

# CHINA PAYS ATTENTION TO WORLD'S CHINA STUDIES.

Zhu Zenghui<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>East China Normal University. Shanghai, China

E-mail: zhzhu@history.ecnu.edu.cn

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**Resumen:** The topic of this paper is the attention that China pays to world's China studies. This is a new research fields and trends appeared in Chinese academia in recent years. They borned after the establishment of Reformation and Opening up Policy, when Chinese people needed to have a new recognition about the world, rebuild the connection with others and know world's studies about China. The tremendous works that are carrying in this branch of Chinese academia out is playing an important role in the promotion and organization in the domestic research of overseas Chinese studies.

**Palabras Clave:** China, Sinology, Chinese Academia, overseas Chinese studies, Spanish sinology

I am much honored to be invited by Profs. Palacios and Ramírez to attend this conference<sup>1</sup>. At this conference, scholars have made profound speeches in many aspects, such as the discussion on relations between China and Latin America, studies on China's current situation and development trends, and on China's issues under global crisis, and so on. The scholars have presented their own opinions and ideas about China from different perspectives. All these researches and studies are conductive for Spanish academics to knowing and understanding China, and even affecting Spain-China relations.

I am very interested in the contents of discussion in this conference. I take this opportunity to

exchange my views with you on some Chinese study issues. My topic is *China pay close attention to world's China studies*. I'll talk about the new research fields and trends appeared in Chinese academia in recent years.

Firstly, researches about world's studies of China issues, which we usually call it "Chinese Studies Overseas", or "Overseas Sinology", is actually a new academic tendency which occurred in the later half of the last century. In fact, the former half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has ever witnessed an upsurge of this research, while during the 1950s and 1960s it was at a low ebb. However, after the establishment of Reformation and Opening up Policy, Chinese people needed to have a new recognition about the world, rebuild the connection with Others and know world's studies about China. Since the 1980s this research has been revived and gradually developed into a new high tide. This breakthrough was initially made by the Intelligence Department of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, due to the nature of their work.

Their primary successful achievements include *American Chinese Study Handbook*, *Japanese Chinese Study Handbook* and so on, which have created a significant platform for the domestic scholars to understand the world's researches and studies about China. Actually it was those influential and prestigious academic masters who have been calling for and promoting the study on this field, for instance, Mr. Ren Jiyu, the former chief librarian of the National Library, Mr. Zhang Dainian, Mr. Wang Yuanhua, Mr. Ji Xianglin, and etc. with their personal experience and feelings, they stressed the great significance of the study to Chinese

academic development, which laid the foundation of the succeeding all-round research and studies.

The second thing, I want to talk about is the extensive and multiple development condition in this field. After almost three decades' efforts, our observation and exploration on the Overseas Chinese Studies has reached a phrase where all-round research accompanied by emphasized studies has come into being. The very first achievement is the abundant introduction and interpretation of Overseas Chinese studies works, which is growing rapidly. The publication of series like *the Overseas Chinese Studies Series* are significant, which enabled the domestic academic circle to catch up with the pace of international Chinese studies. Based upon these works, specialized investigations of the history and current situation about Overseas Chinese Studies have blossomed in China.

Historical monographs of Chinese Studies in America, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Germany, France, Britain and many other European countries have come out one after another, which is unprecedented in China's history. Chinese scholars hope to know clearly and thoroughly about the characteristics and trends of today's world-wide Chinese Studies through these particular and regional explorations. Based on the concerns about overseas Chinese Studies, a group of institutions and organizations spring up in universities and research institutes in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Tianjin and some other cities. The tremendous works they are carrying out is playing an important role in the promotion and organization in the domestic research of overseas Chinese studies.

Thirdly, the purpose of doing such researches is to know ourselves better and more accurate. Nowadays China's study on "Chinese Studies Overseas" has been moved to a higher stage of disciplinary construction.

