

Peking University



# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016 / Issue 37



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## PEKING UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016 | Issue 37



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### Contact Us

**Address:** Office of International Relations  
 Peking University, 100871  
 Beijing, P.R. China  
**Phone:** (+86) 10-6275-7453  
**Fax:** (+86) 10-6275-1240  
**Email:** xiaorui.eric@pku.edu.cn

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## Foreign Minister of Iran Speaks at PKU

▸ Ghulam Mustafa

Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif visited Peking University on the 6th of December, 2016. After meeting with Lin Jianhua, the President of Peking University and Ning Qi, the Dean of the PKU School of Foreign Languages, he addressed a large gathering attended by more than 20 foreign ambassadors, many professors, faculty members, and students from different universities. Peking University has a major role in providing an understanding of the world and part of that mission is to help Chinese people better understand the Middle East. The university believes

in understanding the point of view of different societies, cultures, languages, and religions of the world. This is the reason that the first ever book written by any Chinese professor on Shia Muslims is by a professor of Peking University, Professor Wu Bingbing. In order to deeply understand the China-Iran relationship and to give a more comprehensive view of the topic, I interviewed Professor Wu Bingbing. During the interview, I asked Professor Wu about the history and future of China-Iran relations and have included excerpts from the interview below.

Iran and China not only share a

strong trade and economic ties but also have a common vision to build relations with countries of the world. Why China and Iran relations are important for the Middle East was explained by Professor Wu Bingbing in the following words, "Iran has great influence in Central Asia and the Middle East and this means Iran can be an important partner of China. Due to sanctions on Iran, its infrastructure doesn't match the needs of its people, and here China is playing a role."

The effort of China to help Iran during its sanctions was warmly lauded by the Supreme Leader of

Iran, Ayatullah Khamenai, during President Xi Jinping's visit to Iran he said "Iran will never forget Chinese cooperation during the sanctions."

The visit of the Foreign Minister of Iran, Javad Zarif, to China has some special importance for both countries. Especially after the changing situation of the Middle East and the election of the new U.S. president, both countries are becoming even closer.

### China-Iran Relations

The Foreign Minister started his speech by highlighting the close relations of Iran and China, "We have a History of close relations, a history of cooperation, of understanding between Iran and China, and now we are working for a better future with promises of engagement and participation together for collective action in areas of mutual interest."

### Hegemonic Rule

To elaborate how the world was ruled in the past, he started by describing the rule in the era of two super powers, "The international system from basically the end of the Second World War till the demise of the Eastern Bloc was very rigid. Everything was basically described and defined

in terms of super power relations and super power rivalry. And all players, all activities in the international scene have to one way or other form and conform to that system."

The collapse of the Soviet Union made the situation worse for the world as it was interpreted by the U.S. as their victory, "After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc, there was a misperception in the West. That misperception was that the West had won the Cold War. It was a bad illusion. A bad illusion from which we continued to suffer for almost 30 years."

Under this bad illusion, and the desire of capturing the resources of the rest of the world, the U.S. tried to institutionalize its hegemonic power and started military operations, "If you look at the history in the 1990's, you can see that the United States

was hoping to turn the temporary victory into a permanent institutionalized global supremacy. Almost annually, the U.S. had one major military operation. You remember thinking about Iraq, thinking about Somalia, thinking about Sudan, Kosovo, and Yugoslavia. And then when we have former president Bush who engaged in two major wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. All of us know they didn't go there to liberate the people but they went there to institutionalize their supremacy under the illusion that they could in fact become the greatest hegemonic power."

The hegemonic intentions and waging of war on other countries made the world and even the U.S. more insecure. "What have they gained? Is the U.S. more secure today because of its invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq? Is anybody more secure today? Everybody is less secure."



北京大学对外交流中心



He appreciated the role China is currently playing is based on a win-win strategy, in which every country gains according to its share, "I am very happy that at the foundation of the Chinese global approach represented by the new initiative by President Xi is the One Belt, One Road initiative, lies very fundamental requirements of the globalized world. That is, we need positive sum games."

## The Current Era

Javad Zarif seems to be very hopeful for the current era. He thinks that now the states could make their own

future and decision itself, "As history is no longer made by the two super powers, this gives all of us a promising future which puts responsibility on the shoulder of every single individual but also gives us a lot of freedom of action in a lot of challenges on the road ahead of us."

He also shared his vision how the relations in the countries can be built in the world, "We can't have anything other than positive sum games. The perception or the illusion that you can win at the expense of others will lead to a negative sum game. You either win together or loose together. We can't have greatness of one country at the

costs of others, that is an illusion, and I think that the slogans we are hearing from Washington are simply the reiteration of the illusion of the 1990s that brought about so much disaster for the world. The sooner people wake up, the sooner they will realize that this illusion will not get us anywhere."

Appreciating the role of China in the transitional phase he elaborated, "China is a global player in the transitional phase and has continuously played a very important role in shaping the future of the world, and we believe that we can work together to achieve that."

Regarding his strategy of having success in the transitional phase, "In a global society, we can't create coalitions against this or that. We need to build networks. Networks of connectivity. Networks of cooperation. Networks of common use. Networks of common objectives. Networks that serve a common humanity. Networks that recognize that we sit in the same boat in troubled waters. We either sail together or sink together."

### About Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif

Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif has many years of experience in different posts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was the Deputy Minister for Legal and International Affairs for ten years. He was also the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in New York for five years. During his career as a diplomat, Dr. Zarif has been selected several times as a Distinguished Director at the national and organizational levels.

Dr. Zarif has taught for more than two decades at the university level. He is a visiting lecturer at the School of International Relations in Tehran and a member of the academic staff of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at the University of Tehran.



## PKU Guanghua School of Management

# Fashion Show

✉ Jonathan Ly



Every single day is an adventure and the 1st of December 2016 was an incredible and epic adventure for many Peking University students. That day marked the entry of Peking University into the small circle of universities or higher education institutes who organize fashion shows even though they do not have any fashion institute or specific courses related to the fashion industry.

My name is Jonathan Ly, and I am the Project Leader of the first Peking University and Guanghua School of Management Fashion Show.

A month ago, my team and I

were chosen as Guanghua School of Management MBA Ambassadors, and some of our core missions are to promote the MBA program of the Guanghua School of Management as well as enhance the global image of Peking University and the city of Beijing as a whole.

As a Frenchman, fashion is part of my lifestyle. I believe fashion in general defines not only one person's identity but also the identity of a population, its diversity, and its state of mind.

Therefore, what could be better than organizing a fashion show to show the world who we, students of Guanghua School of Management

and students of Peking University, are? What could be better than to show the world we are not only scholars but also have our own sense of fashion?

After discussing this idea with the ambassadors at our first meeting, I gathered a team of MBA ambassadors and students in Peking University to launch this crazy idea of the "Peking University Guanghua School of Management Fashion Show first edition" just one month after the Beijing Fashion Week. We fixed the date of December 1<sup>st</sup> and had one month to organize everything from scratch without any previous experience in fashion show management.

Thinking about high-end fashion and runways just like what can be observed in Paris, Milan, or London, we managed through our own personal connections to recruit designers from the Peking Institute of Fashion but also one 'Floral Art' designer from Peking University. As the designers of Peking Institute of Fashion had very specific requirements regarding the measurements of their models, we launched an on-campus recruitment of models exclusively in Peking University.

Recruiting models on-campus was one of the most entertaining moments of that month of preparation. Through our recruiting campaign, we received dozens of applications from students of all the divisions of Peking University, organized an audition and also recruited students wherever we met

them. I personally recruited people in the canteens at lunch time, everyone being out, there was a wide pool of models which could potentially fit the requirements of our designers. Despite the layers of the winter clothes, I could spot who would fit and directly asked them for their WeChat and whether they would be interested in joining the project.

Having our models ready was one part but would high-end design represent the identity of our students, would it be enough? Following several suggestions of our teachers and other classes, we also included other parts to the fashion show such as the sports section, the school 'uniform' section, and the business section. As we are in the Guanghua School of Management, having a 'business suits' collection was also of great importance to us.

Also, we had to take into consideration the fact that Peking University is a diverse higher education institute with worldwide talents, and we had to have a proper balance of Chinese and international models to represent us. Therefore, not only did we have international models in the runways but we also included international performances with beautiful dances from Russia and Thailand, amazing songs from South Africa, energetic choreographies from South Korea and Colombia, and a Japanese runway show.

Once we had all these different visions in mind, we had to coordinate everything and thanks to our

team and all the volunteers who helped, we managed with great effort to have all the different teams ready for the big day. We recruited 20 make-up and hairdressing experts who managed to take care of the models, we had a choreographer who taught and trained our models to walk properly on a runway, we had our designers and also other choreographers putting our models together, reorganizing the fitting with our volunteers and the distribution of the models between the performances and all the runways and collections displayed. We also had our DJ, DJ Sern, curate and match songs with the choreographies of every collection and performance.

On the big day, the pressure went higher and higher. Our sponsor Hosaka Spring of Fashion came to support us and attend our major rehearsal with everyone. After two intensive days of preparation and one whole afternoon of rehearsal, our show began at 7pm with bright lights. More than 400 students came to see the show and more than 80,000 people viewed it live via NetEase, not including the other media outlets, Time Out Beijing, for instance.

Thanks to all of our organizing members and a month of intense work, this event turned out to be a new highlight for Peking University. I personally look forward to attending next year's edition and see how the new generation of students will take the lead.



## Meet this Year's Rhodes Scholarship Winner from PKU

✉ Carson Ramsdell

One of the greatest pleasures of studying at PKU is that you walk around campus knowing that in your midst are some people of unparalleled, prodigious genius. Erudite human beings who in years, months, and maybe even days to come will do things that many throughout the world might only ever dream of doing. This year's Rhodes Scholar here at Peking University is one of those amazing people who are well on their way to making profound changes in not just Chinese society, but global society as well—his name is Xu Ni.

Born in Guizhou to parents from Shenyang in the Northeastern part of China, Xu Ni moved to Beijing at the age of six to attend school. He is now at Peking University's School of Medicine, has also taken a "gap year" at Oxford University and has attended a three-week research program this past summer at Yale. Somehow through all of this, he still managed to find the time to study English—it's no wonder this is Peking University's Rhodes Scholar of 2017.

At 23 years of age, Xu Ni has already accomplished a great deal, and yet he maintains an air of prudence and modesty that one might not expect from someone of his stature. In fact, Xu Ni credits a lot of his successes and accomplishments in life to chance. This was one of the concepts that kept coming up in my conversation with Xu

Ni, and is crucial to his own telling of the story of how he arrived at this point in this life.

Just one of the many reasons Xu Ni was eligible for the Rhode's Scholarship was that he has both set up and helped run branches of major medical exchange programs here in China, which includes the International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA) and its Standing Committee on Research Exchange (SCORE), as well as It Gets Brighter China (or 总会变好 in Chinese). According to Xu Ni's own telling of the story, the founding of SCORE was possible because he took advantage of a chance, he saw a poster advertising an IMFSA conference in Tunisia and thought it would be "a good chance to travel with friends". During his stay at the conference as a general delegate, he found that China lacked these institutions for international research exchange and so he felt he "had the responsibility" to found these organizations. Upon his return to China and after a bit of research, he founded SCORE China and became the National Officer of Research Exchange. After four months, he was also elected Vice President of IMFSA.

Xu Ni also attributes his decision to study medicine to chance. His high school entrance examination scores were good enough to get into the Second High School attached to Beijing Normal University, but couldn't quite make the cut to get into their elite science program that



he wanted, so he ended up testing into the elite humanities program instead. He found that, in fact, he had a knack for this area of study as well. In fact, he realized that he could find a way to synthesize his knack for humanities and his love for science through medicine. Had he not ended up in the humanities program, his direction in life may have been different.

When he came to PKU, he started out studying medicine, but he didn't necessarily want to be a scientist and do research, he just wanted some practical experience.

In fact, he wanted to be a brain surgeon similar to those he saw in medical dramas on television. He explained, "So, I wanted to get in touch with a neuroscientist... as a sophomore." However, there was one problem with this plan, the school assigns supervisors for research training programs and they assigned Xu Ni a geneticist. "So I tried to contact a bunch of neuroscientists, but they are all full." Here, 'chance' came back into play, and his neighbor told him there was a professor, "he had just come back from the U.S., and his

research focused on neuropathic pain." Xu Ni says, "I think it's kind of practical, so I said, 'Why not try neuropathic pain!'" This ended up leading to a first-author publication in the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

A major reason Xu Ni won this year's Rhodes Scholarship is due to his work with mental illness and improving conditions for people suffering from mental illness in China. Here too, Xu Ni says his involvement in the field of mental illness and interest in psychiatry inadvertently happened over time. According to Xu Ni, "I think it wasn't a 'one-night decision', it's more about several pieces coming together, and then one day everything crystallized, I knew I wanted to be a psychiatrist. I think my reasons are four-fold: first, personal experience; second, personal fulfillment; third, the challenge; and fourth, the opportunity." Xu Ni goes on to explain that his personal experience with chronic illness (ulcerative colitis), witnessing his grandmother's struggle with depression and the fact that he's a talkative guy have all come together in his decision to study psychiatry. "I think psychiatry is the perfect combination of neuroscience and getting to know people more deeply.

