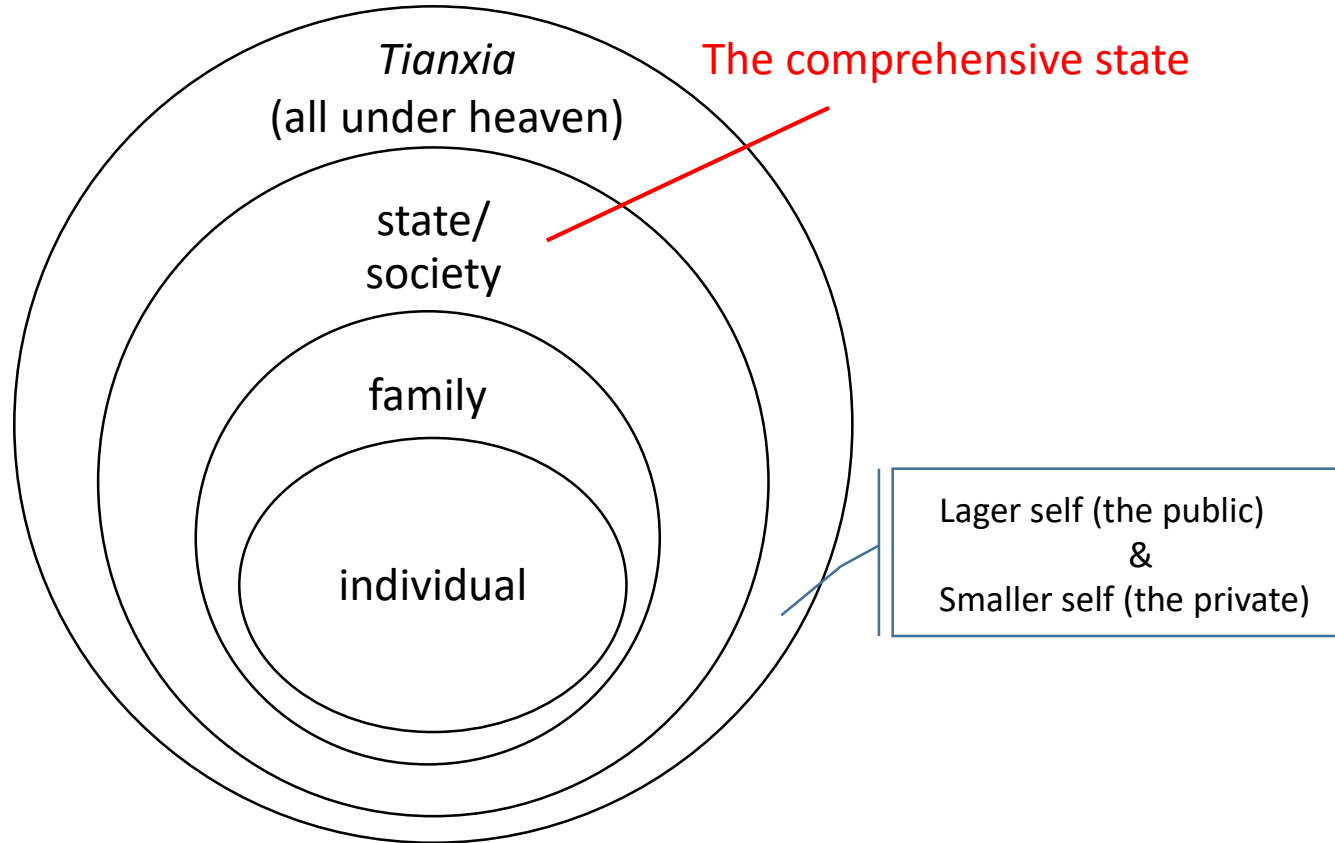


Similarities and differences between notions of “public” in the Chinese and liberal Anglo-American traditions, and the implications for higher education