The great significance of the study of "Chinese Studies Overseas" acquire an independent discipline specialized in such research, and the extension of this specific discipline is still under discussion, some scholars think it should be "discipline groups construction", but most scholars are holding the view of developing a second-level discipline which under several first-level disciplines (such as, history, literature, philosophy, politic, economics, sociology, etc.)

to do professional research and analysis. good news is related-works are already in process. As a under-constructing discipline, we also need to discuss about the research purposes, objectives, mission, and approaches, the experts and scholars of the humanities have discussed a lot centering around the methodologies and theories, from their very own disciplinary backgrounds, all of them gave us many good valuable suggestions.

In the meantime, the cultivation of young professional talents is also carrying out actively. It means that the particular studies of "Chinese Studies Overseas" will be handed down from generation to generation. When it comes to the research purpose, scholars are particularly emphasize the importance of "if you know yourself and your enemy, you will never lose a battle." our researches are not just simple introduction of foreigner studies about China, not even be led by the nose, but aim to enable us to understand others better, to learn from others better. Besides, it's also the cultural exchange between East and West, We all agree with the idea: consensus-seeking is what we both need to do for the human civilization.

Fourth, Spanish sinology is becoming our new focus. To be honest, compared with Taiwan academia, mainland don't know much about Spanish sinology, some Spanish experts and scholars work in Taiwan's colleges and universities, they have brought into lots of information about development about Spanish sinology. We should give our thanks to Professor Luis Palacios, it was him who recommended Professor Ramírez to visit china, the new book, *China : Historia, Pensamiento, Arte y Cultura*, co-written by Professor Palacios and Professor Ramírez has a lot reputation now in Chinese academia. This book thoroughly shows us the past glories, silences and today's revitalization of Spanish sinology.

During communicating with professor Ramírez, we found that Spanish sinology is a bright mirror, which tells us the origin, the past leadership position and high-level academic studies of Spanish sinology, also tells us the reason of why now there is a stirring of interest in Chinese studies in Spain, and what are the top concerns of Spanish scholars. In one word, Spanish sinology is an very important window for understanding European sinology, an access to acknowledge China's images in international stage. In professor Ramirez's speech in

Shanghai, he had mentioned many times that if we want to have an overall understanding about Spanish sinology, we have to jump out the geographic restriction, and build up a sinology studies system which contains a number of Latin American countries, including Mexico. His unique perspective attracted a great deal of scholarly attention and thoughts about Spanish sinology.

Last but not least, Chinese government strongly support research of "Chinese Studies Overseas". The high leaderships have mapped out a further plan about International academic exchanges, so far several outstanding achievements had been made through academic exchanges on the unofficial institutional level, and we believe the research environment will be more favorable with the participation and support of government institutions. This kind of national action are very crucial for promoting academic research. It also do good for China, helps to promote the construction, enhancement and development of national culture.

In the last three decades, Chinese government's efforts at least are accomplished in two aspects: one is building the international academic platform for scholars of both domestic and overseas, providing the place for leading scholars from all over the world meeting each other. Since it is led by government institutions, high-level information exchange of China studies are obviously benefit from it. At this present time, two major international academic conferences are going to be held up, one is "The World Forum on China Studies"(Shanghai), which hosted by The State Council Information Office of the PRC and The Shanghai Municipal Government, the other is "World Conference on Sinology 2012" (Beijing), which hosted by National Hanban /Confucius Institute Headquarters and Renmin University of China.

The second accomplishment is providing supports for foreigner scholars visiting and doing academic research in China, the government is willing to offer convenience for those scholars. The newly released "New Sinologist Plan", which is related to this. This plan includes the cooperative studies of Chinese and overseas scholars, the joint cultivation of Phd students in "China studies", and other things. There are special funds for All these programmes.

We sincerely expect more experts and scholars in China studies area, especially young Spanish sinologists and scholars visit China, we are waiting for you here, waiting for you to combine our efforts to foster fruitful achievements in China Studies.

#### Notas:

<sup>1</sup> This article was written for the closing conference of the Congress "China: Economy, power and future. Keys to a 5000-year-old Empire and 100 years of Revolution. It held October 15-16 at the Rey Juan Carlos University (Madrid).