Pragmatic Confucian Democracy
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ABSTRACT
This talk explores a normative Confucian democratic theory that justifies democracy both as a political system and as a way of life on pragmatic grounds in East Asia with special attention to Confucianism, a dominant cultural tradition in the region, as well as to value pluralism and moral conflict that increasingly characterize the circumstances of East Asian politics. It presents “pragmatic Confucian democracy” as a fresh normative framework that can help (1) identify the social circumstances that require a democracy as a political system in a Confucian society, (2) explain the internal connection between two dimensions of democracy that are commonly presented in political science as being at odds with each other, and (3) make sense of the value of democracy coherently with reference to its two dimensions.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER