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'Process-based versus Object-based Ontologies: some comparative observations'

The project of the workshop deals with 'ancient ontological systems' largely in the Greco-Roman world. My paper will take a broader perspective. I shall review both philosophical and medical texts both from ancient Greece and from ancient China to examine what light they throw on the ontological presuppositions of their authors and to test how far a process-based framework was adopted rather than an object or substance-based one. It is important, I argue, not to underestimate either the divergences as between cosmological and medical texts in both ancient civilisations, or, more especially, those between Greek and Chinese writers.