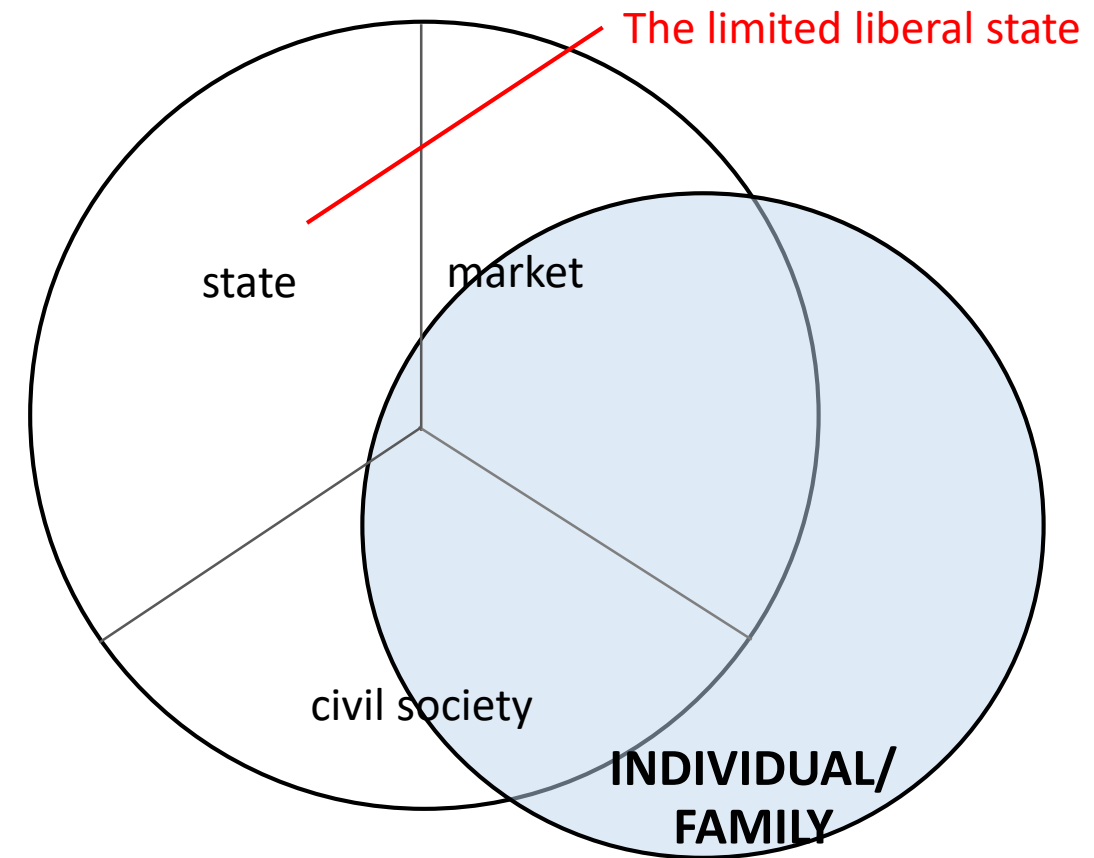
Lili Yang, University of Oxford

CGHE 2020 Annual