

You 有 versus wu 無 (being versus non-being): The issue of *you* (being) versus *wu* (non-being) in Chinese philosophy partially overlaps the cross-tradition issue of being (something stable, regular, definite, permanent, universal or unchanging) versus becoming (something unstable, irregular, transient or changing) but has its distinct aspects that are not exactly covered by the latter issue. The term ‘*you*’ literally means *being* or *there existing* like an existential quantifier, while the term ‘*wu*’ literally means *non-being*, *non-existence* or *there being not* (the negation or denial of being), or simply *nothing*. There are three aspects of the issue of *you* versus *wu*. (1) The issue of the constitutional relation between being and non-being as becoming (as the ‘constitutional-opposite’ negation of being) concerning the fundamental constitution and basis of the world. This aspect of the issue is essentially a Chinese way of delivering the cross-tradition issue of being versus becoming. (2) The issue of the generational relationship of non-being (as the ‘origin-tracing’ negation of being) to being in regard to the origin of the world. (3) The issue of the local-global relation between being (as the ‘local’ specific/particular being) and non-being (as the ‘holistic’ negation of ‘local’ being) concerning the dynamic and holistic nature of the world.

Literature: Hansen, Chad. “*Youwu: Being and Nonbeing*”, in *Encyclopedia of Chinese Philosophy*, ed. A. S. Cua, New York: Routledge, 2003, 847-9; Graham, C. Part IV, Chapter 1 “The Cosmologists”, in his *Disputers of the Tao*, La Salle, IL: Open Court, 1989.