The 11th International Conference of Analytical Psychology and Chinese Culture

Refining the Heart through Yi (I Ching): Wisdom of the Heart and Analytical Psychology in the Age of AI

23–26 November 2026

Satellite Venues and Pre-Conference Workshops

27–29 November 2026

Main Conference at Nishan Sacred Land, Qufu, Shandong, China

The Conference, Right Now

We are living through an era of profound technological, social, and cultural transformation. The volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity of the external world coexist with inner experiences of brittleness, anxiety, nonlinearity, and incomprehensibility. Psychological crises, relational alienation, cultural disconnection, and the loss of meaning have become increasingly visible in contemporary life.

Artificial intelligence is rapidly entering education, healthcare, psychological services, knowledge production, artistic creation, and everyday communication. It can process data, generate language, and perform complex forms of calculation and reasoning. At the same time, its development

raises fundamental questions: What remains distinctively human when machines can imitate human language, judgment, and creativity? Can technology replace emotional connection, moral responsibility, symbolic experience, and the inner life? How can we preserve the human heart and our shared humanity in the age of AI?

These are not merely technological questions. They are also psychological, cultural, ethical, and spiritual questions. They call for a renewed understanding of the human psyche and for methods that can help individuals and communities live with uncertainty, contradiction, and continuous change.

Refining the Heart through the Yi (the I Ching)

The idea of "refining the heart through the Yi" comes from the traditional wisdom of the I Ching. It refers to cleansing and clarifying the inner life through an understanding of change, returning the person to a more authentic relationship with the self, others, nature, and the wider order of life.

The I Ching embodies the meanings of simplicity, change, and constancy. Its understanding of image and principle, time and the mean, number and vital energy offers not only a philosophy of transformation but also a way of perceiving psychological life. It teaches us to recognize timing, relationship, meaningful pattern, and the possibilities that emerge within change.

In the age of AI, this wisdom has renewed relevance. Genuine wisdom is not simply the possession of more information. It also involves recognizing limits, tolerating uncertainty, holding opposites, understanding transformation, and preserving the openness and integrity of the heart.

Illuminating the Heart and Knowing the Self-Nature

The conference theme also draws upon the Chinese traditions of cultivating, illuminating, and understanding the heart. Confucianism, Buddhism, and Daoism have developed different but interconnected approaches to inner cultivation through sincerity, benevolence, reciprocity, illuminating the mind, emptying the heart, and the fasting of the heart.

The "wisdom of the heart" is also central to analytical psychology. For Jung, in his encounter with the spirit of the depths and re-finding the soul, he discovered that "*there is a knowledge of the heart that gives deeper insight*" (RB, p. 233). Jung emphasized a form of knowledge that cannot be reduced to abstract concepts or rational calculation: the knowledge of the heart. Such knowledge emerges through lived experience, symbolic understanding, emotional participation, ethical responsibility, and inner transformation.

The encounter between analytical psychology and Chinese culture may contribute to a psychology of the heart that combines cultural depth with healing practice. Rather than attempting to eliminate every conflict, it helps people engage with dreams, images, symbols, complexes, and inner opposites, allowing new meaning and integration to emerge.

A Continuing East–West Dialogue

Since the first International Conference of Analytical Psychology and Chinese Culture was held in 1998, ten conferences have sustained a continuing dialogue between Chinese culture and Western depth psychology. Over nearly three decades, the conferences have explored analysis and experience, image and resonance, ethics and wisdom, active imagination, dreams and the psyche, the I Ching and analytical psychology, archetypes and healing, enlightenment and individuation, and psychological reflection in times of collective crisis.

Carl Jung and Richard Wilhelm shared a single, profound aspiration—to build a cultural bridge between East and West, enabling a deep, harmonious integration of their cultures and souls. Wilhelm, as the emissary of Chinese culture, and Jung, through his analytical psychology, stood as the solid piers and bridgeheads supporting this grand structure.

The eleventh conference at Nishan carries forward this cultural journey. It seeks to continue the unfinished dialogue between Jung and Wilhelm, deepen the encounter between Eastern wisdom and Western depth psychology, and place psychological knowledge in the service of healing, education, public welfare, and a shared human future.

Why Nishan?