Conference webinar, 16 June 2020

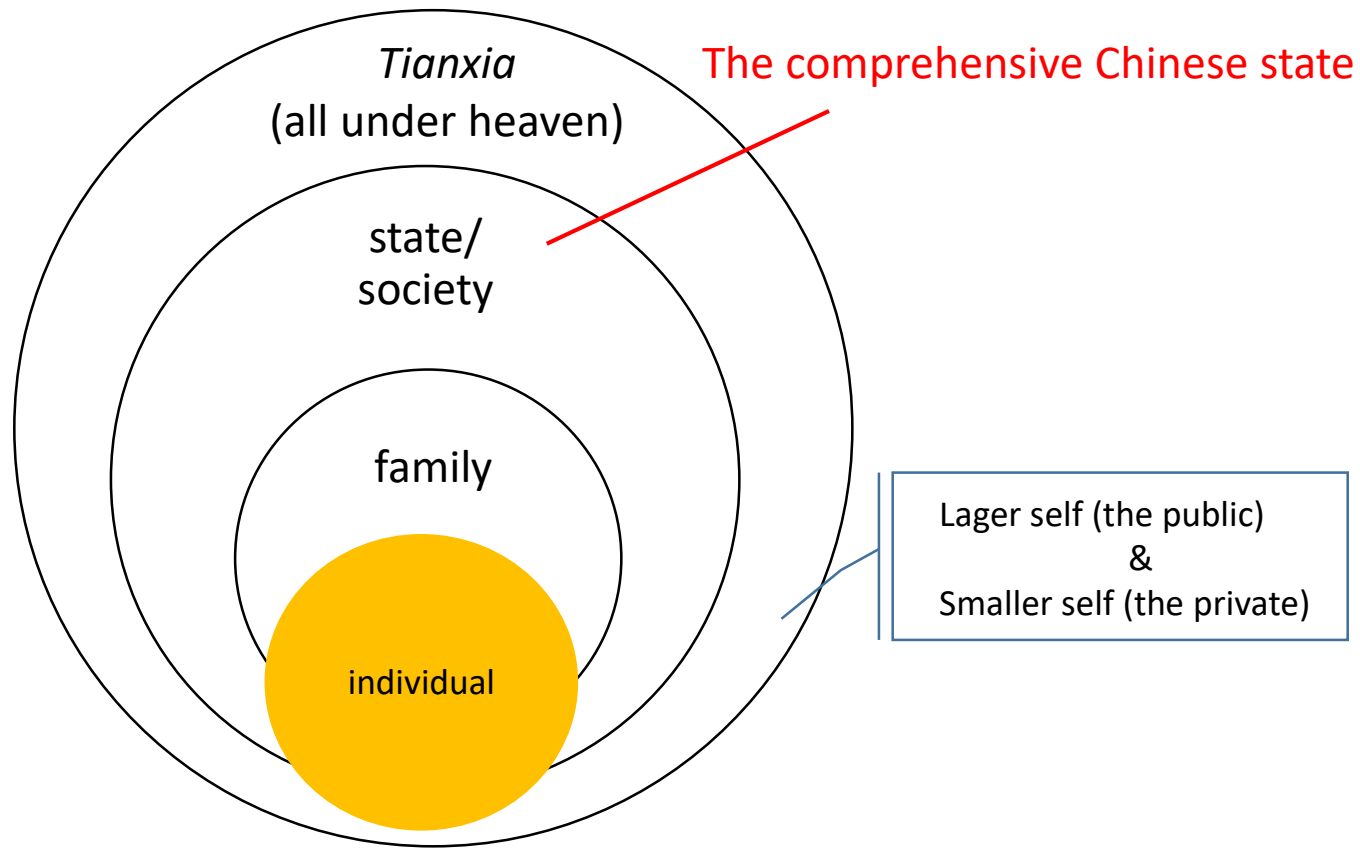
lili.yang@education.ox.ac.uk



