

Yinyang: The Way of Ways

Prof. Robin R. Wang

The concept of yinyang lies at the heart of Chinese thought and culture for thousands years. The relationship between these two opposing, yet mutually dependent, forces is symbolized in the familiar black and white symbol that has become an icon in popular culture across the world. The real significance of yinyang is, however, more complex and subtle. Based on a careful research and a newly published book *Yinyang: The Way of Heaven and Earth in Chinese Thought and Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) this talk will trace the historical development and diversified manifestations of yinyang, drawing together the different uses and models of yinyang, starting from its origins in early classical texts to lay out the ways in which yinyang functioned as the warp and woof of Chinese thought and culture. It will give a more nuanced, synchronic account of the richness meanings and applications of *yinyang*,

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