Nishan is the birthplace of Confucius and a sacred landscape of Confucian culture. Holding the conference at Nishan gives its central questions a living cultural setting. It invites us to reconnect nature, psyche, method, and the Dao, and to ensure that the techniques of technology remain in the service of the human heart.

The Confucian tradition emphasizes self-cultivation, benevolence, reciprocity, social responsibility, and the ethical life. At Nishan, the discussion of the wisdom of the heart is connected not only with theory but also with personal cultivation, relationship, action, and communal life.

Official website: https://www.chinanishan.com/custom-service

Main Conference Themes

1. The I Ching and Analytical Psychology: Psychological wisdom for a community with a shared future for humanity
2. C. G. Jung and Richard Wilhelm: Communication and meaning in East–West cultural psychology
3. Confucian Psychology of the Heart: Benevolence, righteousness, ritual propriety, and wisdom rooted in the heart
4. Chan/Zen and Analytical Psychology: The wisdom of illuminating the heart and its psychological practice
5. Daoist Thought and Analytical Psychology: From emptying the heart and the Dao gathering in emptiness to the fasting of the heart
6. AI and Analytical Psychology: Applications, limitations, ethics, and reflection in psychology and psychological services
7. Analytical Psychology and Sandplay Therapy: Image, symbol, and the methodological significance of Zhou Dunyi's Taiji Diagram

8. Analytical Psychology and Dream Work: From Freud to Jung, active imagination, and the fulfillment of dreams
9. Analytical Psychology and Expressive Arts: Psychological practices inspired by the Six Arts of Chinese culture
10. Chinese Medicine and Analytical Psychology: The I Ching and medicine, timely balance, centering, and psychological healing
11. Analytical Psychology and Society: Cultural healing, social practice, and psychological assistance in emergencies
12. The Knowledge of the Heart and Psychology of the Heart: The Chinese cultural understanding of the heart and the development of contemporary depth psychology

Invited Speakers and Guests

(some speakers' titles will follow)

Murray stein

Memories, a Dream, and Some Reflections on the Future of Jungian Psychology in Consultation with the I Ching

Joe Cambray

Refining Reveries, An Alchemical Approach to Engaging the Hexagrams

John Beebe

The Wilhelm/Baynes I Ching as a Guide to the Care of the Little-s Self

Thomas Singer

Culture Unconscious and Culture complex

Fred Borchardt

"Umbilini": A Traditional African Path for Understanding of the Heart

Linda Carter

A Question of Balance:Waking Sleeping Helpers to Hold Suffering

Antonella Adorisio

The Quantum Heart: Reclaiming Xin, Body Wisdom, and Soul in the Age of AI

Marta Tibaldi

The Objectivity of the Heart. Embodied Cognition, I Ching and AI: a personal growth methodology to help young people access their personal and collective unconscious

Stephen Garratt

When We Consult the Machine: AI, the I Ching, and the Archetypal Need for Guidance

Dennis Merritt

A Journey to the Sacred Heart of China

Stefano Carpani

Who Knows Better: The I Ching or AI?

Stephen Aizenstat

Keeping Our Humanity in a Technological World

Robert Bosnak

The World of Changes and the Function of Artificial Emotional Intelligence

Martin Schmidt

Transforming the Questioner: Wisdom in the Age of AI

Yi Wu (Chinese-American philosopher and scholar of the I Ching)

How Knowledge Transforms into Wisdom: Transmuting the Crises Brought by AI

Anwu Lin (Confucian philosopher from Taiwan, China)

The "Great Man" Harmonizes Virtue with AI: A Discussion Beginning from the "Three States of Being" (Cun-You)

Heyong Shen (Jungian analyst and ISST sandplay therapist; IAAP/CSAP and ISST/CSST)

The Wisdom of the Heart: Healing and Transformation

Baorui Du (Confucian philosopher from Taiwan, China)

Mencian School of Heart and Psychological Counseling

Kuei-san Lai (Confucian and I Ching scholar from Taiwan, China)

Refining the Heart and Retiring into Secrecy, Where the Square is Wisdom and the Round is Spirituality: An Analytical Critique of the "Psycho-Spiritual" Thought in the Texts and Commentaries of the I Ching

