



**Institute of Philosophy**  
Slovak Academy of Sciences, v. v. i.

# Rethinking Gaia's Critical Zone: From Bruno Latour to Chinese Thought

(public lecture)

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(East China Normal University, Shanghai, China)

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**Connection room  
Sheraton Bratislava Hotel  
Pribinova 12  
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**Annotation:** The French anthropologist Bruno Latour has influentially reactivated James Lovelock's Gaia hypothesis with his original thesis that Gaia's critical zone is the political zone, as a critical response to Trump's "new climate regime". In his tour to China in 2017, Latour has shown great interest in Chinese thought, especially the mythical figure Long (improperly translated as "dragon") and its pre-(post-)human agency. In this lecture, I will develop an unorthodox interpretation on classical pre-Qin Chinese thought, and situate it in a dialogue with Latour's political ecology with an unexpected solidarity.

**Guanjun Wu** is Distinguished Professor and Dean of the School of Politics and International Relations at **East China Normal University** (ECNU). Professor **Wu** is a philosopher whose research interests span a wide range of areas, including political philosophy, philosophy of education, philosophy of art, philosophy of technology, technopolitics, psychoanalysis, psychopolitics, philosophy of ecology/ecopolitics, film philosophy/visual politics, biopolitics, and media politics. He is the author of numerous books, including **The Great Dragon Fantasy: A Lacanian Analysis of Contemporary Chinese Thought** (2014), written in English. His subsequent works, such as **Common Life in the Posthuman Era: The Coming Age of Love, Consumption, and Artificial Intelligence** (2018), **Love, Death, and the Posthuman: Reassembling Film-Philosophy, Psychoanalysis, and Posthumanism** (2019), **Falling into Singularity: Political Philosophy in the Anthropocene** (2021), **From Metaverses to Quantum Realities: Towards a Posthuman Political Ontology** (2023), and most recently, **Farewell to Homo Sapiens: Techno-Politics and the Posthuman Condition** (2024), are all written in Chinese.

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