



*The Center for Chinese Studies and the
Confucius Institute at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Distinguished Speaker Series*



***“Confucian Role Ethics:
Does Blind Justice Need
Moral Imagination?”***

Roger T. Ames

Professor of Philosophy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

April 30, 4:30 p.m.

Music Department, Room 36

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

2411 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822

Free admission; reception to follow.

Synopsis: *In what way does a person become consummately human? This was the perennial Confucian question asked explicitly in all of the Four Books: in the Great Learning, in the Analects of Confucius, in the Mencius, and again in the Zhongyong. And the answer from the time of Confucius was a moral, aesthetic, and ultimately religious one. Confucian role ethics enables a person to become human by cultivating those thick, intrinsic relations that constitute one's initial conditions and that locate the trajectory of one's life force within family, community, and cosmos. Ames will discuss how “Cultivate your person” (xiushen 修身)—the signature exhortation of the Confucian canons—is the ground of the Confucian project of becoming consummate as a person (ren 仁).*

Roger T. Ames is Professor of Philosophy and editor of *Philosophy East & West*. Among his numerous translations of the Chinese Classics the most recent is the *Classic of Family Reverence: A Philosophical Translation of the Xiaojing* (2009) (with H. Rosemont). He has also authored many interpretative studies of Chinese philosophy and culture: *Thinking Through Confucius* (1987), *Anticipating China: Thinking Through the Narratives of Chinese and Western Culture* (1995), and *Thinking From the Han: Self, Truth, and Transcendence in Chinese and Western Culture* (1997) (all with D. L. Hall). His *Democracy of the Dead: Dewey, Confucius, and the Hope for Democracy in China* (with D. L. Hall) (1999) is a product of his interest in the intersection of contemporary issues and cultural understanding. He has most recently been engaged in attempting to define Confucian role ethics, and writing articles promoting a conversation between American pragmatism and Confucianism.