Jianyong Jiang (Former Deputy Director of the State Administration for Religious Affairs)

Jiefu Huang (Former Vice Minister of Health of China)

Zexian Yan (Vice-Chairman of the University Council, City University of Macau)

Shouchang Wang (President of the Academy of Chinese Culture)

Shangxin Li (President of the Chinese Society of I Ching Studies)

Wenzhi Zhang (Vice President and Chief Secretary of the Chinese Society of I Ching)

Shahbaz Khan (Director and Representative, UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia)

Zhen Liu (Professor at China University of Political Science and Law)

Yuhuai He (NewYork-Presbyterian / Weill Cornell Medical Center)

Betty Jackson (Honorary Secretary of ISST, USA)

Eva Pattis Zoja (Founding President of IAES, Italy)

Luigi Zoja (Former President of IAAP, Italy)

George Hogenson (Former Vice President of IAAP, USA)

Andrew Samuels (Professor of Analytical Psychology at the University of Essex, UK)

Stanton Marlan (President of the Pittsburgh Society of Jungian Analysts, USA)

Jörg Rasche (Former Vice President of IAAP and ISST, Germany)

Jill Fischer (Co-Chair of the IAAP Ethics Committee, USA)

Shantena Augusto Sabbadini (Translator of the I Ching, Italy)

Riccardo Bernardini (Scientific Secretary of the Eranos Foundation, Italy)

Brian Feldman (Former Chief of Clinical Psychology at Stanford University Medical Center, USA)

Allan Guggenbühl (Founder of Mythodrams, Switzerland)

Daniel Benveniste (Clinical Psychologist and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist, USA)

Hermann Schultz (Psychoanalyst and IPA Training Analyst, Germany)

Alf Gerlach (Psychoanalyst, Germany)

Richard Berengarten (Poet, UK)

Conference Timeline

23–26 November 2026: Satellite venues and pre-conference workshops

27–29 November 2026: Main conference at Nishan Sacred Land

30 November–4 December 2026: Post-conference study tour

Post-Conference Study Tour

The post-conference study tours are optional and self-funded. The estimated cost is approximately RMB 3,200 per person, subject to the final itinerary, number of participants, and actual expenses.

Route 1　The Three Confucian Sites · the Historic Home of Yan Hui · Mencius Temple

Explore the homeland of Confucius and Mencius through its most iconic heritage sites, including the Temple and Cemetery of Confucius, the Kong Family Mansion, the Temple of Yan Hui (Confucius's most esteemed disciple), and the sacred sites of Mencius (the "Second Sage" of Confucianism). Discover the living spirit of Confucian wisdom at its source. (Photo: 2002 Post-conference tour in Qufu)

Route 2　Nishan · Wuxi · Lingshan

Journey from the Confucian sacred landscape of Nishan to the Buddhist sanctuary of Lingshan in Wuxi. Visit the Lingshan Grand Buddha, the Lingshan Brahma Palace, Xiangfu Zen Temple, and Nianhua Bay. Walking meditation, seated meditation, tea gatherings, sutra copying, Zen music, and blessing ceremonies offer an immersive journey of spiritual reflection.

Route 3 Mount Tai · Spring City

Explore Mount Tai, the Dawenkou Archaeological Site, Lingyan Temple, and Baotu Spring. The journey also includes an academic visit to the Center for Zhouyi & Ancient Chinese Philosophy at Shandong University, bringing together sacred landscapes, early Chinese civilization, Buddhist heritage, and contemporary scholarship on the I Ching. (Photo: 2002 Post-conference tour at Mount Tai)

Working Language

The international programme will be conducted primarily in English and Chinese. Interpretation and language arrangements for selected sessions will be announced with the final programme.

Visa Information

International participants are responsible for obtaining the appropriate travel documents for entry into China. Nationals of certain countries holding ordinary passports may currently enter China visa-free for up to 30 days for purposes including exchange visits.

Participants who are not eligible for visa-free entry should apply for the appropriate Chinese visa. Attendance at a non-commercial academic or cultural conference will generally fall within the scope of an F visa. After registration has been confirmed, the Conference Organizing Committee may provide an invitation letter in support of the visa application.