Over the summer, Xu Ni was a bit lost as to which direction he wanted to take his PhD research, but he knew he wanted to do

clinical research and work with patients. So, he decided to do a three-week summer clinical neuroscience research program at Yale, where he would be researching ketamine as an anti-depressant. This is where Xu Ni discovered fulfillment: "In that ketamine research program, I started to take care of one patient with treatment refractory depression from the beginning to the end—for three weeks." He continues, "When I first saw him, he was like a beggar; he didn't



shave, brush his teeth...he was just waiting for the new treatment." Oddly enough, this man had suffered from chronic pain, and was now suffering from depression. A transition in illness that mirrored Xu Ni's very own transition in research. By the end of the three weeks of treatment, this man had begun to recover. This story and the feeling of helping another person recover, the feeling of fulfillment has stayed with Xu Ni until now. He clarifies, "I want to be part of this positive transformation for patients, and I also want to harness the power of medical innovations."

The challenge of and opportunities in the field of psychiatry right now also add to the allure of this field of research for Xu Ni. He explains that the mental health challenges in China right now are something that he wants to help enact positive change in. He says, "Mental health is highly stigmatized in China right now." He cites various cultural sources for this from media to the learned fear of mental illness from a very young age in China, and he feels that "our current medical education does not allow for better social acceptance of mental illness." As such, there is plenty of room to move forward to more

positive interaction with mental illness socially and culturally. This is where opportunity comes in.

There is plenty of room to move forward in the field of mental health in China. As Xu Ni himself says, "There are a lot of negative attitudes toward mental health in China. That's why we wanted to start 'It Gets Brighter China,'" Xu Ni says, "we want to raise awareness and provide education for the general public—get them to seek help." China's branch of 'It Gets Brighter' was founded by Xu Ni for this very reason. He wanted to use the model set up in the UK's version of this noble organization ("sharing personal narratives") to do that same work here in China, but with a twist. He wanted to implement a public awareness campaign as part of 'It Gets Brighter China'. "It's part of my specialty, so we deliver some professional knowledge, to fight

**" I want to be part of this positive transformation for patients, and I also want to harness the power of medical innovations. "**

stigma, and also, we receive a lot of emails and feedback from the platforms, so we started some peer support groups." So far they have already started two peer support

groups, one for depression and one for Asperger Syndrome.

It is on this journey from testing into the high school humanities track, to having the chance to research neuropathic pain, to his current work in the field of psychiatry that Xu Ni primed himself to win a 2017 Rhodes Scholarship, and it's no wonder that he was chosen out of the many students who applied. Xu Ni is not just studying this field for the sake of studying, or even for the sake of finding a good job afterwards. He's doing it to help people, and he discovered that this was what he wanted to accomplish on his journey to deciding to study psychiatry. This shows through some of his most recent work—using "the power of art to raise awareness" of mental illness. "For my part, I want to combine that with public education, so I'm collaborating with a very big compa-

ny, My Therapist (简单心理)." He continues, "With their help, we will try to reach the general public through WeChat." This sort of work that Xu Ni manages to not only accomplish, but also balance with

his studies is what sets Xu Ni apart from other people. It is this drive to help people achieve better understanding of mental health, along with his ability to get



things done that makes him a perfect candidate for the Rhodes Scholarship. It is what makes him one of the people of our generation that is going to not only change China, but also the world. "In the future—I'm writing the proposal now—I want to build up a kind of community for people interested in psychology and psychiatry, because in China, we currently lack professionals to deliver such services. So, I want to start these communities and connect them with specialists." He has big ideas and wants to show the people in this communities that "you are not alone, you are not the only one who wants to study this. You will meet other people with the same ideas... and we can encourage people of younger generations to study psychology and psychiatry." In this way, Xu Ni is set to change the face of psychology, psychiatry, and the understanding of mental health in China. He finishes, "I think the Rhodes Scholarship is both an honor and a responsibility."



## The Entrepreneurial Spirit of PKU

Jonathan Ly

Every single day, Peking University students show their entrepreneurial spirit.

Not only do students join creative projects offered by the different departments of Peking University but they also renew or build projects from scratch such as student unions, activities on and off campus, businesses with or without external partners, and even start-ups.

In fact, this first semester for the 2016-2017 academic year has

been rich in new activities.

I personally founded and organized with a team of MBA Ambassadors and other students of the Guanghua School of Management the first fashion show of the business school and first fashion show ever held in Peking University. A fellow undergraduate student of the School of Economics, Frank Jin, organized the first Venture Capital pitching competition of Peking University. Ani Grigoryan from the Yenching Academy reor-

ganized the structure and events of the Greedy Tongues, a student union gathering students sharing the same desire to learn more about other languages and cultures. Also, a group of LGBT foreign students has launched in partnership with a group of LGBT Chinese students a movie-watching session with a selection of LGBT-related movies.

Peking University has also been renewing activities with even more creativity this year. This year's Peking University International

Culture Festival held in October displayed the rich diversity of the students on campus as well as their wide imagination. Year over year, more countries join this annual major event. Not only do international and Chinese minorities students set booths with traditional food and drinks, as well as pictures of their homes, but they also perform songs, dances, or popular social and cultural rites on stage. Burundi distinguished itself this year for its traditional drums dance combining martial arts and gymnastics skills with a great rhythm.

These two parts show how students can innovate and launch themselves into traditional or novel projects with an 'out of the box' thinking style by utilizing the abundant resources and strong network Peking University offers.

Nevertheless, the entrepreneurship spirit goes even further in Peking University as some students are real entrepreneurs, building businesses all over China.

Dai Wei, founder of OFO is one example of student and entrepreneur who managed in two years to roll-out a great business. When he was studying in Peking University, he lost five bikes in five years, basically one every year.

From this experience, he came up with the idea of a bike-sharing system where people would be able to have access to bikes for on-campus transportation. The bikes would be used via WeChat or the OFO phone app and at a very

low-cost, which would be a substitute for buying one's own bike. He started his business on the campus of Peking University and then with the money he managed to raise as well as the current support of GSR Ventures, a major venture capital firm in China, he succeeded in implementing his bike-sharing system all over China.

But this alumnus, Dai Wei, is not the only entrepreneur on campus. As the several departments

of the university are developing new innovative programs like the Sports Management Center of Guanghua School of Management launched early December 2016 to help its students further develop their creativity, many entrepreneurs in Peking University are on the verge of coming out and launching their projects. Let's see how things will end and who are going to be the next generation of Peking University entrepreneurs.





## What Do You Think of When You Think of Chinese Music?

✉ Carson Ramsdell

I came to China for the first time in 2014 after studying Mandarin for a year and a half in the United States. When I arrived in August of that year, my Chinese communication skills were still limited. However, after two long years of working while simultaneously studying Chinese, I managed to arrive at Peking University and get into its Chinese as a Second Language School. Since my arrival in China, and subsequently at PKU, my love for this language, culture, society, people, and its music has grown by leaps and bounds. And now, after studying Chinese at PKU, I feel I have sufficiently garnered the lin-

guistic chops I need to dig deeper into the world of Chinese music.

This article was tough to write. A couple of failed attempts at interviews, research that just made me more and more confused and a bad case of writer's block all came together in one massive, disconcerting conglomeration of a you're-never-going-to-finish-this kind of feeling. I honestly still don't quite know how to start this article, or in which direction it should go, so I'm just going to move forward by reflecting on my own experience of living and listening to two and a half years of China.

One thing I've noticed over this

period of time is that statements like, "All Chinese music sounds the same" or questions like, "why is there no good Chinese music" are thrown around in conversations amongst foreigners residing in China too often. From this little plot of land upon which I stand now, it seems absurd that someone would think that, but the thing is, I used to feel that way, too. I felt that way until I dug, sifted, and mined my way through all but microscopic corners of the Chinese internet and started to unearth music that resonated with me from the digital dust that it once hid behind. It was in this way that I came to find that

there is a small but rich collection of Chinese artists that exist outside of the mainstream and try to weather a climate that is not necessarily always very supportive of them, all while pushing musical boundaries in this great country I've made my home for this era.

I'll start from my roots. Growing up, I always loved punk. Every morning my journey to school would begin on the bus listening to bands like Minor Threat, Black Flag, the Descendants (you get the idea), and my journey home would end the same way. It was a ritual. Then last year, in Changsha, I happened to be walking home from a late night shao kao session with a couple friends and ran into some punks. Turns out, they were in a band called SMZB (生命之饼) that could well be considered one of the staples of Chinese punk. Along with artists like He Yong (何勇), older bands like Brain Failure (脑浊), and even newer bands like SUBS (杀不死) and P.K. 14 (post-punk that I will include here), these bands comprise a scene that provides necessary contrast to the mainstream, popular musical culture, because sometimes even grit and dust can be refreshing.

These alternatives to mainstream music in China, especially the older generation of musicians like He Yong, whom I just mentioned, and also people like Cui Jian (崔健; considered the "father" of rock in China), opened up doors for a younger generation of mu-

sicians like SUBS. However, the younger generation of musicians obviously isn't just making punk. There is an indie rock scene throbbing and undulating underneath the streets of the dust covered cities that has started to and will continue to boom. Including better known bands like Hedgehog (刺猬) and Carsick Cars (晕车的车), as well as lesser known bands like Glow Curve (发光曲线) and Streets Kill the Strange Animals (街道杀死奇怪的动物) this scene includes a seriously wide range of styles and often seems to stress experimentation. Chui Wan (吹万), a psychedelic band from Beijing, is one band that has gained international attention for their novel and eclectic style of music that defies classification. A growing audience inside China and international attention, coupled with a knack for innovation is causing this once nascent scene to flourish.

Punk and Indie rock, however, are just two branches of a tradition

of Chinese rock that sprouted up during the early eighties and has been growing ever since. Musicians like Cui Jian and Dou Wei (of Black Panther) pioneered a style that would not only introduce but also popularize this form of music in China, especially amongst the youth of the time. Now bands like those mentioned above are carrying on the tradition and adding their own unique touches to this traditionally very Western form of music. Take for example, Second Hand Rose (二手玫瑰). They combine a traditional form of folk singing (and dancing) from the Northeast called, "Er Ren Zhuan" (二人转) with modern rock and the results aren't half bad. Good enough in fact that they have won and been nominated for their fair share of awards, most recently, in 2014 they won best band for their album "Stealing the Show" (一枝独秀) from Modern Sky.

There are also other people tak-



ing a more traditional side of music in new directions. Yang Zhongguo (杨众国) is one such artist and he even managed to make a rather peculiar appearance on Chinese national television, on a show called "Sing My Song" (中国好歌曲) where he experimented heavily with very traditional elements of Chinese music, using vocal warping over simple melody to create a song rich in texture that hinted at traditional Chinese music while managing to be very progressive.

With all this experimenting happening in Chinese music, people from outside of China are beginning to pay more attention to Mainland Chinese music, some bands have managed to make decently sized waves outside the country. Two such bands, Nova Heart and Chui Wan (吹万), are good examples of groups who have recently done so. Coming from very different loci on the musical spectrum, these two have caught the attention of media outlets such as Der Spiegel and NPR. Both bands could be described as innovative at the very least, they cannot simply be compared to Western bands that they



sound similar too as has been commonplace in the past, because they simply don't sound like very much that has come before. This is historically unprecedented.

Until now, China hasn't really exported much of its pop-culture overseas, especially to the West. This may be one reason why foreigners in China might not be so thoroughly exposed to the diversity of Chinese music and might not know all of the many options out there when seeking out Chinese music that they like. Oddly enough one of the pieces of pop-culture that seems to be primed for sharing overseas is inde-

pendent music, with bands such as Chui Wan, Carsick Cars, Hedgehog, and Nova Heart.

Chinese music, and art in general for that matter, is not some kind of stagnant well that is still being pumped from after all these years. While traditional forms of music still inform many modern Chinese bands, music has modernized along with many other aspects of the country. Although this article focused on one aspect of modern Chinese music, independent rock, there is a plethora of bands that work in a wide variety of genres from hip hop, to rock, to metal, to folk. This pool of bands, groups and artists continues to grow every year and is not only changing the face of Chinese music, but in the coming years will likely help to change the face of music elsewhere as well. Right now, the pop era of Chinese music is just beginning to wane, and in the lack of light that is left behind, interesting things are happening.

## Yenching Academy's Social Innovation Forum: Bridging China's Education Gap

> Eun Seo Kim



From November 24 to 26, the inaugural Yenching Social Innovation Forum (YSIF) took place at Peking University. The forum aims to bring young innovators from China and countries from around the world to discuss social problems facing China and formulate innovative solutions. The theme for this year's YSIF was 'Bridging China's Education Gap' and around 35 delegates were selected based on their experience and passion for making a difference in the education sector

by the selection committee and an external jury of experts. There were two delegates from Yenching Academy of Peking University and over five students from Peking University and many different nationalities were represented. The delegates were divided into small groups and given a complex social problem to resolve three weeks prior to the forum. These issues ranged from migrant children's access to education, lack of educational resources for disabled students and educational disparity between rural and

urban areas. I have attended the forum and have interviewed delegates during the course of the three days from the opening ceremony to the ride back to the airport.

### Day 1

Upon their arrival in Beijing, the delegates attended the opening ceremony followed by a seminar. The first seminar featured Professor Scott Rozelle from Stanford University and Professor Ha Wei from Peking University. Profes-



sor Rozelle presented interesting findings from his Rural Education Action Project and argued that in order for China to avoid the 'middle income trap' the quality of human capital must be improved and one of the best ways to achieve this may be through an intervention to promote the cognitive development of children at a young age. Professor Wei gave a thorough analysis of the gaps within China's education system including the resource disparities in urban and rural schools and Rural Education Finance Reform spanning over 20 years since 1980. The following afternoon, the delegates visited Tongshin Migrant

School in the outskirts of Beijing. Many delegates were charmed by the students and were impressed by the speech given by the principal of the migrant school and her passion for giving migrant children a fair chance.

