教授。柯教授對唐宋文學、漢學等領域素有研究。2009 年任職拉脫維亞大學亞洲研究中心主任期間，曾與國家圖書館簽署交流合作協議，並參與 2013 年國圖與拉脫維亞國家圖書館、拉脫維亞大學共設「臺灣漢學資源中心」的協商。柯教授本年獲得漢學研究中心獎助，來臺灣研究主題為「Restoring Ambiguity (歸隱) Critical Essays on a Poetic Paradigm in Selected Works of Li He (790-816), Lin Bu (967-1028) and Liu Yong (987-1053)」。