

## **Tkach, Colleen**

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**From:** Inform  
**Subject:** EM: Today @Scripps 4:30pm Zhuangzi: The Butterfly in the Mirror

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**From:** Faith Balbuena



**ASIAN PHILOSOPHICAL TRADITIONS**  
SCRIPPS HUMANITIES INSTITUTE



**BROOK  
ZIPORYN**  
University of  
Chicago

**Zhuangzi: The Butterfly in the Mirror**  
**February 12 @ 4:30 pm in the Hampton Dining Room**

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Starting with a brief exploration of classical Chinese thinking around the concept of Dao 道 as it emerges in the Daodejing, this talk will focus on the development and implications of the ideas of agnoscence, perspectivism and transformation in the Daoist text Zhuangzi. What does it mean to “use the mind as a mirror,” or to “sit and forget,” or to “fast the mind,” as the text suggests? How does radical skepticism not only about the world but also about the self, not only about what is so but also about what is good, lead not only to peace of mind but also to unusual skill in the unknown self’s faring through the unknown world, accomplishing unknown goods? Knowledge of what is true and right is thought to have many uses: freeing one from the perturbations of uncertainty, fostering self-preservation, settling interpersonal disputes, generating skillful activity, correcting objectionable behaviors both political and personal. We will find Zhuangzi suggesting that agnoscence—thorough non-knowing—can actually do these jobs even better than knowledge does. To see how this can be so will require us to explore Zhuangzi’s way of thinking from the ground up, which will be our task in this talk.

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Have any questions or want more information? Email [fbalbuena@scrippscollege.edu](mailto:fbalbuena@scrippscollege.edu)

Best,

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