## Day 2

The second seminar featured education practitioners including Steve Hwang, the executive director and founder of ABC Bridge for Children International, Andrew Shirman, the CEO and founder of Education in Sight, and Pan Jing, the CEO of Teach Future China.

Each presented their unique backgrounds and how they became involved in NGOs. In response to delegates' questions, the panelists' replies included that as an NGO leader it is a great environment and time to expose yourself to communities in need as there is great public consciousness. They also mentioned the challenges of accessing funds in China and the impact of the new NGO law and emphasized a greater need for corporate social responsibility by Chinese firms and the importance of cultivating support networks. In direct contrast to their previous site visit, the delegates visited PKU affiliated primary school in the afternoon.

## Panel Interview

At the end of the second day, I had a chance to have a panel discussion with three delegates, Johannes Hallermeier, Guangning "Phillip" An (安广宁) from the U.S. and "Ted" Mo Chen (陈沫) from China to discuss their takeaways from the forum and got to know more about these delegates in depth. Johannes is a Yenching scholar from Germany and he has been involved in education related initiatives in Peru and the German education ministry. He was excited about opportunities to get feedback for ideas he currently has about psychological counseling. Phillip is a student at Cal Tech and said he was touched by his parents' efforts to grant him great educational opportunities and also

has co-founded a technology based educational charity. Finally, Mo is a PKU student studying philosophy at Peking University and is the CEO of Symposium for Advocating Global Education (SAGE), a newly started public benefit program initiated to bridge the gap between Chinese education and various modes of foreign pedagogical innovations. He was passionate about improving conditions in migrant schools based on his own personal experience in migrant schools. The delegates were very inspired by their site visit to the migrant school as they got a rare glimpse of China which is hard to experience as a foreigner and got to witness the perseverance of people who devote their lives for educational equality. Phillip mentioned the most memorable part of the forum.

"I think one thing I liked to add about migrant school we visited was the pure altruism that the prin-

icipal that we talked to demonstrated. She had great leadership skills, she had great presentations skills and she could have been doing any other job but instead she chose to forsake all that and take an extremely low salary for the pure sake of helping these children when no one else cared. So, that for me was very inspirational and very hopeful for the future because there are people like that."

Ted was also grateful for the opportunity and was encouraged by the practitioner panelists. "Nowadays, large enterprises have this huge desire to encourage and recruit young innovators to help them with their social impact... and they want someone that is young and enthusiastic about these topics to lead ...to share ideas with people who genuinely care about it [educational equality] and right now they are telling us that society has your back and they will give you resources you

need and they are going to implement it as you wish."

The delegates also shared the projects they were working on including providing services, building a community for those with special education needs, and improving training for administrative staff in migrant schools. We also discussed the long-term impact and the legacies of the forum. Although a three-day gathering of bright minds from all over the world may not change things on the ground immediately, Johannes appreciated the insightful feedback he received about his initiative from experts.

"You also have to have a little bit of faith that people go on and remain committed to something like social improvement over the long-run. There are no guarantees for that. However, I also see that other people have that faith and maybe it is reasonable to have it... I was inspired by the fact that one





of the panelists gave feedback to us that his company is running a similar model where they incorporate other people and their energy and work and contribution for a certain amount of time into their organizational structure but they also know that these people go again and the only thing that they want to make sure is that those people in the future still remain committed to a social cause and follow up on the ideas that they got to know at some point."

On the other hand, Ted was confident that his project on migrant schools will continue to go forward and be implemented in the next few years as his team has personal connections with migrant schools. This conference provided him with a "reaffirmation that whatever you are believing in is going to work and you just want to keep on doing that from the bottom of your heart."

When it came to the significance of this forum, Phillip summarized

it very nicely.

"Number one is exposure to the problems. Number two is potential to solve the problems. Number three is literally the people. What I mean by exposure to the problem is without visiting China and seeing the plight of migrant workers, there is no way I would have known that there exists such inequality. I think being a nation of such a large scale, you tend to stereotype or you tend to group the plight of all the students in one category, you don't segment it further so just acknowledging that these problems exist and seeing them with my own eyes was eye opening for me. In regards to potential to solve these problems, listening to the panelists, one of which was a former Goldman Investment banker turned non-profit CEO, and seeing that there are real people making real impacts on these problems, was very encouraging. For example the migrant school principal, how she sacrificed her time

every day, her efforts and her sweat and tears to increase the access to resources these children have. That really inspired me and basically communicated to me that I too can make a difference regardless of what background I come from. If I want to make a change, I have the potential to make a change, and I think the most important aspect is the people. I think change starts on a small scale. You don't say I am going to implement this solution and then you automatically solve the problem. I think it starts with individuals extremely passionate about one thing who are leaders in their community who inspire other people and educate them about the issues that various communities face. I honestly believe that some of these people will become diplomats, leaders in government, CEOs, and leaders of non-profits, and I believe these people have the potential to change the world because they are going to be the ones who are leading the world. And I

believe that this is the most valuable takeaway we can have that if we are able to keep in contact with these people... I think that together we can certainly make a dent in the problem.

The panelists also shared new things they have learned from the forum and their own take on how to solve the problems at hand including improving local governance, different pedagogical methods, de-stigmatization, and incorporation of new technology. Before we wrapped up the interview, they also shared their future steps including Ted's plan to launch his own educational blog for people to communicate openly about their educational experiences.

### Day 3: The Competition

Total of seven groups presented their innovative solutions to specific problems ranging to public audience and a panel of distinguished judges including Vice Prov-

ost of Peking University, Professor Li Chenjian; Associate Dean of Yenching Academy, John Holden; and Michelle Wang from Handicap International. The judging panel asked some challenging questions but also offered comments on areas of improvement. The winning team's solution was titled: 'Bring the Wings: Creating Community Among Parents, Alleviating Special Needs Problems in China' and sought to create a social network using technology to connect families with children with special educational needs. A project tackling autism was awarded the most innovative, a book sharing project to aid grandparents in rural areas was considered the most sustainable and laboratory schools modelled on charter schools won the best delivery award. Other innovative solutions included training migrant school staff, offering career mentorship schemes, and raising awareness of vocational schools.

After the final competition,

I got to interview the audience members, forum organizers, and delegates on their impression of the forum. Thomas Werkmeister from the Yenching Academy commented, "The number of problems is really large and there is a lot of potential to improve on the education in China. I think it was interesting to see also how different people from different regions of the world address these problems. I saw a lot of great ideas, but I also saw taking some ideas that work in certain countries and just trying to implement them in China... I think it is important to do further research to really elaborate on what is the problem and how do we get from this problem to a viable solution." One of the organizers of the forum, Nastia Ilyna also raised a similar point, "They are going to understand what are the peculiarities of Chinese education and hopefully they will learn and take these projects home, and they are not just going to die and pass away but they

are going to live on and they are going to keep working on them and perfecting on them." Many other interviewees replied that they got a firmer grasp of the educational inequity in China and was interested in the issue of education gap because they thought many of the problems and solutions in China could be adapted and applied in their own countries. A media practitioner and social entrepreneur from Botswana, Sharon Tshipa, expressed her motivation to hold a similar social innovation forum in her home country and as a delegate expressed her gratitude for the experience. "They [YSIF] have given me a bank of solutions that can be applied back home, and also I have given them something."

Yenching Academy's Associate Dean Jiang Guohua emphasized the importance of helping the underprivileged and John Holden described the significance of the forum as 'Getting the right people

from around the world to focus in an intense program on educational challenges and opportunities in China is a great thing. It has brought up a lot of wonderful ideas, analytical perspectives that are fresh and these ideas will carry through in the lives of participants who are at the beginning of their careers. So the long term impact is going to be very, very big." He also gave his advice to budding social innovators, "Passion and persistence. You need both and you need some courage, you need to network and you never give up."

There was some critical feedback, too. Wang Sibó (王思博), a New York resident with experience teaching in charter schools, commented that his biggest feedback revolves around cultural responsiveness. "I really think that it is first of all wonderful there are so many delegates from so many different backgrounds, that we have such rich diversity in the back-

grounds of the delegates here. But I think it is equally important that because people come from different contexts where they may not completely understand the context on the ground and what it means to have identity to have a migrant worker, what it means to be dispossessed and marginalized in urban China...they also deeply and truly understand the lived experiences of the people who they are trying to help. So, it is not just a savior complex whereby you have people from across the world who know better than the Chinese people do for solving their own problems." He also provided some concrete pieces of advice in improving the forum further by introducing pre-reading and post-forum reports so that delegates are fully aware of the unique situation in China and is more accountable.

I also got to briefly catch up with the interviewees from the night before. Johannes and Ted were grateful for the judges' feedback, and they thought they could improve their ideas further and were also enlightened by conversing with the judges after the competition.

As the forum came to an end, the delegates were saying their goodbyes, and I joined three delegates and we talked about higher education reform on our way to the airport. Dropping the delegates off at the airport and exchanging hugs, I felt hopeful that there were people out there who will keep on fighting to advance the ideals they believe in.



## Sharing Korean Culture in China: Korean Education Center of PKU

✉ Lee Jae Young



Since 2005, the Korean Education Center of Peking University has been ardently working on sharing Korean language and culture. The center was founded to fulfill the increasing demand of Korean language due to growing cultural influences of Korea in the international society.

The Center currently is comprised of twenty-three teachers of Korean nationality. Approximately 170 students from countries including China, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Egypt, and Macedonia assemble at the Teaching Building No.2 of PKU every Saturday, and take courses depending on their current Korean comprehension level.

The official activity of the Korean Education Center came to its end on December 3. This writer interviewed key members who operate the center: Jyunghoon Kang, current president of the Korean Education Center; Nahyeon Jeong, former president of the Korean Education Center; Jongwhan

Cheong, the newly appointed main instructor for the beginner course of Korean Education Center; and Yannong Guo, a student from PKU who attended to several courses for three semesters.

## History

Nahyeon Jeong, now a senior in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, devoted her three and a half years to this center. She witnessed the development of the center, and herself participated in organizing most of the major events which takes an integral part in the activities of the center. She explained the history of how the Korean Education Center developed in a chronological order.

The Korean Education Center was established in 2005 by a few Korean PKU students under the idea of 'introducing the beautiful Korean language through education to foreigners'. At first, there were only few teachers and some

Chinese students, but as time passed, the influence of this center reached a lot of students interested in Korean culture. Its scale expanded rapidly, and in 2001, the society was operated with a total of two hundred students. This year, 164 students who wish to discover more on Korean culture came together.

For efficient training of language skills, the center first divided students into a group of two: beginner course and intermediate course. In 2014, the center renovated its structure, created an advanced course that focuses on critical thinking and debating in Korean.

Even though its nature takes account on education, the center also focuses on constructing friendly relationships with Chinese students and international students of diverse cultures. Through building reciprocal relationships with Chinese societies, the Korean Education Center functions as a pioneer in international cooperation between students.

In 2012, the Center operated a podcast radio channel designed to teach Chinese students Korean via the internet. In 2013, the center participated in the Festival of Delicacies held by PKU. Since 2014, the Korean Education Center has been conducting associated acts with its cooperative partner Chinese-Korean Cultural Exchange Association of PKU, and annually opens the Korean Culture Salon. The salon puts its aim to sharing Korean traditional and contemporary culture



to the students. This activity became one of the major events that the Korean Education Center holds.

Ms. Jung noted that the center is about to introduce annual language exchange programs with Chinese students in PKU. It is expected to improve the relationship between Chinese and Korean students.

## Philosophy

Jyunghoon Kang, the incumbent president of the Korean Education Center mentioned 'genuineness' of education is what makes the center different from other societies which deal with Korean languages. Since Korean natives are teaching the language, he mentioned that Chinese students can discover Korean culture reflected through language, and this provides a genuine opportunity for students to experience Korean culture. He believes that this was the power that operated the Korean Education Center for

the last ten years. Under the philosophy of 'genuineness', the center strives to develop within the global trend of Korean language emerging as a cultural icon.

## Activities

Every semester, the activity of the Center starts by promoting newly designed programs in major universities in Beijing. Students not only from PKU, but from universities including Tsinghua University, Renmin University of China, and Beijing Language and Culture University, assemble at the Teaching Building No.2 of PKU, furthermore, office workers or exchange students also come to learn Korean. Although the students are from diverse backgrounds, their reasons for coming to PKU is the same: to learn Korean and experience Korean culture.

There are a total of nine or ten classes every course in each se-

mester. The center classifies the students into three categories: beginner course, intermediate course, and advanced course. Each course has different aims and goals set for their curriculum. The beginner course focuses on comprehension of vowels and consonants of Korean characters; the intermediate course gives lectures on basic grammar and practical dialogues; the advanced course interacts with students through advanced grammar and discussions on current affairs. Students can arbitrarily select the courses they wish to take. Students also have meetings with teachers and students from other groups after class.

For establishing a more systematic operation, teachers of the Korean Education Center write the textbooks used for classes on their own. Additionally, for a more accurate delivery of Korean to international students, teachers gather and study advanced Korean on a weekly basis.





comprehending the information that he delivered, and he was moved by the passion of the students who came to the Center to learn Korean every weekend. Students reached the level of reading Korean characters by themselves, and those who studied harder than others could speak simple

The center does not only focus on teaching the Korean language, but also on extracurricular activities, which enables students to experience Korean culture. Thus, the center provides various opportunities for students to participate in the Korean Culture Salon, field trips, and other diverse kinds of cultural activities.