For the latest visa and entry requirements, please consult the official websites:

National Immigration Administration: https://en.nia.gov.cn/

Consular Services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: https://cs.mfa.gov.cn/

Chinese Visa Application Service Center: https://www.visaforchina.cn/

Visa and visa-exemption policies may be adjusted. Participants are advised to verify the latest requirements applicable to their nationality, passport type, purpose of travel, and intended date of entry before making travel arrangements.

Travel Information

Getting to Qufu

The nearest airports are Jining Da'an Airport (JNG), approximately 1–1.5 hours from Qufu by car, and Jinan Yaoqiang International Airport (TNA), approximately 2–2.5 hours away. Alternatively, you may fly to Beijing or Shanghai and take a direct high-speed train to Qufu East Railway Station. The train journey takes approximately 2–3 hours from Beijing South Railway Station and 3–4 hours from Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station. Nishan Sacred Land is approximately a 20–30-minute drive from Qufu East Railway Station. Travel times are approximate and may vary depending on the selected service, traffic, and transfer arrangements.

Conference Accommodation

Nishan Sacred Land, the conference venue, offers ample accommodation with five-star-standard facilities and service. Rooms may be reserved directly through the conference registration page. As the hotel is popular, early booking is strongly recommended. The estimated room rate is approximately RMB 400 per room per night, subject to final confirmation and availability.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at psyheartchina@gmail.com.

Weather and What to Pack

China has a vast territory, and weather conditions vary considerably by region in late November. Northern China is generally cold and dry, while southern China remains comparatively mild. Shandong Province, where Qufu is located, is entering early winter at this time of year. In Qufu, daytime temperatures are typically around 10-13°C (50-55°F), while nighttime temperatures may fall to approximately 0-3°C (32-37°F) or occasionally below freezing. We recommend bringing warm layered clothing, a winter coat, comfortable walking shoes, and protection against wind and dry weather. Please check the latest forecast before departure.

Registration

Registration Fee: USD 300 per participant

After payment, please send your **payment receipt** and **registration form** to: psyheartchina@gmail.com

Registration will be confirmed upon payment.

Bank Transfer Information

Bank Name: Industrial and commercial bank of China (Macau) Limited

Account Name: FEDERACAO DE ANALISE PSICOLOGICA CHINESA

Account Number: 0108000100000930142

Bank Address: 18/F, Macau Landmark, 555 Avenida da Amizade, Macau

SWIFT CODE: ICBKMOMX

Important: Please include the participant's full name in the payment reference and retain a copy of the bank transfer receipt. Send the payment receipt together with the completed registration form to psyheartchina@gmail.com for confirmation.

Confucius said, "Is it not a joy to have friends coming from afar?" Join us at Nishan, the birthplace of Confucius, as we bring Chinese wisdom into dialogue with analytical psychology and explore the future of the human heart in the age of AI. We look forward to welcoming you to Qufu in November 2026.

Highlights from the First Ten Conferences

The 1st Conference: "Analysis and Experience: East and West" (1998, South China Normal University, Guangzhou)

The First Conference was held in September 1998 at South China Normal University in Guangzhou and the Seven Star Crags Scenic Area in Zhaoqing, sponsored by IAAP. The theme of the conference was "Analysis and Experience: East and West." During the conference, many analytical psychologists visited Guo'en Temple in Xinxing, the hometown of Huineng, the Sixth Patriarch of Chan Buddhism. Star Lake and the Seven Star Crags, echoing the constellation of the Big Dipper, reflected the distinctive atmosphere of this conference.

Luigi Zoja, then President of IAAP, said in his address: "It is a great honor for me to convey my best wishes on the historic occasion of the First International Conference on Analytical Psychology and Chinese Culture. The IAAP has long maintained deep ties with China and Chinese culture. I believe that Professor Jung himself, were he to know that we are holding this conference, would have felt deeply gratified."

The 2nd Conference: "Image and Resonance: East and West" (2002, Zhudao Hotel, Guangzhou)

In 2002, the Second Conference was held in Guangzhou, under the theme "Image and Resonance: East and West." In his lecture, Professor Jiefu Huang, then Vice Minister of the Health, P.R.C., stated: "Analytical psychology is an important cornerstone of psychotherapy and clinical psychology. The study of analytical psychology in conjunction with traditional Chinese culture is of profound significance and will undoubtedly further advance academic research in the field. Through mutual learning and exchange at the international level, analytical psychology and cultural psychology in China will continue to develop, playing a positive role in psychological education and in the promotion of mental health."