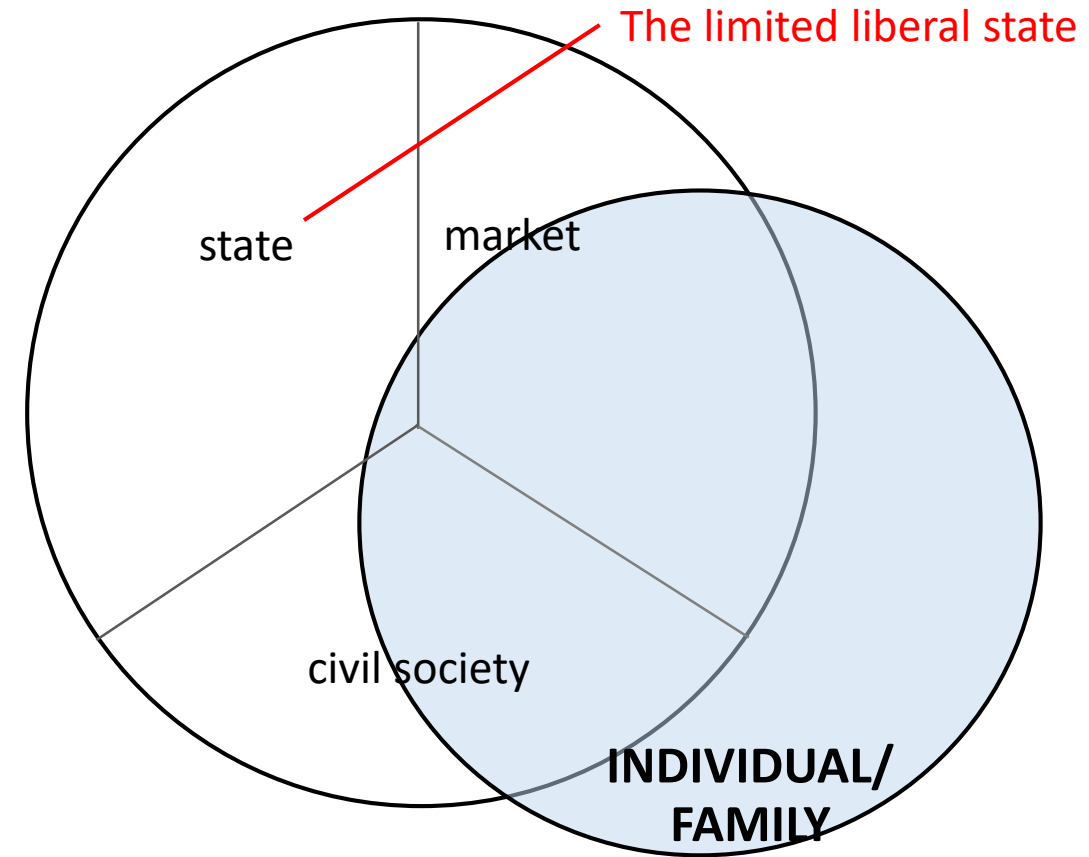
Social imaginaries in the Chinese tradition



