



2025 SIMIS-CDEF Seminar Series: No. 5

Time: November 5th, 2025 (Wednesday), 3.00-4.30 pm (Beijing Time)

Venue: R610, Level 6, Block A, International Innovation Plaza, No. 657 Songhu Road, Yangpu District, Shanghai

Organizer: SIMIS Center for Digital Economy and Finance, SIMIS-CDEF

Fudan-Stanford Institute for Financial Technology and Risk Analytics

Chair: Qingfu Liu (刘庆富), Fudan University & SIMIS



Confucian Optimization: The Axiomatic Way of Benevolence

Speaker: YU Ning (俞宁), Nanjing Audit University

Abstract: Confucius said: “there is one single thread binding my way together.” (The Analects, 4:15) His Way of Benevolence is indeed a full-fledged axiomatic system of moral conducts, centering on the principle of utility maximization with benevolent preferences. We derive four context-free propositions that apply to all social settings (e.g., family, friendship, and politics): benevolent people benefit others, sacrifice selves, improve social welfare, and cooperate better. Supported by

reliable historical records, our behavioral scientific interpretation of the original Confucianism reveals its rigorous internal consistency, dispelling the prejudice that views it as a disorganized collection of random rituals and unjustified imperatives.

Speaker Bio: 俞宁，南京审计大学社会与经济研究院教授，国家杰出青年科学基金获得者、教育部青年长江学者、江苏特聘教授。上海交通大学管理学博士、斯坦福大学经济学博士，曾任埃默里大学助理教授。研究领域包括博弈论、市场设计、微观行为。任关键作者的论文见诸 *American Economic Review*、*Review of Economic Studies* 等期刊，获孙冶方经济科学奖、高等学校人文社会科学一等奖和二等奖、江苏省哲学社会科学一等奖。个人获中国信息经济学乌家培奖、张培刚发展经济学青年学者奖、中国运筹学会青年科技奖、霍英东青年科学奖二等奖。

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