Professor Zexian Yan, then President of the Guangdong Provincial Federation of Social Sciences, said: “I believe that this conference will once again be a high-level interdisciplinary exchange. ‘East and West are no longer far apart’ was once a celebrated saying, and analytical psychology and Chinese culture provide a point of departure for bringing East and West closer together. Together, we are participating in this meaningful undertaking.”

The 3rd Conference: “Ethics and Wisdom: East and West” (2006, Psi-Heart Island, Guangzhou)

In 2006, the Third Conference was held in Guangzhou, under the theme “Ethics and Wisdom: East and West.” Five successive Presidents IAAP attended the conference together, along with the President and Chief Secretary of ISST, as well as numerous sandplay therapists.

Christian Gaillard, then President of the IAAP, said: “China, especially our relationship and exchange with China and Chinese culture, represents a true inner and psychological need. For from the beginning, when the IAAP was established, and indeed since the inception of Jungian analytical psychology, an intrinsic connection was forged with China and Chinese culture. Thus, I believe we are opening our hearts and minds to the East, and I also believe that the theme, ‘Ethics and Wisdom: East and West,’ addresses an urgent issue that our contemporary world is facing.”

The 4th Conference: “The Images in Jungian Analysis: Active Imagination as a Transformative Function in Culture and Psychotherapy” (2009, Fudan University, Shanghai)

In 2009, the Fourth Conference was held at Fudan University under the theme “Images in Analytical Psychology: The Transformative Role of Active Imagination in Culture and Psychotherapy.”

Hester Solomon, then President of the IAAP, said: “It is a great pleasure to convene the Fourth International Conference on Analytical Psychology and Chinese Culture. The successive and successful international forums have gradually formed a far-reaching tradition. At the same time, this tradition also nurtures innovation. The integration of analytical psychology and Chinese culture carries precisely such innovative significance.”

Andreas Jung, grandson of C. G. Jung, extended his greetings to the conference on behalf of the Jung family: "...My wife and I once visited China, and we were deeply impressed by China's vast and bountiful land, the friendliness of its people, its breathtaking historical monuments, and the astonishing development of its modern cities. In today's era of immense change and innovation, we need a new foundation—a stable and solid foundation that we can find in the deepest recesses of our own psyche, within the soul of every single one of us. Therefore, we highly appreciate and support Heyong Shen's work at Fudan University and the International Conference on Analytical Psychology and Chinese Culture that you host. Thank you for your dedication and tremendous efforts in searching for the essence of analytical psychology."

The 5th Conference: "Dreams, the Symbolic Language of the Psyche: Nature and Culture" (2012, University of Macau, Macau)

In 2012, the Fifth Conference was held at the University of Macau, the theme is "Analytical Psychology in the 21st Century: Symbols of Dreams and the Psyche, Culture and Nature."

The conference extended a special invitation to Bettina Wilhelm, the granddaughter of Richard Wilhelm, for the premiere screening of her documentary film, *Wisdom of Changes: Richard Wilhelm and the I Ching*. The film has garnered widespread international acclaim and is recognized as a contemporary masterpiece in promoting Chinese culture worldwide.

For this memorable occasion, Professor Dajun Liu composed a dedicated inscription for the conference: "One often recognizes the hexagrams through the movements of the heart, just as one awakens to dream omens through the manifestation of the Dao."

The 6th Conference: "The I Ching and Analytical Psychology: Jung and Wilhelm" (2013, Ocean University of China, Qingdao)

In 2013, the Sixth Conference was held at Ocean University of China in Qingdao, under the theme “The I Ching and Analytical Psychology: Jung and Wilhelm, *The Red Book* and Active Imagination.” Notably, a two-day “Roundtable on the I Ching and Analytical Psychology” was organized during the conference, which marked the official launch of the Oriental Eranos Forum.

