

Invitation to the International Conference

“Kant and the Future of Humanity”

Peking University, 2019

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the international conference “Kant and the Future of Humanity,” which will be held at Peking University, Beijing, China, from 7th to 10th, June, 2019, on the occasion of the establishment of the Chinese Kant Society.

Kant famously declares that philosophy should serve not the “monopoly of the schools,” but rather the “interest of human beings,” and that the ultimate concern of philosophy in a cosmopolitan sense is “that which necessarily interests everyone.” The reception of the Critical Philosophy in the past two hundred years proves that the latter has indeed transcended the limitations of any particular time, language, and culture, and exerted significant influences on the development of philosophy, natural and social sciences, and even the entire human culture in diverse manners. In spite of the enormous changes that take place in science, technology, social institutions, lifestyles, and arts during the two hundred years after Kant’s death, it remains always possible to find out valuable perspectives for a better understanding of the world by revisiting Kant’s fundamental insights.

With the rise of new, disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence and genetic engineering, the uncertainty and challenges that the entire human society now encounters are probably more radical than ever. Would Kant’s principles of human cognition be overturned by the future development of the human species? Are Kant’s fundamental principles for restricting and guiding human actions still applicable in future societies? To which extent could Kant’s conception of the basic trend of human history be confirmed by its actual development? In one word, are the four basic questions of the Critical Philosophy still valid? We hope that the participants of our conference may contribute to answer these questions by deep analyses and substantive

discussions. Our conference has five topics:

- (1) Kant's theoretical philosophy
- (2) Kant's practical philosophy
- (3) Kant's aesthetics, teleology, philosophy of religion and of history
- (4) Kant's philosophy and the future of humanity
- (5) Kant's philosophy and oriental thoughts

In view of your excellent works in the research of Kant's philosophy, I sincerely invite you to join our conference. The working languages of the conference are Chinese, English, and German. Every speaker will have 40-50 minutes for presentation and discussion. There is no registration fee for this conference. We are willing to cover the costs for your accommodation and meals in Beijing from 6th to 11th, June, 2019. Unfortunately, we do not have enough money to cover your travel costs.

If you decide to participate in our conference, please fill in the registration form and send it back to Dr. Xing NAN (Email: nanxing@pku.edu.cn), who is responsible for the organizing works of this conference, no later than 1st, October, 2018. Please feel free to contact him if you have any question about the conference.

Best wishes!

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Shuifa HAN

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