### Comments

Jongwhan Cheong shared his comments on what he has learned through his experience as an associate instructor of the beginner course during the last semester. He was not that worried about the content of the course that he had to deliver, but was more worried about breaking the ice and connecting with the students. However, he was astonished by students who were actively participating and fully

sentences.

Mr. Jung mentioned that through this experience, he figured out the appropriate method of teaching Korean to people of diverse origins, and he found out the sequence of instruction which could enable students to understand more efficiently.

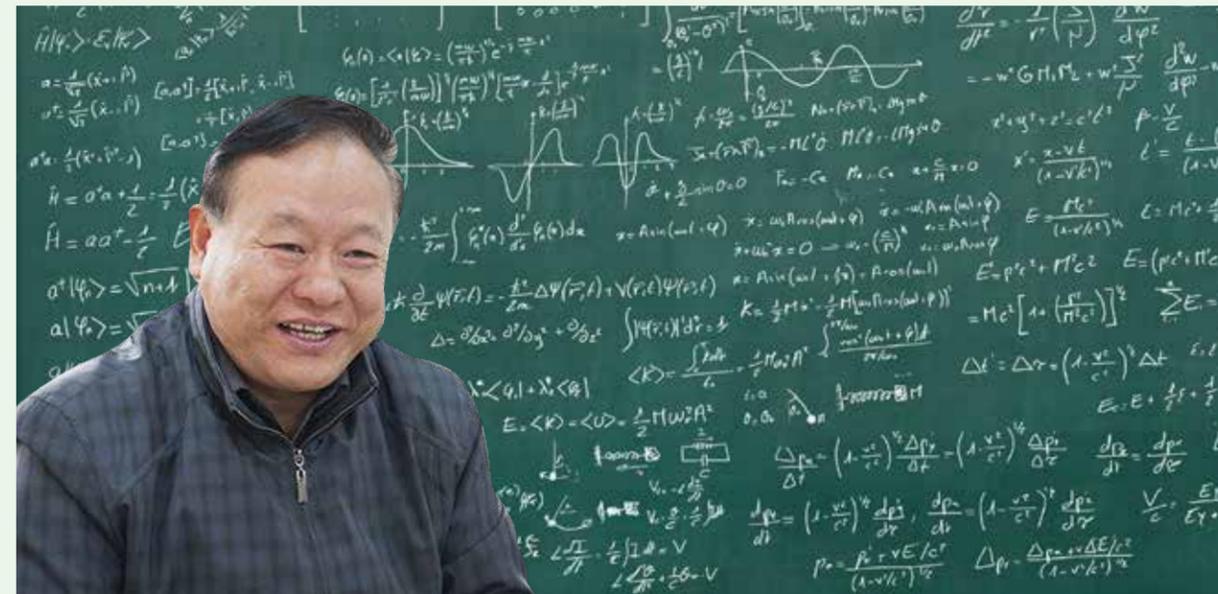
He noted that the reason why so many students come and take the course takes account of their pure interest in Korean language. He believes that learning Korean should not be a difficult process, in that the students might lose attention to Korean while studying. He wished learning Korean to be one of the students' hobbies, so that they would not get stressed out while studying.

Yannong Guo, a student who attended the programs of the Korean Education Center for three consecutive semesters, shared her opin-

ions on her learning experiences. She reminisced on her experiences meeting a Muslim student from Malaysia and a Chinese teacher who taught during the workdays and then came to the Center every weekend to study. She found it very interesting that even though these students are of different nationalities, occupations, and religions, but they gathered together with the purpose of learning Korean. She was very happy to meet new people, and she said this is one of the most precious experiences that the Korean Education Center provided, besides learning Korean. She is extremely willing to come again and start her fourth semester with the Center.

### Future Plans

Mr. Kang expressed that the Korean Education Center is advantageous in that it is powered by both Chinese and Korean students, which makes it easier to come up with fresher contents involving dynamic cultural exchanges. He is planning to make associated activities with the PKU Korean Students Association, Chinese-Korean Cultural Exchange Association, or other Chinese-Korean translation circles in PKU. He wishes to cooperate with the newly elected board of the Korean Education Center, thus make a significant and meaningful development of the society.



## Professor Zhang Jiping: The Beauty of Mathematics

by Fu Fenju

As a Chern Medal Award laureate from the School of Mathematical Sciences, Peking University (PKU), Professor Zhang Jiping mainly works on finite groups and modular representation theory. He has made substantial contributions on some important topics such as defect groups of blocks, finite linear groups, and Puig's conjecture. He develops systematically the arithmetical theory of finite groups which is successfully applied to differential geometry and algebraic number theory and is very useful to solve some long standing open problems.

Modular representation theory built by group theory master Rich-

ard Dagobert Brauer is a widely applied and important international mathematical research. In 1987, instructed by his advisor, group representation theory founder in China Professor Duan Xuefu and Professor Zhang became the first in the world to solve the famous Brauer's Problem by providing sufficient and necessary condition of p-Block of defect 0 when he was a Ph.D. student, which surprised the group theory circle and won him high praise internationally. The Fields Medal laureate John Griggs Thompson and other famous group theory scholars wrote congratulatory messages to hail his work as an outstanding example.

What hid silently behind this great achievement was his long-term persistence. At that time, Professor Zhang read almost every page of every related book and magazine in the library at PKU. It's worth mentioning that Professor Zhang looked through almost 500 bimonthly algebra magazines in less than two years.

In 1989, Professor Zhang was invited by Professor Thompson to give lectures in the U.S. and became Professor Thompson's postdoc. Professor Thompson had defined an important subgroup  $Z(J(P))$  whose name is the same as Professor Zhang's initials in his early work. Encouraged by Professor

Thompson, Professor Zhang began nearly 20 years of hard work in this area and eventually in 2008 proved new criteria of p-nilpotent, which opened a new dimension for the study of finite groups and modular representation theory. Between 1992 and 1993, Professor Zhang cooperated with Puig conjecture proposer Professor L. Puig in Paris and successfully completed his work in a year — paring general situation down to case of single group to accelerate the process of proving Puig Conjecture. Persistence in academic research often means abandonment in other ways: He had been unable to spare time to visit the long-admired Eiffel Tower, for example. During his rare leisure time he just came out of laboratory and wandered along the Seine River for a moment, looking at distant magnificent Notre Dame de Paris, then re-invested into his work new initiation and driven by new ideas. As per his words, “it doesn’t matter visiting monuments earlier or later, but the opportunities for the development of mathematics for a person are hard to come by.” Now, he still regards his time in Paris as the most fulfilling and beneficial days of his life.

Professor Zhang had been successively to University of Chicago, Ecole Normale Supérieure, and the University of Cambridge for work, and then to several famous universities in Europe and the U.S. as a guest professor. He has published



more than 40 papers in world-class scientific journals and had been commented and excerpted by Mathematical Reviews Science Citation Index (SCI). Many mathematicians around the world are using Professor Zhang’s theory and methods to promote theoretical research and solve critical problems.

With abundant knowledge of mathematics, Professor Zhang once pointed out that under different cultural background, each country’s mathematics research has its unique characteristic: “Hungarian specialize in combinatorics; French and German mathematical study are good at abstraction with rigorous logic, and Chinese traditional mathematical research is somewhat short in logic and system, but far-sighted with philosophical style.” During his time of being a research fellow in Hamburg, Professor Zhang made a lot of German friends

with his modest academic communication manners. Under his influence, many Germany scholars were amazed at Chinese culture, famous mathematician Professor Bertram Huppert even began to be interested in movable clay printing invented by Bi Sheng in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) and conscientiously researched it.

As for teaching, Professor Zhang often prepares lessons overnight. The advanced algebra course group in which he served as course moderator not only focuses on imparting basic knowledge, but also emphasized comprehensive training that includes analysis, geometry, algebraic methods to deal with problems. He often talks with his students and tells them that there is no authority before learning, everyone may succeed as long as they seriously try. He dedicatedly delivers his duty as a teacher and always highlights the significance of mathematics in our daily life, “Mathematics is omnipresent. When you travel in the world of human-computer interaction, it’s the most meticulous and profound mathematical logic that support this exchange; when you want to gauge ups and downs of the stock market, it’s superb knowledge of mathematical finance that help you find clear status quo. Anytime and anywhere, mathematics is like a magnet extending its invisible magnetic field to all aspects of life.”

## PKU Professor Ying Luo on Life, Family, and Research

✉ Ghulam Mustafa

Professor Ying Luo is working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering in PKU. She is currently working on developing polymer capsules that could be used to treat type 1 diabetes. This method has the potential to replace the traditional way of taking insulin injections for treatment. I interviewed her to ask her how young researchers can do meaningful research.

**Q: Would you like to share with us your career history?**

A: I started learning chemistry and molecular imaging at Peking University in 1992. After the completion of my bachelor’s degree, I enrolled in master’s degree in the U.S. in polymer science and engineering. There, I felt that my interest is more in the application field of sciences from which we can bring solutions to problems that affect people’s lives. I met many friends there then I decided to work in biomedical engineering and utilize the knowledge of polymers to solve the problems of humanity. So I did my PhD in biomedical engineering in Toronto. My supervisor



during my studies was very ambitious and energetic, her dedication to work, and her way of research impressed me a lot. After the completion of my PhD, I did my postdoctoral research at MIT.

**Q: When did you decide to come back and what was the main reason behind the decision?**

A: After completing my postdoctoral research in the U.S., it was almost nine or ten years since I left my home. The family needs, especially as parents get older in age, were a big part of my decision. It is not enough to think about just your own children, you also need to think about your elders who raised you.

**Q: What do you consider to be your biggest achievement in research?**

A: I don’t think that I have reached the point I can call it an achievement. I am still in the process of exploring things and asking questions. One of the thing I am very proud of my student is making a device like a capsulation device for treating diabetes. We proposed the idea of using the electrospun fibers to develop a capsule. It is a device to encapsulate the cell so that the cell can contain the insulin. The cells detect the blood sugar level and produce insulin accordingly so we relieve the patient from insulin injections so it’s a concept in exploration.

**Q: How would this insulin-containing capsule work differently from traditional insulin injections?**

A: Traditionally, we have relied on chemical drugs to control the sugar level in the blood. But if you introduce something into the body there are two options either the body doesn't react to it, which means it can stay in the body like a prosthetic equipment, like an artificial joint or device like pacemakers. The second behavior of the body is that it treats it like a foreign invader and then it is repelled by the immune system. The cell we use to treat diabetics is very simple. As long you have cells that are functional, you can treat them like in the case of type 1 diabetes, which is widely effecting young people. So the concept is quite simple. But to fulfil the idea is quite hard.

**Q: Research is a challenging task. What is your advice to young researchers to achieve big goals?**

A: I think that you think big and you should not be afraid of doing big things. Because the bigger the question, the more important the discovery you'll probably find. But I understand that its more difficult, its more challenging to solve big questions. Usually, when PhD students come into the lab, I advise them to start with a less risky project so through its experience they can learn how to do experiments, how to write research papers, and how to ask questions. And through their experience they can find some interesting and important questions to start a second project. In first two years, it needs that they lay ground for the big problem.

**Q: In achieving big goals, what contributes to getting big results?**

A: I think collaboration is very critical, especially for small labs, like in my field of biomedical engineering. It's an interdisciplinary area, and we work on very hard questions, so it's important

to collaborate with other researchers in related fields. How to implement the material into the body needs lots of medical, biological, and material knowledge, equipment, and experience. So it is very challenging. Definitely students need to

work with other labs, so I always encourage them to find people around them working in related fields to find good research papers that are close to their work. Then with hard work they can achieve big goals. Because most students are not married, so they don't have family responsibilities. You really need to work on your project 24 hours a day.

**Q: As a scientist and a mother, how do you manage your work and your family life?**

A: Time management is an important part of a successful life. The time when you feel energetic you should focus on work then when you want to relax try spending time with family so you can relax and reenergize yourself. It's like when you are single, you go shopping, exercise, or perhaps read a book. But when you have the responsibility of your family, you shift all this time to your family.

**Q: What would be your advice to the young researchers of PKU?**

A: It's a good time, everybody knows it's good time of scientific research in China. There are so much more opportunities for the students then 10 years ago. So, for the new generation, there is lot of opportunities, and I want to tell them to think big, don't be afraid. I think that if you work hard, you can find a way to do big things.



## Campus Trends: Live Streaming

✉ Tan Yi Qian



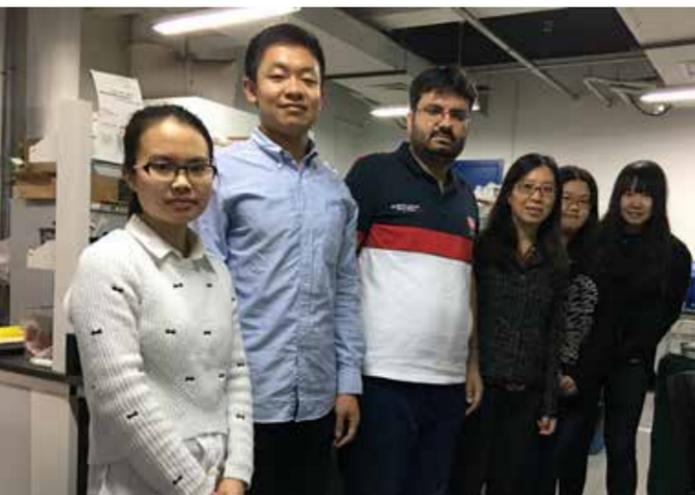
As China's online live-streaming platforms have seen record levels of engagement in the past year, Peking University (PKU) had been quick to launch its very own live-streaming program with Net Ease Education. Despite it being the first year PKU had live-streamed the International Culture Festival (ICF), the live broadcast had attracted over 50 thousand views in just two hours, as viewers from all over China delved into live moments both mundane and momentous, all punctuated by a 26-year-old's humor.

