

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910337688603321
Titolo	Dao Companion to the Excavated Guodian Bamboo Manuscripts // edited by Shirley Chan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2019
ISBN	3-030-04633-8
Edizione	[1st ed. 2019.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (375 pages)
Collana	Dao Companions to Chinese Philosophy, , 2542-8780 ; ; 10
Disciplina	011.310951 181.11
Soggetti	Philosophy, Modern Philosophy - History Philosophy, Ancient Philosophical Traditions History of Philosophy Ancient Philosophy / Classical Philosophy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
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Sommario/riassunto

This volume covers the philosophical, historical, religious, and interpretative aspects of the ancient Guodian bamboo manuscripts ( ) which were disintombed in the Guodian Village in Hubei Province, China, in 1993. Considered to be the Chinese equivalent of the Dead Sea Scrolls, these manuscripts are archaeological finds whose importance cannot be underestimated. Many of the texts are without counterparts in the transmitted tradition, and they provide unique insights into the developments of Chinese philosophy in the period between the death of Confucius (551-479 BCE) and the writings of Mencius (c.372-289 BCE), and beyond. Divided into two parts, the book first provides inter-textual contexts and backgrounds of the Guodian manuscripts. The second part covers the main concepts and arguments in the Guodian texts, including cosmology and metaphysics, political philosophy, moral psychology, and theory of human nature. The thematic essays serve as an introduction to the philosophical significance and the key philosophical concepts/thought of each text contained in the Guodian corpus. Each chapter has a section on the implications of the texts for the received tradition, or for the purpose of comparing some of the text(s) with the received tradition in terms of the key philosophical concepts as well as the reading and interpretation of the texts. The volume covers most of the texts inscribed on the 800-odd slips of the Guodian corpus dated to the fourth century BCE.

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