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Michael Puett is the Walter C. Klein Professor of Chinese History in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations and the Chair of the Committee on the Study of Religion at Harvard University.

He is the recipient of a Harvard College Professorship for excellence in undergraduate teaching. He is the author of *The Ambivalence of Creation: Debates Concerning Innovation and Artifice in Early China* and *To Become a God: Cosmology, Sacrifice, and Self-Divinization in Early China*, as well as the co-author, with Adam Seligman, Robert Weller, and Bennett Simon, of *Ritual and its Consequences: An Essay on the Limits of Sincerity*.

**Rethinking notions of causality and reality: Indigenous theories from China**

The relationship between causality and reality is hotly debated in both the sciences and social sciences. This paper will argue that theories that arose in China concerning these issues provide compelling approaches – approaches that may open some interesting possibilities for current debates.