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Sinologist Reflects on Responsibilities

Prof Julia Ching, a leading authority on Neo-Confucianism, will look at human rights and responsibilities from a Chinese perspective during a lecture organized by the Division of Humanities at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

"Tradition can offer a solution to the global problems that face us as we approach the 21st century," says Prof Ching.

"In the Chinese philosophical context, the advocacy of humanism, universal concern for human dignity, environmental protection, peaceful resolution of conflicts and social and economic justice are relevant for the world and a small, international city like Hong Kong," she explains.

International awareness towards the balance between rights and responsibilities has resulted in the presentation of the Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities to the United Nations. Drafted at a high-level expert meeting of the InterAction Council last April, the document won the support of Prof Ching and other distinguished international statesmen and academics, among them Helmut Schmidt, former German Chancellor and chairman of the meeting, Andries A. M. van Agt, former premier of the Netherlands, Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, former president of Mexico, and Swiss theologian Hans Kung.

An expert in Chinese philosophy and religion, Prof Ching is a professor of the departments of Philosophy, East Asian Studies and Religion at the University of Toronto. She holds two honorary degrees, and is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and university professor, which is the highest rank at the University.

She has published 14 books on Chinese religions, Confucianism, Christianity and the Ming philosopher, Wang Yang-ming. Her most recent book is Mysticism and Kingship in China, published by Cambridge University Press last year.

In addition to the lecture on rights and responsibilities, Prof Ching will also give a talk on Wang Yang-ming. Details of the two lectures are as follows:

**Event:** Rights and Responsibilities from a Chinese Perspective  
**Date:** 20 March 1998
Time: 4:15 pm  
Venue: Lecture Theatre E

Event: Wang Yang-ming and Global Responsibilities  
Date: 27 March 1998  
Time: 4:30 pm  
Venue: Rm 3362, Academic Building (via lifts 13-15)

Note to Editors:  
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Please send comments and suggestions to webmaster@www.ust.hk.