Wang Yong Chang, a fourth-year undergraduate student was chosen as one of the two live-streamers

for ICF. The International Culture Festival is a day where tourists flood into PKU and embrace cultural diversity with the students. With cultural music playing in the background and students putting up captivating performances, the atmosphere boasted a fragrance of delicious international cuisine as international students showcased the cultural diversity of their home country. This was all captured under the lens of Wang Yong Chang as he walked his viewers through ICF with his mobile phone.

The broadcast was a huge success, as the views totaled a staggering 50 thousand, which is pretty impressive considering

this is Yong Chang's first try at live streaming. Yong Chang modestly remarks that it is probably due to how prestigious Peking University is in China. As many Chinese have this hallowed dream of studying at Peking University, and those who aren't, are still interested in how life in Peking University would be. As such, it is easy to draw in thousands of viewers just with the name of 'Peking University' alone. But from then on, it will be up to the host to keep them watching, which Yong Chang does a splendid job of engaging his audience with timely responses through real-time comments posted during the broadcast.





While Yong Chang encourages his fellow schoolmates to try live-streaming if there is an opportunity to do so, he also cautions them not to be too engrossed with their 'overnight fame'. He further explains that being a live streamer is not only hard work, but one cannot expect to make it into a career, or earn money from the get-go. Furthermore, it will also be hard to stand out among China's fast-growing number of live-streamers. However, Yong Chang encourages the students who really do have a passion for being a live-streamer or a host, to go for it. As China's wide audience allows for a great diversity

of hosts: As long as you have creativity, commitment, business acumen, and organization, then with just a bit of luck and talent, you might become the next internet sensation.

Vlogging and being a live-streamer are becoming increasingly popular among students, as it not only uses a medium they are familiar with, but also satisfies their desire to be known. Not only that, with the increasing numbers of netizens, creators and brands are more than willing to throw their weight behind live-streaming apps and platforms. This rising industry gave birth to many

hosts hopefuls wishing to take a share of the spoils. But while being a live-streamer certainly has its perks, it is also a double edge sword. It could be detrimental to the mental health and life of the live-streamers as they became untrue to themselves and start 'living for the broadcast.' But then again, the yield one can get from being a live streamer is undeniable. It had catapult many 'presenters' to overnight fame and generates huge profits for the host websites, as advertisers seek to attach themselves to interesting, youthful content. It all boils down to how much you're willing to pay for the 'prize'.



## Second Job Fair for Foreign Students in China Held at PKU

► Zhao Zhujun

On December 3, 2016, the second Job Fair for Foreign Students in China took place at the New Sun Center of Peking University (PKU). The job fair was organized by the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) and was co-organized by PKU. To facilitate and support the implementation of the "One Belt, One Road" policy, this job fair served to provide assistance to international students with their job-search endeavors in China.

There were about 2,500 international students in attendance at the job fair. Among them, many came from different parts of China, and they represented more than

20 different universities, including Tsinghua University, Renmin University, and Beijing Foreign Studies University, to name a few.

In total, there were more than 25 organizations and institutions that participated in the job fair, which included state-owned enterprises

such as the China Railway Construction Corporation Limited and PowerChina Resources Limited, as well as international corporations such as Canon. Furthermore, differing from the previous year's job fair, many start-up companies, or companies that are currently in their



initial development stages, such as VIPKID, also set up their booths at the job fair and accounted for a third of the total participating institutions. In sum, the job fair listed 450 job positions in fields ranging from infrastructure construction, trade, railway, internet and communication technologies, education and training, financial services, language translation, innovative technologies, and many more.

When walking around the job fair, one can see students of diverse backgrounds discussing potential job opportunities with human resources officers. When asked about their general impressions of the job fair, many expressed that they were impressed by the neat organization of the job fair, and that they are thankful to have been provided such a wonderful tunnel towards the workforce in China. Nevertheless, a few international students also said that they have expected a greater number of participating organizations and institutions so to increase their chances of getting hired.

On the recruiters' side, a human resources officer stated that many of the students who came to the job fair were searching for part-time jobs or internships, which diverges from what they are looking for: full-time employees. In addition, she said that many of the foreign student job-seekers, at this point, cannot be determined to stay and work in China upon graduation, such potential chance of leaving China increases the difficulty of recruiting full-time employees who are foreigners. However, the market nowadays calls for a larger demand of internationalized people to serve the workforce, hence, there remains great work opportunities for international students who are planning to work in China after they graduate.

In addition to the booths set up by the organizations and institutions, the job fair offered two information sessions entitled "From the Classroom to the Workplace" and the "New Visa Policy for Foreigners in the Zhongguancun Area". These sessions were designed to help

students to better adapt to their post-graduation lives and to better understand the visa options of the high-tech Zhongguancun Area. The workshops provided prospective foreign employees insights about working in Chinese firms and enterprises, incorporating the Chinese working environment, showcasing the unique Chinese culture in various working scenarios, and daily work routines, to paint a vivid image of what it feels like to be working in China.

Overall, the Second Job Fair for Foreign Students in China was a success. There is, of course, room for improvement, and it is believed that as the accumulation of experience goes on, taking into consideration the suggestions and feedback provided by participants of the various sides, the Third Job Fair for Foreign Students in China will demonstrate many new features and a bigger pool of participating organizations and institutions, to better serve the needs and demands of the foreign students in China.



## Vice Premier of China and PKU President Attend Sino-German Forum

► *Derek Tong*

From November 24-27, 2016, the President of Peking University (PKU), Professor Lin Jianhua, attended and spoke at the Sino-German Forum for Higher Education, Science, and Innovation hosted by the Free University of Berlin (FU). During this trip, PKU and FU signed an agreement for a post-doctoral program between the two universities.

The Sino-German Forum for Higher Education, Science, and Innovation was held at the Free University of Berlin on November 25, together with the 7th Hamburg Summit: China Meets Europe. The former was hosted by Ministries of Education of China and Germany and co-organized by the Free University of Berlin and the China Scholarship Council.

The Vice Premier of China, Liu Yandong, spoke at the forum. Liu stated that since China and Germany established diplomatic relations 44 years ago, through joint efforts, both countries have established comprehensive and strategic partnership and have achieved increasingly closer cooperation in areas such as education, science, and technology. This cooperation has



provided strong support to the development of both countries' economies and to cultural exchanges. At present, China's development faces the arduous task of reforms. The Chinese government puts education and innovation at the heart of development and regards talent cultivation as a priority in supporting development. The government sees innovation as the first and foremost driver of development and the "golden key" of breaking limitations in economic growth and opening up future growth potentials. Both China and Germany share the tradition of emphasizing the importance of education and promoting innovation, and it is this complementarity nature of cooperation between both countries that provides a huge potential for even more fruitful cooperation.

Peter-André Alt, President of the Free University of Berlin and Presi-

dent Lin Jianhua of PKU also spoke at the forum. President Alt pointed out that as higher education between China and Germany has had a strong bond for a long time, the exchange and cooperation in higher education and technology of these two countries has only grown closer and more fruitful. Cooperation between the Free University of Berlin and Peking University has a profound history, while as strategic partners, thorough substantive cooperation has been established in many sectors, such as sustainable campus efforts.

President Lin Jianhua mentioned in his speech that Chinese higher education is greatly affected by the teaching methods in Germany. Former PKU President Cai Yuanpei introduced the "German model" to China, inspiring the PKU spirit of "inclusiveness with free flow of thoughts", the university's aim to

advance learning and nurture a student's character. Mankind is facing many challenges, and a university cannot solely promote technological development, but it also needs to devote itself to humanity's development. Over the past ten years, research funds and the amount of research published by PKU have both recorded a ten-fold increase, and the cooperation between PKU and FU is evidence of the benefits of Sino-German higher education exchanges and cooperation.

During the meeting, more than sixty presidents and administrators from Chinese and German universities opened their discussions on topics of "Attaining first-class in academia" and "Challenges and Opportunities for Sino-German Universities under cooperation".

President Lin Jianhua also visited the Free University of Berlin to visit President Alt. The two universities signed an agreement that initiated a joint postdoctoral program in regional studies and applied mathematics. Successful doctorate applicants would conduct academic research at the Free University of Berlin and Peking University for a year each. This program will be monitored and fully supported by a specialized committee and professors from both universities. Afterwards, the presidents of PKU and FU extended their discussion to the topics of cooperation with other institutes, their own strategic cooperation, and other key matters.



## Building World Class Universities: An Institutional Perspective

✉ Wang Shan

**O**n November 4 and November 5, 2016, the 2<sup>nd</sup> PKU-Stanford Forum, one of the sub forums of the Beijing Forum (2016), was held at the Stanford Center at Peking University (SCP KU), with the theme of "Building World Class Universities: An Institutional Perspective".

Professor Jean C. Oi, Director of the SCP KU and professor of Stanford University, mentioned in the opening ceremony that the

Stanford Center at Peking University (SCP KU) has not only provided Stanford University's faculty and students a platform to learn more about China, but also served as a bridge to connect excellent minds throughout the world over the past five years. And this forum offered a unique opportunity to dig into the issue of building world top universities, which had become a strategy of many countries to improve competitiveness and develop their

higher education.

Professor Ann M. Arvin, Vice Provost of Stanford University, and Min Weifang, President of the Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy (CSEDS) and Peking University professor, delivered opening remarks. Professor Yan Fengqiao from the Graduate School of Education, Peking University, gave an opening speech during the ceremony.

Professor Min Weifang analyzed



the topic of world-class universities from the perspective of institutionalism. He pointed out the lack of attention that people gave to the analysis of deeper institutional factors that help build world-class universities. Professor Yan Fengqiao pointed out that institutional changes were slower in the deeper levels such as changes of values than things like rules and regulations. Compared with developed countries, developing countries bear similarities in institutional

formalities but substantial differences in institutional contents.

Focused on the following themes: "The Differentiation of Higher Education Systems and the Emergence of World Class Universities in Different Institutional Environments"; "Institutional Contexts and Organizational Structures of World Class Universities"; "Managerial Characteristics of World Class Universities Shaped by Institutional Factors"; and "World Class Universities and Institutional

Development", the PKU-Stanford Forum was comprised of four sub-sessions, each of which included two keynote speeches and four panelist initial remarks.

During the two days of the forum, scholars, and university presidents from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Russia, Japan, Finland, Korea, Philippines, Pakistan, and China discussed the emergence, organization, management, and development of world-class universities.

During the closing ceremony of the PKU-Stanford Forum, Professor Ann M. Arvin, Vice Provost of Stanford University, summarized the conference discussions and pointed out the importance of diversity in the process of building world-class universities. There needs to be more women's participation in higher education, but real challenges still exist.

During the Forum, Professor Lin Jianhua, President of Peking University, also shared Peking University's endeavors in the process of making PKU a world-class university, such as undergraduate teaching reforms, personnel reforms, and comprehensive reforms.

Professor Min Weifang, gave the closing remarks of the PKU-Stanford Forum. He spoke highly of this forum, appreciating the substantial achievements made through the discussions. Professor Min and Professor Oi expressed their sincere gratitude to the participants and announced the closing of the Forum.



## PKU and UCL Agree to a Joint MBA Program

✉ Wang Xi

**O**n November 4, 2016, Peking University (PKU) and University College London (UCL) signed an agreement to reinforce their key partnership and accelerate their cooperation to address crucial global challenges. Lin Jianhua, President of PKU, and Michael

Arthur, President of UCL, both attended the signing ceremony.

According to the agreement, the two universities will jointly deliver an MBA program called Beijing International MBA, which will see the collaboration

between PKU's National School of Development (NSD) and the UCL School of Management (SoM). It's a combination of the advantages

“ Our two great universities are dedicated to initiate a higher level of creative research-dominated education which benefits humanity. ”



# Beijing Forum 2016



of the two departments: NSD is an economics and public policy think tank while SoM is a business school focused on technology, innovation, analytics, and entrepreneurship. The MBA program aims to help cultivate the next generation of young leaders and promote both China's development and its transformation into a knowledge-based economy.

As President Lin and President Arthur agreed in writing, "We are delighted to witness the ongoing development of our partnership. Our two great universities are dedicated to initiate a higher level of creative research-dominated education which benefits humanity. Together we can achieve a greater impact."

# PKU UCL

## Background

The high-level visits between the two universities have been occurred frequently in recent years. Most recently, during Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to the Britain in October 2015, PKU Professor Zhu Shanlu, the former Chair of the university council, accompanied President Xi to visit the UCL Confucius Institute. And in April 2016, President Lin Jianhua paid another visit to UCL.

The partnership between PKU and UCL is based on the close cooperation on research and teaching between scholars from both sides, which covers a wide area ranging from medicine, urban planning, language teaching to archaeology. The partnership is complimentary to "the golden era" of China-UK relations and government initiatives, such as the recent UK-China Strategic Framework in Education.



