



# Fundamentals of Comparative and Intercultural Philosophy (SUNY series in Chinese Philosophy and Culture)

*Lin Ma, Jaap van Brakel*

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*Discusses the conditions of possibility for intercultural and comparative philosophy, and for crosscultural communication at large.*

This innovative book explores the preconditions necessary for intercultural and comparative philosophy. Philosophical practices that involve at least two different traditions with no common heritage and whose languages have very different grammatical structure, such as Indo-Germanic languages and classical Chinese, are a particular focus. Lin Ma and Jaap van Brakel look at the necessary and not-so-necessary conditions of possibility of interpretation, comparison, and other forms of interaction and how we can speak of similarities and differences in this context. The authors posit that it is necessary to dissolve the question of universalism versus relativism by replacing the ideal language paradigm with a paradigm of family resemblances and that it is not necessary to share a common language to engage in comparison. Numerous case studies are presented, including many comparisons of Western and Chinese concepts.

Lin Ma is Associate Professor of the School of Philosophy at the Renmin University of China and the author of *Heidegger on East-West Dialogue: Anticipating the Event*.

Jaap van Brakel is Professor Emeritus in the Higher Institute of Philosophy at the University of Leuven and the author of *Philosophy of Chemistry: Between the Manifest and the Scientific Image*.

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