

Wu-wei 無為 (non-action). *Wu-wei* is a seemingly paradoxical slogan in Lao Zi's *Dao-De-Jing* the literal sense of which is non-action. The apparent paradox arises because conforming to *wu-wei* is a kind of action *wei*-ing. The term *wu-wei* means one, or combined more than one, of the following depending on context and situation: (1) do not do those things that are against being natural; (2) one should restrict one's activities to what is natural (or what is naturally needed); (3) do not do those things that go beyond natural limitation; for things will develop in the opposite direction when they become extreme; (4) act in a natural or un-excessive way, which can be eventually developed into a highly-natural – effortless or spontaneous – way; (5) act without pretentious “acting”; (6) avoid doing unnecessary things in achieving something; (7) avoid actions based merely on socialized values or desires such as status, fame, or rank. What is at issue is what counts as being natural, what is naturally needed, or the natural limitation of a thing. Their identities are context-sensitive.

Literature: Fraser, Chris. “*Wu-Wei, the Background, and Intentionality*”, in *Searle's Philosophy and Chinese Philosophy*, ed. Bo Mou, Leiden: Brill, 2008, 63-92. Slingerland, Edward. *Effortless Action: Wu-wei as Conceptual Metaphor and Spiritual Ideal in Early China*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.