# Unearthed Documents and Ancient Chinese Civilization

✉ Xu Rui and Ou Kun

On November 4, 2016, the first seminar of the Beijing Forum, Unearthed Documents and Ancient Chinese Civilizations, was launched at the Diaoyutai State Guest House. The three-day seminar is divided into three sessions, the topics of which are respectively International View of Unearthed Documents Research; Research on Bronze and Ancient Chinese Characters; and Research on the Bamboo Slips of the Warring States, Qin and Han Dynasties. The first seminar was hosted by Shim Jae-Hoon and Zhao Pingan. Exerpts from the speeches delivered during the seminar will be introduced below.

Zhang Guangyu, professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, delivered the first speech entitled "On the Meaning of the Shooting Ritual: 'Yi Jie' ( 猗嗟) in Confucius' On poetry from Shangbo Zhushu". He demonstrated a variety of records on the ritual, pointing out that during the ritual, it was customary to shoot four arrows into a bronze turtle. However, this ritual was not only about shooting itself. Its main purpose was to show one's virtues in a set of procedures, including a wine ceremony and a music ceremony. Therefore, the shooting ritual served as a moral education as it helped to build people's characters.

The next speech "The Tsinghua

Manuscript 'Zheng Wen Gong Wen Tai Bo' and the Question of the Production of Manuscripts in Early China" is presented by Edward L. Shaughnessy, Professor of the University of Chicago. He compared the textual variants of "Zheng Wen Gong wen Tai Bo" in two versions, before giving a methodical reflection. He concluded that this text demonstrated that visual copying from one manuscript to another was a customary method in the Warring States of China, and it was safe to say that this method should be the default assumption for textual reproduction in ancient China.

In the speech on Women in the Bamboo-strip Manuscript Xinian ( 系年 ) from the Tsinghua University Collection, Professor Kotera Atsushi argues that compared to the handed-down documents like Zuozhuan, Guoyu, and Shiji, the female figures depicted in newly excavated Xinian often play a relatively insignificant role in the development of the historical events. In his report, Kotera presents a close comparison between the narrative about famous historical female figures such as Shao Kong, Bao Si, Xi Ji, Li Ji, Duchess Jinxiang, and a number of nameless female figures in Xinian and the above mentioned handed-down documents. Through the comparison, it is made transparent that the characterization of female



characters in Xinian is extremely brief. Even figures like Bao Si, Li Ji, who, according to handed-down documents, made great impacts on the destiny of their states, are given little emphasis in Xinian. In explaining this difference, Kotera suggests that it possible that the downplay of the significance of female figures might be a characteristic of the historical documents in the Chu State, where Xinian originated.

After a short tea break, Professor Shan Zhouyao of the Chinese University of Hong Kong gave a report on "Revaluating Gao Benhan's Dialect Explanation in 'The Authenticity of Zuo Zhuan' with Unearthed Documents". By presenting several extracts from the unearthed documents, he revealed that those classics are not their original versions as in Pre-Qin Era, so as Zuo Zhuan. Therefore, it was at least dubious for Gao Benhan to use the word-choosing of these documents to prove that the author of Zuo Zhuan was not from the State of Lu.

In the following periods, Professor Zhu Fenghan, Poo Mu-chou, and Li Ling elaborated respectively on "the Identity of Large Tombs' Occupants in the Cemetery of the State of Zeng 曾 and the Zeng Hou Yu Bell 曾侯與钟 Inscription", "From Classics to Religion", and "The Qin Bamboo-strip Manuscript 'Yu Jiu Ce 禹九策' from the Peking University Collection"

The first session, which presented the guests with insightful interpretations of the unearthed ancient Chinese documents, ended amid a long, warm applause.



# Former Pakistan Prime Minister and PKU Leadership Discuss Sino-Pakistani Education Cooperation

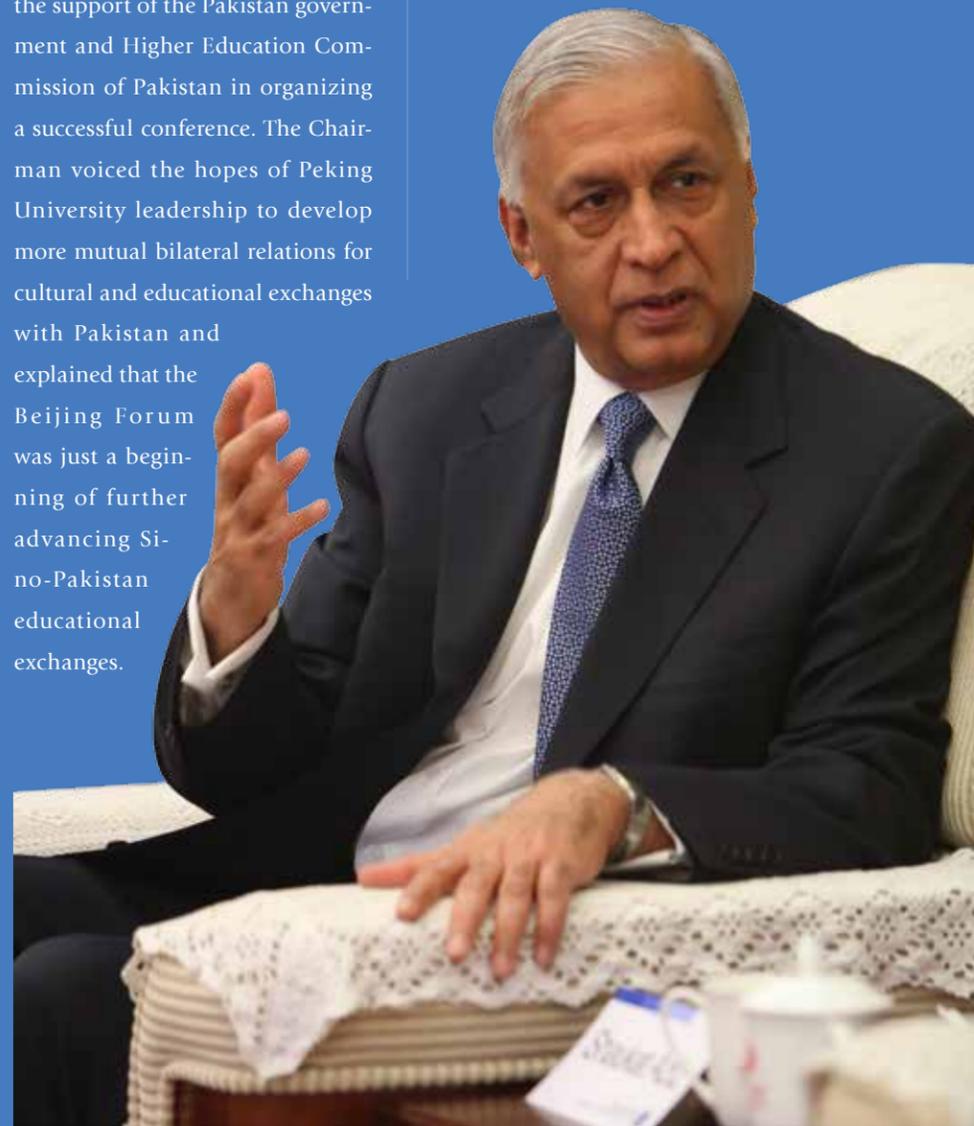
✉ Veeresh Kanduri

The most honorable Shaukat Aziz, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Pakistan visited Beijing on the 4th of November to attend the opening ceremony of the Beijing Forum 2016 and delivered a keynote speech emphasizing the lack of leadership in the contemporary world and appreciated the efforts of Peking University for nurturing future global leaders. On the side lines of the Beijing Forum, the Chairman of the Peking University Council, Zhu Shanlu held a high level bilateral meeting with Aziz on Sino-Pakistan Education cooperation and the future of the Beijing Forum.

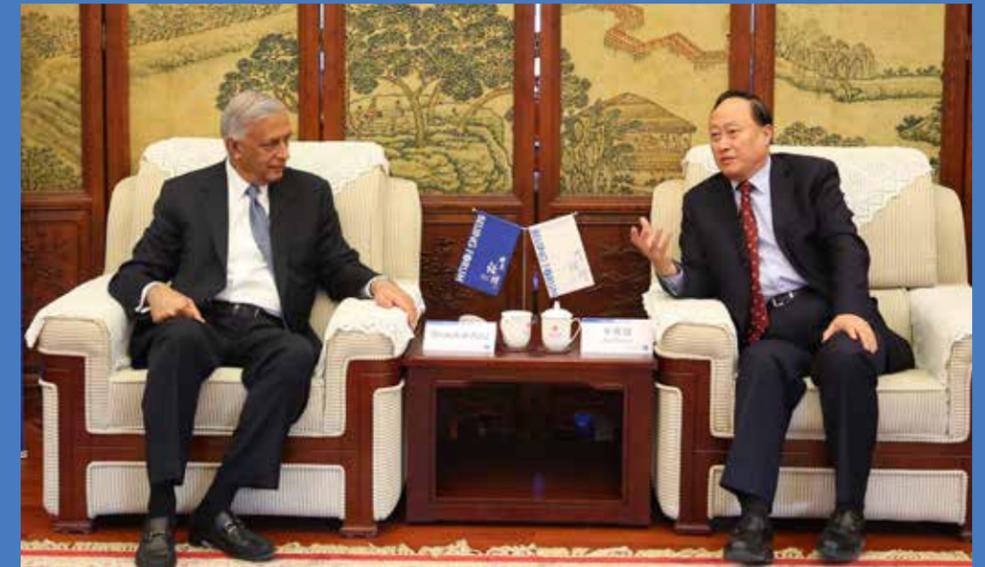
Zhu acclaimed former Prime minister for his contributions to improve Sino-Pakistan relations under his term and said "Pakistan is an old friend to China and well known to all our students and faculty in Peking University. I was once also a student of Peking University, and my Professors always expressed deep respect for Pakistan." The first overseas Beijing forum was held in Pakistan earlier

this year in May, centered on the main theme of "China and Pakistan in the community of common destiny for all mankind" in collaboration with National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad. Zhu expressed his gratitude on behalf of Peking University for the support of the Pakistan government and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan in organizing a successful conference. The Chairman voiced the hopes of Peking University leadership to develop more mutual bilateral relations for cultural and educational exchanges with Pakistan and explained that the Beijing Forum was just a beginning of further advancing Sino-Pakistan educational exchanges.

Zhu recalled his experiences visiting Pakistan two years ago for the first time and amazed by the treatment he received by his Pakistan counterparts and opined that China and Pakistan will remain un-



conditional all-weather allies. Towards the end of the meeting, Zhu expressed his wish to host Aziz's friend and the Honorable President of Pakistan, Mamnoon Hussain, at Peking University — the largest center in China for sharing languages, history, and culture — to discuss and improve bilateral education exchanges.



Former Prime Minister Aziz congratulated the Chairman Zhu and the entire leadership of the Beijing Forum 2016 for its great accomplishment and extolled the intellectual content of the forum with speakers of high reputation and student delegates of great knowledge. He also said, "the content and speakers are important but the delegates are vital for any conference. The delegates at the Beijing Forum are excellent and the discussions are thought provoking. The delegates are very diverse in every aspect like academics, country of origin, gender, and culture."

On China-Pakistan relations, Former Prime Minister Aziz expressed his two strong beliefs:

1. The China-Pakistan bilateral relation is important to both countries, the region, and the world.
2. China supports the interests of Pakistan in international and multi-lateral platforms and vice-versa.

Aziz extended his support to the

Peking University leadership in expanding the Beijing Forum to developed nations but also suggested that the Forum should reach out to African and Asian countries.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century universities are crossing several barriers like geographical boundaries and national borders to participate in non-state track II diplomacy; the foreign ministry is not the sole contributor to diplomacy. The two leaders discussed the role of universities in non-conventional diplomacy to establish soft power and identified the Beijing Forum as a giant asset for Peking University under university diplomacy. The Peking university leadership, with the support of the Chinese Foreign Ministry is negotiating for the French Government's collaboration to host a second overseas Beijing Forum in France next May.

Universities should play important role in policy exchanges and diplomatic relations. Both the

leaders assessed the advantages Peking University has for its domestic and international students to nurture future global leaders. Aziz agreed with Zhu's invitation to be part of an international advisory board member of the Beijing Forum and suggested a few structural changes — especially the themes of the Forum, more collaborations with international universities, and also requested to involve more international students, young political leaders, and business leaders in the committees.

At the end of the meeting, Aziz presented his recent work "Shaukat Aziz: From Banking to the Thorny World of Politics" to Zhu and asked him to share his views. Zhu expressed his plans about the upcoming work on Chinese literature which will be released in the following year.



## Interview with University of Toronto President Meric Gertler

➤ Huang Fangyuan

During the Beijing Forum 2016, I was privileged to interview University of Toronto President Meric Gertler. He graduated from Harvard University, Prof. Gertler is regarded as one of the world's foremost urban theorists and policy practitioners. He is the author, co-author, or co-editor of more than 80 scholarly publications and 7 books.

*Q: The latest Times Higher Education Rankings were released and U of T was ranked as Canada's top university. Congratulations!*

*a) Do you think the rankings are important to universities?*

*b) Peking University has put the goal of becoming a world-class university at the top of its agenda. In your opinion, what is the most important quality of a world-class*

*university?*

A: They are important indeed. University rankings are global phenomena. Students and parents are looking at them, and they know it better than I do. And also we have a great variety of rankings, QS rankings, Times Higher Education rankings, to name a few. Rankings are also important for attracting

talents. For instance, 50% of our faculties at University of Toronto are from outside Canada. In this regard, rankings are quite useful for attracting and retaining both faculty and students.