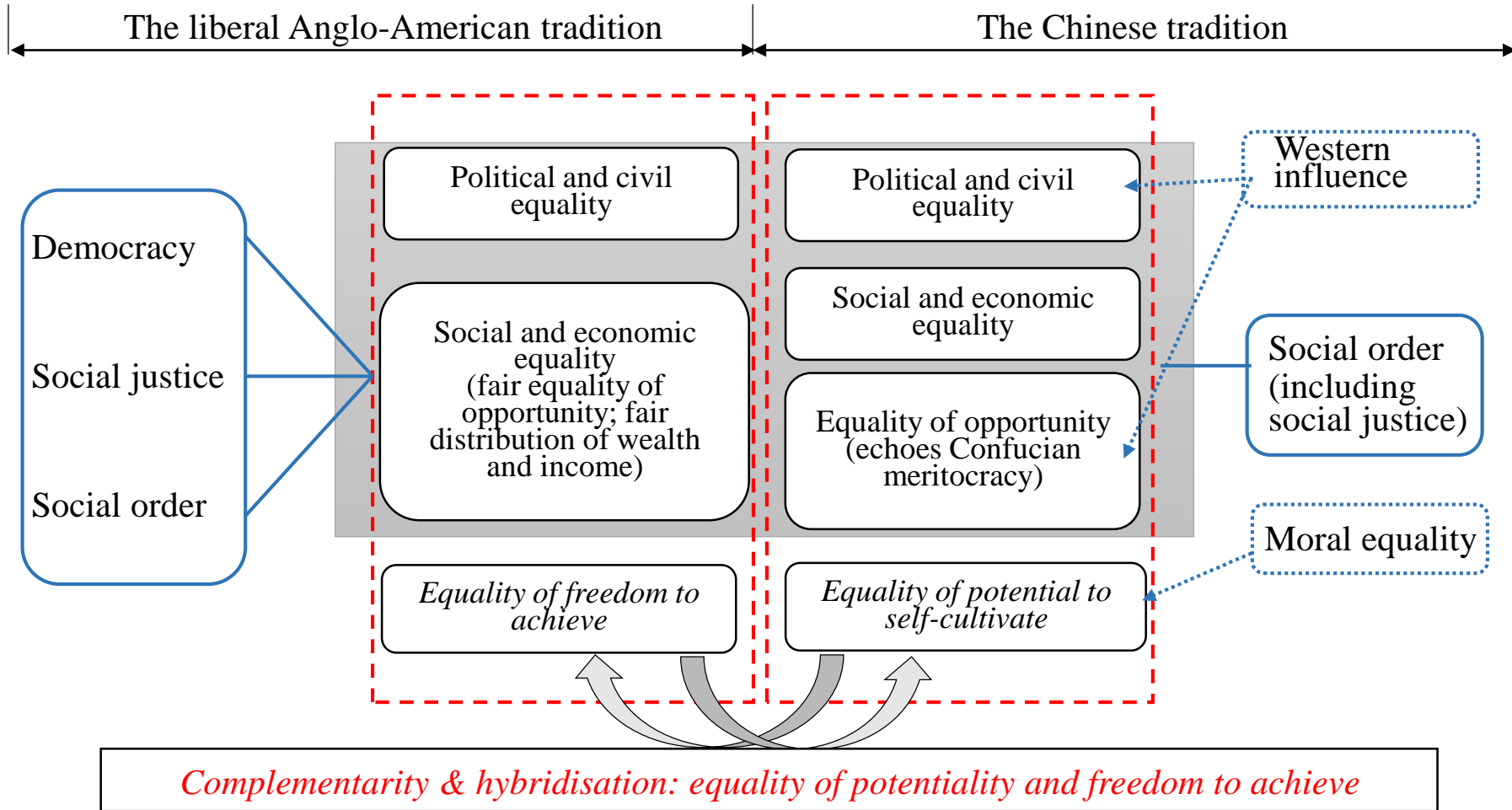
Social imaginaries in the liberal Anglo-American tradition



Social imaginaries in the Chinese tradition



Social imaginaries in the liberal Anglo-American tradition



I have heard it said that those who preside over states or family domains do not worry that they will have too few goods, **they worry that distribution of goods may be uneven**; they do not worry about poverty, they worry they will not bring peace. **When distribution is even there is no poverty**; when there is harmony there is no underpopulation; when there is peace there is no danger the ruler will topple.

丘也闻有国有家者，不患寡而患不均，不患贫而患不安。盖均无贫，和无寡，安无倾。

——*Analects Jishi* (《论语·季氏将伐颛臾》)



Complementarity & hybridisation: equality of potentiality and freedom to achieve

Niels Bohr: The principle of complementarity – “Contrary is not contradictory but complementary.”

- Equality of potentiality to self-cultivate: emphasises individual personalities, characters, and agency.
- Equality of freedom to achieve: emphasises the external environment.

Equality can be maximised **when the external conditions are harmonized with the individual effort** – when social structure and agency are combined, collective conditions and individual are combined, the outer and inner self are combined. In this case, it is possible to have maximum personal empowerment of the maximum number.

Thank you!

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Further discussion in:

Yang, L. (in review). Social equity and equity in higher education: A comparison of the liberal Anglo-American and Chinese political cultures. Draft journal paper.

Marginson, S. and Yang, L. (2020). The role of higher education in generating 'public' and 'common' goods: A comparison of Sinic and Anglo-American political cultures. *CGHE Working Paper 52*. ESRC/OFSRE Centre for Global Higher Education, University of Oxford.

Marginson, S. and Yang, L. (forthcoming). China meets Anglo-America on the New Silk Road
A comparison of state, society, self, and higher education. In M. van der Wende, W. Kirby, N. Liu and S. Marginson (eds.), *China and Europe on the New Silk Road: Connecting universities across Eurasia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Marginson, S. and Yang, L. (in review). Individual and collective outcomes of higher education: A comparison of Anglo-American and Chinese approaches. Draft journal paper.