

Xu Wen:

**Between Dao and Machine:
Towards a Chinese Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence
Rethinking Agency, Harmony, and Human Responsibility
in the Age of AI**

This talk develops a Chinese philosophical approach to artificial intelligence by placing machine intelligence between Dao (a key concept in Chinese Philosophy) and human responsibility. Rather than treating AI only as a technical instrument or an existential threat, it asks how AI transforms the relation among human agency, cosmic order, social harmony, and ethical cultivation. Drawing on Daoist reflections on spontaneity, Confucian ideas of self-cultivation and relational responsibility, and the classical notion of harmony without uniformity, the talk argues that AI should not be understood as a rival subject replacing humanity, but as a powerful relational force that reorganizes human action, knowledge, and social life. The central question is therefore not whether machines can think like humans, but how humans should live, judge, and act with intelligent machines. A Chinese philosophy of AI calls for technological development guided by balance, responsibility, humility, and care for the shared future of humanity in an increasingly automated world today.