**Belonging to the In-Between**

At first glance, the concept of "belonging" appears to imply connection to a clearly defined entity—be it a family, group, nation, or culture. Within this framework, the idea of belonging to the "in-between" may seem paradoxical or even contradictory. Yet, given the profound challenges that traditional notions of belonging have posed for humanity—particularly in shaping modern identities and mediating human interactions in an increasingly interconnected world—it becomes imperative to rethink and expand our understanding of belonging.

The "in-between" resists the rigid categorizations often associated with belonging. Historically, philosophy has prioritized the study of well-defined "beings," leaving the "in-between" largely unexamined. This neglect arises, in part, from the in-between's elusive nature—it defies straightforward categorization and risks being subsumed under the very structures it seeks to transcend. Despite these challenges, philosophical traditions, such as Chinese thought, have gestured toward the in-between through concepts like "Dao," demonstrating that its exploration is both possible and necessary.

In light of these reflections, intercultural philosophy emerges as a vital framework for revisiting this limitation within philosophical history. By focusing on the “inter”, intercultural philosophy invites serious reconsideration of the in-between as a fundamental aspect of human existence. Across diverse cultures, the in-between has been acknowledged and conceptualized in various ways: as "Dao" in Chinese philosophy, "Aida" in Japanese thought, "Miāne" (or "Barzaẖ") in Iranian traditions, and "Zwischen" in German philosophical discourse. These traditions highlight the possibility of thinking about the in-between, while also underscoring the unique ways it is understood and expressed in different cultural contexts.

Despite this recognition, the question of how one relates to the in-between across these diverse frameworks remains underexplored. This raises significant inquiries into the nature of the in-between and its implications for human experience:

* Can the in-between be approached directly, or does its nature require alternative pathways, such as reflection, imagination, meditation, recollection, or revelation?
* Can it ever be fully grasped as a concept, or does its essence resist conceptualization?
* Might the in-between offer a "dwelling place"—a space in which human beings can find belonging?
* What does it mean to belong to the in-between, and how might such belonging impact our response to contemporary crises, such as cultural fragmentation, ecological challenges, or global conflict?

This workshop aims to foster dialogue on these profound questions, bringing together diverse cultural perspectives to explore the significance of the in-between. By examining how belonging to the in-between is conceived and experienced across traditions, we hope to uncover new ways of thinking about human connection, identity, and the shared spaces that shape our world. Through this lens, the in-between becomes not just a philosophical abstraction but a practical and transformative dimension of human life.