A world-class university is distinguished by both its teaching and academic excellence in a wide range of disciplines, and Peking University has done an excellent job in terms of both teaching and research.

*Q: U of T is very famous for its research achievements. It has made many breakthroughs in the field of computer science and chemistry, to name a few fields. So,*

*a) What are the key qualities or characters of the academic staff that you value the most?*

*b) How do U of T professors balance their research and teaching?*

A: The first quality we are looking for is curiosity. It makes up an important part of their intellectual quality as well as their academic pursuits. Throughout the entire career, we want them to retain their curiosity.

Secondly, the ability to publish one's research internationally is also important. You have to have your own ambition to reach out to a global audience. Thirdly, you have to be a very good communicator. Good teaching could inspire the next generation.

In terms of balancing their academic research and teaching, we have a lot

of great faculty members who are both research stars and good teachers. During the students' first year in college, they are learning from our leading faculty members renowned for their academic achievements. It can kindle the passion of university students in academic research. Luckily we have got a great number of research staff that are also fantastic teachers at the same time.

*Q: The University of Toronto is located advantageously in three of the Greater Toronto areas, namely, Mississauga, Downtown Toronto, and Scarborough. You are a leading expert in urban planning and you have visited world-class universities*

*including Oxford University, University College London, the University of Oslo, and the University of California, Los Angeles, to name a few. Based on your expertise and rich experience:*

*a) For students who consider studying abroad, is the location of the university important? If so, why is it important?*

*b) In what ways do the locations of the schools shape the students' overall studying experience?*

A: Absolutely, for all kinds of reasons. U of T is located in a dynamic, metropolitan city which provides countless learning opportunities. So many students want some kind of internship experience



or a co-op or a professional experience here, or a service learning experience in a course, or some other variation on that theme. And we're very fortunate to be situated in this place, which offers so many possibilities.

From a social point of view, students want to have fun. As I have mentioned before, 50% of our students are from places outside Canada. They would like to immerse themselves in a diverse culture. The city has much to offer and will never let you down.

The location of a university also plays an important role in attracting and retaining faculties from around the world. The city's culture, systems, hospitals, and green assets are valuable assets to a university. As the labor market is getting more and more competitive, the city is one of our greatest assets. The city is not only a place we live in but also the place where we breathe and flourish.

*Q: During your term as the dean of U of T's Faculty of Arts & Science, the undergraduate education underwent a fundamental transformation*

*in terms of curriculum arrangement and both research and academic opportunities. Now, as the president of U of T:*

*a) What's your expectation of a U of T graduate in regards to her or his competence, skills, and values?*

*b) What efforts have you and the university taken to facilitate students' future success?*

A: College education is not about pursuing a particular subject. It is the abilities they have that matters the most. When students look for jobs and get their first job offer, the things that they learnt at school are able to ensure their success over a lifetime.

Specifically speaking, it's communication skills, it is the ability to solve problems and to think critically, to put together arguments effectively whether you're using qualitative or quantitative forms of evidence, to work well in teams. These sort of competencies which are kind of, in many ways, orthogonal to the subject matter of the discipline that you're studying, but where we need to ensure that all students in whatever program they

pursue have an opportunity to develop these capacities.

We want to further enrich and diversify the resources that we have now. For example, we hope to offer students more research and intern opportunities and to enhance students' practical experience both inside and outside the universities. At present, only 15%-20% of our students study abroad on exchange programs and other study programs. We want more of our students to go abroad and to take full advantage of rich educational resources overseas.

*Q: Could you please write a few words for Peking University and its 120th anniversary?*

A: "Peking University is turning 120, the University of Toronto will be turning 190. As your older brother, we say congratulations to Peking University. You have a lustrous past and a brilliant future ahead, and we look forward to working with you in partnerships to ensure a brighter future."



## Interview with Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General Iqbal Riza

by Jonathan Ly and Zhu Jieyun

Just before the closing ceremony of the Beijing Forum 2016, with the goal of promoting global prosperity and harmony between civilisations, we had the opportunity to interview Sir Iqbal Riza, special adviser to the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the Lakeview Hotel in Peking University.

The Beijing Forum is an annual

academic forum organized by the Chinese Ministry of Education, the Beijing Municipal Government, Peking University, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education, and the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies, and this year it focused on "Mutual Trust, Cooperation, and Sharing".

We asked Iqbal Riza how universities can contribute to the mutual understanding between

civilizations. According to him, in our modern world where contact is intense, immediate, and deep, universities need to promote mutual understanding, otherwise it is going to create tensions. Now that Internet is a reality, it is a paradox that where internet was supposed to bring people together, there are more tensions as people see each other clearly, they see not only the benefits but also the negative as-

pects. The internet is therefore also a place where extremists or terrorists disseminate their hate propaganda. Internet is a double-edged sword. Initiatives like the Beijing Forum, UNESCO, and the Alliance of Civilizations, or the Dialogue of Civilizations' President Hatami of Iran in the 1980s are positive in promoting a mutual understanding. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the nation-state system started to develop, with empires breaking up, the term civilizations is a little nebulous but it is possible to talk about cultures and sub-cultures with different visions.

When asked whether China perceives itself as a new hegemon at the same level as the USA, Riza answered there is no evidence in China's foreign policy to prove it

aims to acquire other territories in other countries. Nevertheless, it has claims and disputes. What other countries fear though is economic domination by other countries. It is about investments and trades flowing out of China, like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in Central Asia. As power is undeniably shifting from the West to the East, a lot of the financial power remains in the West. The world banks, the International Monetary Fund, and the banking system are still dominated by the West, which enables Western powers to influence Iran, Cuba, and limit somehow the shift to East in the present time. Transactions are in dollars, in euros sometimes. Even though, the EU has its problems as well as the Eurozone, it is still a significant

economic and financial power according to Riza.

In light of the One Belt, One Road initiative, we asked Riza how China was going to build its harbor in Gwadar given Pakistan's current insecurity. The route through Gwadar is under threat and China's interest in this harbor may be compromised, but Pakistan has implemented a system to secure this route, and China seems to accept it and is part of the security arrangement.

At the end of the interview, Mr. Riza thanked the students for their questions and wished more young people were interested in the United Nations or any other NGOs which could promote a mutual understanding of cultures and societies across the world.

ies, European studies, the case is slightly different for African studies. Partially due to the state of development, the current body of literature is not developed enough. Many scholars are tempted to use the conventional western lens to analyze African studies, but due to its unique social and cultural conditions, an entirely new lens ought to be used. This is why a multidisciplinary approach is the answer.

*What is an example of where this model is applied to an African case?*

For all students starting a degree at the School of International Studies (SIS), it was required to take a course on the history of international relations. In the course, Africa was only briefly mentioned in the context of cross-Atlantic slave trade and the period of decolonization, but was ignored otherwise. This is very telling. "Studies from African scholars are huge but general courses never discuss them, there is never room for the African contribution to history, that is due to the Western-centrism", Professor Liu said. She argued to systematically integrate African perspectives into our discussions and reject this image of it being an underdeveloped and passive continent. We also can't just pretend that civilization and Africa are completely unrelated.

Furthermore, when examining the literature on China-Africa coop-



eration, there is one huge vacuum: African agency. The push factors for the Chinese part are meticulously analyzed but what pulls that cooperation to Africa is ignored. This realpolitik way of thinking, which only focuses on the big powers and self-interests, and ignore what happens on the ground. Too often, it is assumed all policies are decided by the great powers. However, when we do country comparisons and local studies, one can notice vast differences in impact models, including political, cultural, and economic differences, Professor Liu said.

*What needs to be done to fill this gap in current literature?*

Scholars need to add the African context to bilateral cooperation. Renowned researchers, such as Deborah Brautigam (author of *The Dragon's Gift* and *Will Africa Feed China?*) study Sino-African

relations from the Chinese side. Before local impact can be fully understood, more studies need to be done on smaller levels, of individual countries. Hence, one of Professor Liu's methodologies is to take a research location as small as possible, such as a particular region and take a multidisciplinary approach to her research, in which she combines qualitative and quantitative approaches to answer the questions of "what, with whom, and under which circumstances" she said. She has been conducting research in, amongst others, Tanzania, South Africa, Angola, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Kenya.

Since 2009, the government has become more aware that investment in business alone is not possible, and that investment in other areas such as research is vital for bilateral cooperation between China and African countries to succeed. The One Belt, One Road Initiative and the Forum of China-Africa

## Professor Liu Haifang and African Studies at PKU

✎ Laura Arts

*What is your research background?*

"I was trained as a historian, specifically in African history. Throughout the years, I have broadened my vision to focus not just on African history, but also on its culture, society, and politics", Pro-

fessor Liu said. For 11 years, her specialty has been China-Africa relations and has looked at the international relations between the two. In doing so, she has examined areas such as professional cooperation, education, health, agriculture, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) coopera-

tion. As a result, her expertise is a multidisciplinary one that borders between international relations and development studies.

Professor Liu notes that while many other continents have well-developed academic research fields of their own, such as Latin American studies, American stud-

Cooperation (FOCAC) have helped the two sides cooperate. It has become clear that infrastructure building needs to be done before further business cooperation. This is especially true for countries along the Silk Road who are specialized in engineering.

The secretariat of FOCAC, calls for more joint research and mutual cooperation between Chinese and African scholars each year. Both Chinese and African scholars can now apply for joint research and joint publications through the FOCAC. This cooperation has greatly contributed to mutual understanding and insights in how to manage business relations based on scientific research.

**What is a common misconception about your field of research?**

This might not necessarily be a misconception, but if there would be one thing I'd like to emphasize, it would be the importance of joint research. In my projects,



my African students, M.A., PhD, and postgraduate students, have all taught me so much. They were the ones who introduced me to scholars to cooperate with on the ground, which has been of immense value. If you are in a different culture, small customs and norms can be very different from yours, and advice on matters such as clothing or traditions enable you to have a more true dialogue with people, and it enables you to truly encounter a different culture. These insights and encounters will surely be reflected in your research.

During my research trips, I make use of many lenses, such as that of guest, researcher, but by cooperating, also the lenses of my students. This offers new perspectives on familiar topics. If you do research that is very much 'on the ground' and local, there is often a language barrier, too. Again, joint research and the help of students from host countries can help immensely with this. In summary, I believe that by joining hands, researchers can overcome cultural and language barriers to give new perspectives to research.

**Liu Haifang**, PhD (History), Peking University, is an Associate Professor in the School of International Studies, Peking University. She previously worked for the Institute of West Asian and African Studies (IWAAS), the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), and a visiting scholar at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague. She serves as Deputy Director and General Secretary of the Center for African Studies, Peking University and as the Vice President of the Chinese Society of African Historical Studies. She is also a member of the SSRC China-Africa Knowledge Project's Working Group.

## Researchers from PKU Invent a New Technology for Transforming Viruses into Vaccines

➤ *Kuang Huolingxiao*

Recently, a great breakthrough was made by researchers from the State Key Laboratory of Natural and Biomedicine Drugs from Peking University (PKU) of Pharmaceutical Sciences (SKLNBD). Researchers took the influenza virus as a model and invented a new technology that can allow artificial control of virus reproduction to further transform viruses into vaccines. An academic article about this achievement has been published in *Science* -- a peer-reviewed academic journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and one of the world's top academic journals.

Many human diseases are caused by viruses, including general diseases, such as cold, influenza, varicella, and herpes labialis, as well as serious diseases, for instance, Ebola hemorrhagic fever, HIV, bird flu, and atypical pneumonia.

For a long time, people have been fighting against those viruses, hoping to control and destroy viruses. Currently, vaccines used to prevent virus infection under clinical circumstances are usually



inactivated viruses and attenuated viruses. Although inactivated viruses are nontoxic, their immune effect is not ideal. On the other hand, attenuated vaccines have the risk of causing an infection.

To solve this problem, researchers chose to create an artificial control process of viruses' reproduction which can directly transfer viruses into vaccines. Based on H1N1 influenza virus model, researchers implant UAG into viruses. In this way, it is ensured that viruses can stop reproduction with their full structures existing. Not only the virulence of this kind of wild virus is kept, but also immune function of human body is activated. By both controlling the quantity of viruses and quality of viruses, the security of the vaccine is ensured.

At present, the research team, consisting of the SKLNBD Direc-

tor Zhou Demin, academician Zhang Lihe from China Academy of Science as well as doctoral students from PKU, Si Longlong and Xuhuan, use little mice, ferrets and guinea pigs to do experiments about spraying through noses, which proves the effectiveness and safety of the vaccines. Furthermore, researchers find that those used viruses and wild viruses in human body lead to gene rearrangements. And this is exactly the reason why that wild viruses lose the self-reproduction ability and cure diseases.

This newly-invented technology greatly simplifies the research and development process of vaccines. Researchers can make vaccines without relying on biological knowledge about viruses. These have improved the safety, effectiveness, and research speed of vaccines to a great extent.

# Rethinking Humanities and Humanistic Values of Education in Our Age

✉ Huang Fangyuan



**C**hina and the World: Observation, Analysis and Prospect. A Symposium sponsored by the Yenching Academy of Peking University. "Between Official Learning and Private Learning—Whither the Humanities?" Speaker: Chen Pingyuan, Professor of Chinese, Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Peking University.

