



Curriculum Vitae Professor Dr Li Xuetao

Name: Li Xuetao
Born: 27 October 1965

Research Priorities: German philosophy, Karl Jaspers, Chinese Buddhism, history of German sinology, history of knowledge transfer

Li Xuetao is a Chinese sinologist, religious studies scholar, and German philologist. He is especially interested in the interaction between different cultures: How can a foreign culture be integrated into the local, already existing one? And how do the two influence each other. Such questions are highly topical in an increasingly globalised world. Li Xuetao pursues these questions by studying the relationship between China and the rest of the world on various levels.

Academic and Professional Career

- since 2017 Dean, School of History, Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), Beijing, China
- 2014 - 2017 Director, Institute for Global History, BFSU, Beijing, China
- 2008 - 2014 Professor, School of Chinese Language and Literature, BFSU, Beijing, China
- 2004 - 2007 Research Fellow, National Research Center of Overseas Sinology, BFSU, Beijing, China
- 1999 - 2004 PhD in Sinology, Religious Studies, Modern German Literature, and Indology,
University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany
- Magister Artium (M.A.) in Sinology, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany
- Studies in Sinology, Religious Studies, Modern German Literature, Indology, and
Japanology, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany
- 1996 - 1999 Lecturer for Sinology and German Studies, Beijing University of Chemical Technology,
Beijing, China
- 1994 - 1996 Research Fellow, Institute for Comparative Cultural Research and Religious Studies,
Philipps-Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany

- 1989 - 1994 Assistant in German Studies, Beijing Institute of Chemical Engineering Management, Beijing, China
 Studies of Buddhism, Guangjis Monastery, Beijing, China
- 1985 - 1989 Studies of Sinology and German Studies, BFSU, Beijing, China

Functions in Scientific Societies and Committees

- since 2019 Member, Board, Asian Association of World Historians, Osaka, Japan
- since 2018 Member, Board, China Association of German History Studies, Beijing, China
- since 2017 Vice-President, Chinese Society for Historians of China's foreign Relations, Beijing, China
- 2017 President, Society of Cultural Interaction in East Asia, Osaka, Japan
- 2013 - 2017 Vice-President, International Society for Chinese Culture Studies, Hongkong, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China
- 2006 - 2020 Member, Board, Confucius Institute, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. Düsseldorf, Germany

Project Coordination, Membership in Collaborative Research Projects

- 2021 - 2026 Head, Project "Studies of Buddhist Literature Collected Outside China (1912 - 1949)", National Social Science Fund of China, Beijing, China
- 2021 - 2024 Head, Subproject "Keywords of Chinese Buddhism: Chinese & English", Project "Key Concepts in Chinese Thought and Culture: Communication through Translation", Inter-ministerial Joint Conference, Beijing, China
- 2020 - 2023 Head, Project "German translation of The History of Ancient Chinese Books", National Social Science Fund of China, Beijing, China
- since 2018 Project "Kansai University Open Research Center for Asian Studies (KU-ORCAS)", Kansai University, Suita, Japan
- 2017 - 2019 Head, Project "The Transcription of Buddhist Sutras into Chinese" ("Die Übertragung buddhistischer Sutras ins Chinesische"), National Social Science Fund of China, Beijing, China
- 2016 - 2017 Project "Transnational Interactions and the Ordering and Controlling of societal processes in the age of globalisation" ("Transnationale Interaktionen und die Ordnung und Steuerung gesellschaftlicher Prozesse im Zeitalter der Globalisierung"), Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Federal Republic of Germany

- 2014 - 2017 Head, Project “Global Database Resource on Beijing Researchers from Foreign Countries”, Social Science Fund of Beijing, Beijing, China
- 2014 - 2016 Head, Project “Studies on Essays from Song Dynasty (10 - 13th Century)”, National Social Science Fund of China, Beijing, China and Osaka, Japan
- 2011 - 2013 Head, Project “Global Dynamic Database Resource on Chinese Culture”, National Social Science Fund of China, Beijing, China

Honors and Awarded Memberships

- since 2023 Member, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Germany
- 2023 Expert with Special Support, State Council, China
- 2016 Permanent Visiting Professor, Shaanxi Normal University, Xi’an, China
- 2014 Permanent Visiting Professor, China University of Mining and Technology, Xuzhou, China
- 2009 - 2011 Laureat, Program for New Century Excellent Talents in University, Ministry of Education, China
- 1994 - 1996 Research Fellowship, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany

Forschungsschwerpunkte

Li Xuetao is a Chinese sinologist, religious studies scholar, and German philologist. He is especially interested in the interaction between different cultures: How can a foreign culture be integrated into the local, already existing one? And how do the two influence each other. Such questions are highly topical in an increasingly globalised world. Li Xuetao pursues these questions by studying the relationship between China and the rest of the world on various levels.

One facet of his research stems from religious studies. For example, he is concerned with the history of Buddhism. Here his focus are translations of Buddhist texts into Chinese. Another research area of his are the modern-day relations between China and other countries. Here Li Xuetao is interested in a phenomenon that experts call “intellectual migration”: university-educated people leaving their country to study or work abroad affects both their old and new home.

The scholar himself studied in both China and Germany. Accordingly, he dedicates much of his work to the intellectual relations between the two countries. He elucidates the history of Chinese studies in Germany just as much as the work of the German philosopher Karl Jaspers (1883 - 1969).

The later not only worked on the Philosophie of Europe as well as that of the far east. He saw distinct parallels: At approximately the same time, between 800 - 200 B.C.E., philosophers in China, India, Greece, and the near East had independently concerned themselves with similar ideas and concepts.

During this “Axial Age of world history” the fundamentals of ideas were laid that significantly influence the thinking of humanity even today. With that, Karl Jaspers underscored his conviction that societies of different cultural traditions still have a shared spiritual base on which they could and should communicate.

According to Li Xuetao, this thought has never been more important than now. Interactions between different regions and peoples have existed for a very long time. Several inventions reaching for example from the violin to shampoo were long regarded as typically Western but had precursors in Asia. Conversely, many useful plants such as ginger, aubergine, and cotton, which are now an integral part of everyday life in China, were imported from other parts of the world centuries ago. However, In the twenty-first century this international exchange took on a new intensity: Li Xuetao considers contemporary world history one of global relationships. For him it is therefore insufficient to only study the perspective of single countries. Rather it is necessary to understand the changes in the world from the interplay of their parts.