Talking Happily with Zhuangzi

The dialogues between Zhuangzi and Hui Shi are an important part of the Zhuangzi. Hui Shi can be seen as representing the ‘analytic’ philosopher and the dialogues can thus be seen as a site for exploring analytic views in ancient Chinese philosophy. In this lecture I will focus on the most famous dialogue of all, the happy fish dialogue, in clarifying the Zhuangzian critique of analytic ways of thinking while at the same time exemplifying an interpretive approach to the text that can also be called ‘analytic’ in the wider and richer sense that is required for engaging properly with the Zhuangzi and Chinese philosophy, more generally. I will both draw and elaborate on my recent paper on the dialogue: ‘Swimming Happily in Chinese Logic’: https://doi.org/10.1093/arisoc/aoab010.