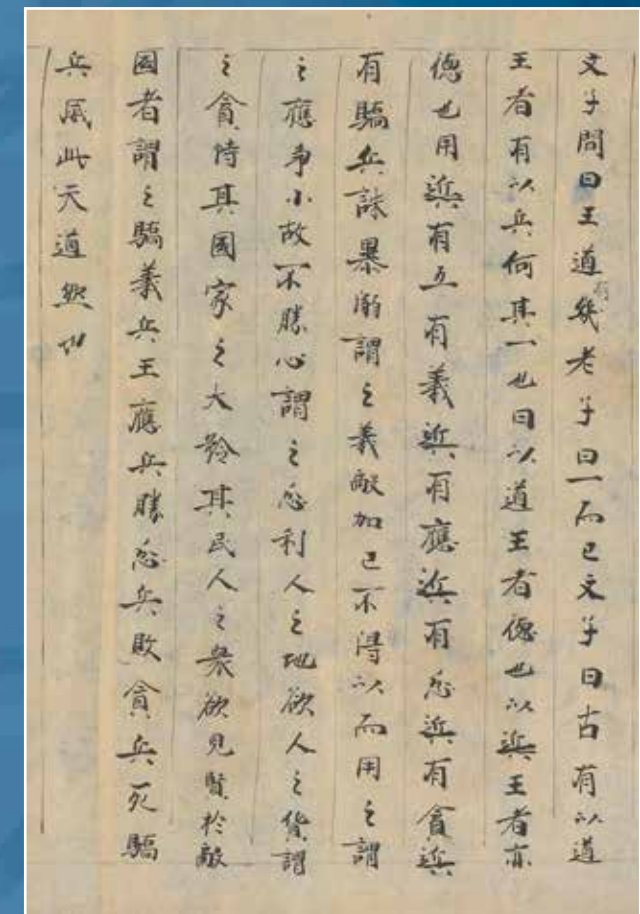


The *Wenzi*

CREATIVITY AND INTERTEXTUALITY
IN EARLY CHINESE PHILOSOPHY



Paul VAN ELS

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The *Wenzi*
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Studies in the History of Chinese Texts

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The *Wenzi* is a Chinese philosophical text that enjoyed considerable prestige in the centuries following its creation, over two-thousand years ago. When questions regarding its authenticity arose, the text was branded a forgery and consigned to near oblivion. The discovery of an age-old *Wenzi* manuscript, inked on strips of bamboo, refueled interest in the text. In this combined study of the bamboo manuscript and the received text, Van Els argues that they belong to two distinct text traditions as he studies the date, authorship, and philosophy of each tradition, as well as the reception history of the received text. This study sheds light on text production and reception in Chinese history, with its changing views on authorship, originality, authenticity, and forgery, both past and present.

Paul VAN ELS, Ph.D. (2006), is University Lecturer of China Studies at Leiden University. He authored *Van orakelbot tot weblog*, a two-volume textbook of Classical Chinese (Leiden University Press, 2011, 2015), and he co-edited, with Sarah A. Queen, *Between History and Philosophy: Anecdotes in Early China* (State University of New York Press, 2017).



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