

Guoyu Wang

Nanoethics Based on the Principle of Feasibility

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UCSB, Engineering and Sciences Building, Room 1001



More than a decade after the Chinese government's release of its National Program for the Development of Nanotechnology, China has become one of the world's major players in nanotechnology research and development (R&D) and has taken strides in the commercialization of this technology. However, Chinese research on nanoethics from the humanities and social sciences emerged much later and is smaller in scope. In this talk, I will give firstly a brief introduction of the current research progress in nanotechnology and nanoethics in China followed by a reflection on the different approaches of nanoethics. The novel concept of "ethics of feasibility," emphasizing the social acceptability of nanotechnology instead of only concern about the negative consequence of nanotechnology, will be discussed. Finally, some results from our current empirical studies about the safety situation in the workplace and the public perception of nanotechnology in China will be illustrated.

Dr. Guoyu Wang is the Vice Dean of School of Humanities, director of the Department of Philosophy and director of the Center for EU Studies at Dalian University of Technology. She studied philosophy and German literature at Fudan University (Shanghai), Free University Berlin, University of Stuttgart and Dalian University of Technology. Her research interests include German Philosophy of Technology, Ethics of Science and Technology, Ethics of Environment and STS (Science, Technology and Society). She is General Secretary of the Committee of Ethics of Sci-Tech and Engineering, the Chinese Society for Dialectics of Nature, and executive member of the councils of several associations including the Association for Chinese Environmental Ethics, Association for Bioethics and Association for Chinese Philosophy of Technology. She is the PI of the center for ethics and management of technology DUT, and also PI for the National Key Research Project for Humanities and Social Sciences "*ethics of high- technology.*" She conducts research on the philosophy and ethics of emerging science and technology as well as research on technology policy in the European Union. She has received several grants from the Chinese National Science Foundation and Chinese Social Science Foundation to study the challenges associated with ethics and governance of nanotechnology.



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