C. G. Jung regarded his profound encounter and lifelong friendship with Richard Wilhelm as a matter of destiny. He believed that Wilhelm brought the essence of Chinese culture to the West, providing the very “Archimedean point” for his own analytical psychology. During the conference, Murray Stein and his team performed *The Red Book* drama, creating a vivid and genuine dialogue between Eastern and Western psyches. In Qingdao, participants also profoundly connected with the lived experience of "The Rainmaker" story and Active Imagination.

The 7th Conference: “Archetypes, Culture and Healing: Facing Collective Trauma” (2015, City University of Macau, Macau)

In 2015, the Seventh International Conference on Analytical Psychology and Chinese Culture was held at the City University of Macau, under the theme “Archetypes, Culture and Healing: Facing Collective Trauma.” Over 700 analytical psychologists and sandplay therapists from more than 20 countries and regions worldwide attended the conference.

Joe Cambray, former President of the IAAP and Head of the IAAP Asian Development Committee, co-chaired the “First Asian College Students Forum on Analytical Psychology and Oriental Culture” with Professor Heyong Shen, under the theme “Analytical Psychology in the 21st Century.”

The 8th Conference: “Enlightenment and Individuation: East and West” (2018, Chang’an University, Xi’an)

In 2018, the Eighth Conference was held at Chang'an University in Xi'an, under the theme "Enlightenment and Individuation: East and West." More than a thousand analytical psychologists, sandplay therapists, experts, and cultural scholars from all over the world participated in this grand event.

"Enlightenment" represents the supreme psychological and spiritual realm within Chinese culture (encompassing the I Ching, Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism), while "individuation" is the foundation and ultimate goal of Jung's analytical psychology. Centered on this theme, the conference explored methods for attaining wisdom and pathways toward spiritual redemption.

The 9th Conference: "Choice and Changes: Reflection on COVID-19 from the Perspective of Depth Psychology" (2020, Jiangxi Normal University, Nanchang)

In 2020, the Ninth Conference was hosted by Jiangxi Normal University. Held synchronously on-site and online, the conference attracted thousands of participants.

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe in 2020, and in active response to the United Nations' call urging nations to address the mental health challenges brought by the pandemic, the theme of this conference was specially designated as "Choice and Change: Depth Psychological Reflections on the COVID-19 Pandemic."

A profound dialogue between Professor Heyong Shen, Chair of the Conference, and Luigi Zoja, former President of the IAAP, on how "humanity truly understands itself amidst crisis," was featured and published in Guangming Daily (Guangming International Forum, December 5, 2020).

The 10th Conference: "Resonance and Transformation: The I Ching and Analytical Psychology" (2023, Shandong University, Qingdao)

In 2023, the Tenth Conference was held in Jimo, Qingdao, Shandong Province, under the theme "Resonance and Transformation: The I Ching and Analytical Psychology."

The conference also marked the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Richard Wilhelm's birth. Widely recognized as a true cultural ambassador of China, Wilhelm brought the profound meaning of Chinese culture—along with the image of the Chinese people as wise, kind, courageous, upright, and gentle—to the world. As he beautifully remarked in the preface to *The Soul of China*: "I have had the good fortune to spend twenty-five years of my life in China. Like everyone who has lived long in that country, I have learned to love the land and its people."

The cultural value, depth psychological insights, theoretical frameworks, and clinical practices embodied by the I Ching and analytical psychology—such as dream work, sandplay therapy, expressive arts, and depth psychological healing—formed the core issues of this conference, addressing a pressing need in contemporary society.

The conference was intentionally held in Jimo, Qingdao, the very site where the famous story of the Rainmaker took place. On the closing day of the conference, rain began to fall in Qingdao, followed by a widespread snowfall across the entire Jiaodong Peninsula... It was as if the Rainmaker had returned in answer to the calling.

The accumulation of these ten conferences has created a unique and unparalleled platform for dialogue between Eastern and Western psychology. As the Eleventh Conference moves to Nishan, the birthplace of Confucius, it will bring together leading psychologists, Chinese culture scholars, and prominent cultural figures from around the globe.

From November 27 to 29, at Nishan, the sacred birthplace of sages, we look forward to welcoming you and witnessing together this international grand academic event that beautifully integrates analytical psychology and Chinese culture!