At the beginning, Professor Chen emotionally recalled Zhang Taiyan (章太炎) and his tradition of private learning. He believed that the 'learning' in China could only prosper when it is carried out from bottom to top instead of the other way around. For hundreds of thousands of years, Chinese learning had been carried out in the form of "Shuyuan" (书

院) which promotes private learning. University learning was an education system imported to China from the West during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The competition between private learning and official learning represented the struggle between the East and West. Zhang's ambition of reinvigorating private learning fell short of practicability. During the One Hundred Days' Reform, the academy was abolished together with the civil examination, and the new system of European and American education was established in China. As early as 1920, the famous scholar Hu Shi began to cherish the tradition of private leaning in the academy. Chinese scholars such as Liang Shuming (梁漱溟), Ma Yifu

(马一浮) went to great lengths to restore the academy but ended up in failure. The New Asia College founded by Qian Mu (钱穆), Tang Junyi (唐君毅) were also integrated into the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The attempts to restore private learning repeatedly failed.

After the 'renaissance' of humanities from 1978 to 1989, humanities were constantly outweighed by social sciences. This is partly due to economic reform of education, he reflected. The progress in education are to a large extent prompted by governmental spending in the forms of research grants, funds, and so on. From 2012 to 2015, education accounted for over 4% of the total GDP. Humanistic scholars are burdened with political authority,

the market economy, and social media and are heavily influenced by the methodology as well as the preference of social sciences. The independent and critical thinking of a scholar are discounted as the 'usefulness' of the research is gaining more and more weight in measuring a scholar's success.

The resurgence of humanities, as the professor pointed out, is worth the greatest efforts. Specifically, a distance between private learning and official learning should be realized so that the independent spirit and intrinsic value of humanities are not spoiled. Professor Chen looked ahead to a brighter future of humanities. He also expressed his hope that Yenching Academy would stick to its own path of development and keep its unique characteristics while integrating into the world.

**Speaker: Zhang Longxi, Chair Professor of Comparative Literature and Translation, City University of Hong Kong, Distinguished Professor of Yenching Academy of Peking University; foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History, and Antiquities and of the Academia Europaea; and President of the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA)**

Professor Zhang Longxi proposed the serious problems in our world today reveal the lack of moral principles and sympathetic understanding. To change the world,

it is necessary to change people who make up the world, and education in the humanities is the best means of that change. We may still learn something valuable from that tradition of education and culture for the benefit of a better world and a better future for humankind.

Education today is much different from that of the past. Growing tension between liberal education and professional education gives rise to an increasingly popular creed that the pursuit of knowledge is a means rather than an end, and universities today seem to be more and more occupied with citations, grants, and social impact. Humanities are more and more marginalized and humanities in the post-modern condition is no longer acquiring truth, but generating new paradigm to better performance. Research reduced to language games amidst the rise of cultural studies and gender studies.

Humanistic values include the re-emphasizing of ethical responsibilities as well as renewed empathies and sympathies beyond our own social groups. Action is nothing but the realization of thoughts and ideas, characteristics. Ideas are power. Immanuel Kant, a timid and reticent man, except the fact that he took a walk at 3PM sharp every afternoon, so precise that the cleaner in that small town used it to check his watch. But he was compared to an 'executioner' because his ideas have made a transforming impact on the world. Another great

mind in Germany, Karl Marx, also emphasized the importance of ideas in terms of its power to change the world.

But ideas can also be dangerous. Professor Zhang warned that special caution has to be attached to ideas: The more you read, the more difficult it becomes to form a judgement or reach a conclusion. Consider the concept of 'truth', and how this idea evolved into a complex system of signifiers from Aristotle till now. In Aristotle's age, truth is nothing but abstract thinking. But it's improper to argue that in China there is no truth but only ideas. In the same age, another sage argues that man is the measure of all things, everything has to be judged from a human perspective. Skeptics believe that there is no truth. Even if there is truth, he argues, you do not know it, and Even if you do know the truth, you still don't know how to express it. The dichotomy between truth and falsehood is more often than not made by people who do not know much.

At the end of his speech, Professor Zhang looked forward to a brighter future of the Yenching Academy. He believed the mission of the academy is closely connected with the mission of our age. To nurture great minds and to encourage a holistic view of things, it is important to draw useful experiences from the ancient 'shuyuan' (书院) tradition and to teach our young people to humanistic classics.

## PKU Professor's Article Published in *Diplomatic History*

► Huang Yongheng



national relations worldwide. Notably, this is the first time ever that a Chinese scholar has published works in *Diplomatic History* as the only author.

Utilizing newly available archival sources in China — including recently declassified documents housed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archives (MFAA) and several provincial and municipal materials, the article has powerfully presented a brand new understanding

of China's anti-U.S. policy in the 1960s. Instead of recounting existing conclusions, the article has put an added emphasis on power politics and its significance in the U.S.-China relationship during the Cold War.

Existing theories on Beijing's decision to adopt an anti-U.S. policy have failed to grasp the essence. Previous studies have mainly

been centered on the Sino-American rapprochement that took place after 1969. One of the most widely accepted explanations states that it was the urge to counter-balance the Soviet threat that led to the thaw between Beijing and Washington. Some scholars also use ideological conflict to explain why China and the United States were at odds prior to 1972. In addition, other studies also suggest that the dramatic shift from enmity to rapprochement in the U.S.-China relationship could be attributed to the radicalization of domestic politics. However, these theories only serve as partial explanations to the anti-U.S. stance in the 60s.

Professor Wang's article has a firm spotlight on power politics calculations. In a departure from the conventional view that holds China's foreign policy was highly ideological, intransigent, and aggressive, this article argues that Chinese leaders were shrewd strategic players. Whenever necessary, Chinese leaders were able to compromise with the United States and prevent crises from escalating into conflict. However, fundamentally, Chinese leaders saw rapprochement with the United States as detri-

mental to China's goal of pursuing great power status. Documentary evidence has incited that there was more continuity than change in China's foreign policy. Breaking with the socialist camp, Beijing assiduously wooed leftist forces and non-aligned countries. China's possession of nuclear capabilities further boosted China's confidence and optimism. But it was not until the outbreak of the Zhenbao Island

conflict in 1969 that the Soviet threat to China's security came to the forefront of Chinese leaders' minds. The perceived Soviet threat then motivated Chinese leaders to seek rapprochement with the United States.

Bringing power politics back to the picture, the article has received acclaim. Some view the article as 'arresting and intellectually stimulating' and some regard

it as 'the cutting edge scholarship on China-U.S. diplomatic history as well as the history of the Cold War.' Indeed, the publication of Professor Wang's article not only helps refine our understanding of China's foreign policy behavior during the Cold War, but also proves that Chinese scholars are advancing steadily in the path of first-class humanities and social sciences studies.



## What does "Culture" Mean Today? On the Pedigree of Mass Culture

► Huang Fangyuan

Professor Dai Jinhua of comparative literature and comparative cultural studies at Peking University, served as a pioneer in both feminist and film studies and concerned herself with setting up the first countrywide major in film theory in 1986. Dai has published more than ten books including the *Scenery in the Mist*,

*Film Criticism*, *The Island of Yesterday*, and *Gender China*.

According to Dai's understanding, the 1990s was a critical point in history for China's cultural landscape, during that period of time, China underwent a transformation and reshaping driven by market force as well as consumerism, which has been encroaching in al-

most every part of the artifact and cultural production. What emerges is a wider class division that is still plagued by the excesses and corruption of an aging bureaucracy.

The dualism of writing has also revealed itself through an enlarging and expanding form of artistic expression. The most interesting phenomenon was the shift of focus of

the word "the mass", from a purely technical political term widely used in mobilization to a mix of consumers and producers, the boundaries of which has become more and more blurred. Heterogeneity overshadows homogeneity.

Mass culture has a relatively indecent origin, with its train of thought clearly shown in the Western and especially, in the English tradition. Mass culture facilitates an interaction between production and consumption. Manufactured in bulks, it is then distributed in identical 'packages' to consumers, the process of which involves mechanical replication and mass production. Walter Benjamin's selections from the books *Illuminations and Reflections* used the word 'vulgar naturalism' to describe the characteristics of mass culture.

One of the most daunting difficul-



ties for cultural studies today is the lack of research methodology. There's no one single method that can encompass the whole spectrum of cultural studies. Another misconception within China is that 'the newer, the better' underlies most of the cultural studies value proposition.

Chinese mass culture in the 1980s resonated with Western influence. Elitism in the 80s mainly

targeted the general public. In the 1990s, the elite/popular antagonism was supported by the market-driven mentality and liberal atmosphere. Mass culture obviously got the upper hand in terms of the size of the audience and the money it generates.

Mass culture wins the battle owing to its open-mindedness and tolerance. There is no presupposition in its narrative concerning

what is right, what is orthodox, nor is there any exclusiveness when it comes to different interest groups, thus mass culture is winning the favor of a more and more diversified society.

In other words, popular culture holds a larger public due to its complexity.

Mass culture itself penetrates into the Hollywood film industry as well. The frequently repeated patterns in Hollywood was the weak vis-à-vis the strong finally gets the upper hand, along with the legitimization of the marginal and the relief of success to make up for the past suffering.

Undoubtedly, mass culture is bad when it is placed in the context of right wing fascism. Mass culture traced its origin back to the French Revolution as a symbol of liberty, progress marking the prelude of a new era as well as the end of despotism. At that time, it would never imagine that the monster of nationalism and populism would one day dominate the world stage.

## Cao Xueqin Arts Development Fund Launched at PKU

➤ Zhou Yang

On November 15, 2016, the Peking University Cao Xueqin Arts Development Fund was successfully launched at a ceremony held in 51 Yannan Garden, Peking University (PKU). Beijing Cao Xueqin Culture Development Fund donated to the PKU School of Arts to establish this new fund aiming at supporting relevant studies and carrying out cultural events on campus and to memorialize the great writer Cao

Xueqin and promote his works to a greater audience.

As one of the Four Masters' Works, Cao Xueqin's *A Dream of Red Mansions* is among one of China's greatest, most popular, and most studied novels of all time. The research of which not only has literature and artistic values, but also reveals the inner spirit world of the Chinese people. Wang Yichuan, Dean of the PKU School of Arts,

expressed his gratitude towards the donors in his speech. He pointed out that PKU had a long tradition of the study in *A Dream of Red Mansions* and the life of Cao Xueqin, which laid a solid foundation for future activities and studies. In the new media era, where serious reading is marginalized, returning to classics like *A Dream of Red Mansions* and is crucial to understanding Chinese culture.





## Gridsum Donates to Establish PKU Law School Research and Talent Training Work Development Fund

▫ *Li Ruoxue*

On October 21, 2016, a donation ceremony to the PKU Law School Research and Talent Training Work Development Fund was held at the Jiangjia Hutong Courtyard, Peking University (PKU). Qi Guosheng, Chairman of Gridsum Holding Inc.; Wu Zhipan, PKU Executive Vice President; and Zhang Shouwen, Law School Dean attended the ceremony along with personnel of Gridsum, and staff from the PKU law school, and PKU Big Data Law Research.

Before the ceremony, PKU President Lin Jianhua warmly welcomed Chairman Qi and his partners at Yingjie Exchange Center. President Lin expressed his thanks for the generous support of Gridsum and Chairman Qi for the development of social science and legal research of PKU Law School and then on behalf of PKU, President Lin awarded Chairman Qi Guosheng PKU Education outstanding contribution award.

Then Chairman Qi gave a speech at the ceremony and stated the importance of big data legal research,

talents training, and the building of national think tank. He believed that with the development and resources of Internet technology, the academic researches of PKU Law School would greatly promote the future development of China and its law systems.

After the signing of the donation agreement, the guests at present also witnessed that PKU Jiangjia Hutong courtyard was officially named as Gridsum Courtyard, which will promote the rule of law academic research.

## President of Sino Group and Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation Huang Zhixiang Named as an Honorary Trustee of PKU

▫ *Lu Yifan*

On November 4, 2016, Mr. Huang Zhixiang, President of Sino Group, came to Peking University (PKU) and was warmly welcomed by Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of the PKU University Council. During the meeting, Mr. Huang was named as an honorary trustee of PKU.

Mr. Huang Zhixiang was thankful for this honor, and showed his confidence in the development of PKU in the future. Then the two sides explored the possibility of further corporation between Sino Group and PKU.

Sino Group and Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation, Ltd., are old

partners of PKU. In 2011, Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation donated to establish the PKU Ng Teng Fong/Sino Education Foundation, which aimed to support excellent scholars to study abroad. In December 2015, Ng Teng Fong Char-

itable Foundation also helped build a joint institute of Peking University and Nanyang Technological University, which has also been providing opportunities for undergraduates and graduates from the two universities to have exchanges.



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### Dezhai, Caizhai, Junzhai, and Beizhai Buildings

Four buildings stand elegantly along the Weiming Lake, being embraced by the silence and etched with the marks of time. They are Dezhai, Caizhai, Junzhai, and Beizhai buildings.

Designed by the famous American architect Henry Murphy, Dezhai, Caizhai, Junzhai, and Beizhai buildings were completed around 1929 and were originally used as boys' dormitory. Since Henry Murphy had been familiar with Chinese architecture and culture, the buildings displayed classic features of traditional Chinese gardens. Dezhai, Caizhai, Junzhai, and Beizhai buildings are now the home of the Office of Development and Planning, the Office of Scientific Research, and the Office of Continuing Research.

Renown scholar Qian Mu named the buildings with a purpose: The 'De' of Dezhai means virtue and the 'Cai' of Caizhai means talent in Chinese, and the names of the buildings express Peking University's aim to foster students with both virtue and talent. Peking University students to this day strive hard to reach this standard.

Photo: Wang Wenquan

