

LINA GOTAUTĖ

## The Myth of Alterity of China: F. Jullien's Case

### Summary

The aim of this article is the critical analysis of François Jullien's work the "Myth of alterity of China". The article reviews the works of renowned Western philosophers and sinologists: F. Billeter, J. Needham, S. Leys, and others. It reveals F. Jullien's unique approach towards the expansion of the connotations of Western philosophy through China as a *roundabout way*, which is done to synthesize Eastern and Western thoughts as well as to highlight key similarities and differences between them. The method of comparative analysis is employed to juxtapose F. Jullien's academic works dedicated to the Chinese thought that encompass the range of sinologists' opinions from "China

as radical alterity" to "China as similar to the Western world". Substantial attention is paid to the detalization of F. Jullien's creative philosophical thought: the article emphasizes his innovative approach as well as the dislocation of the philosophical thought in the dominated by oppositions academic world. The aim of the analysis is to highlight and explicate the position of China as an *instrument* in F. Jullien's philosophical paradigm. Its major goal is to think the unthought-of and shed light on the academic oppositions constructed between China (as alterity) and the West, as well as the place of F. Jullien's philosophical viewpoint in the context of East-West comparative studies.

**Keywords:** F. Jullien, comparative philosophy, comparative studies, the myth of alterity of China, J. F. Billeter.