VALUE FRAMEWORKS AT THE THEORETICAL CROSSROADS OF CULTURE 价值观研究的框架: 文化与跨文化的理论基础

外跨文化研究中心

ited by the SISU Intercultural Institute

编: 顾力行 (Steve J. Kulich)

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**彩立平** (Liping Weng)

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The development and publication of these two volumes (Intercultural Research Vol. 4 and Vol. 5) on values studies could not have been made possible without the generous institutional support of the leaders, officials, and faculty of Shanghai International Studies University and that of those scholars who have laid the foundations for this research focus in the Association of Cross-cultural Psychology (IACCP), International Academy of Intercultural Research (IAIR), International Association of Intercultural Communication Studies (IAICS) and the Association of Chinese Communication Studies (ACCS). It is our great pleasure to present their seminal work here for the Chinese reading and research public.

Professors Steve Kulich and Michael Prosser are grateful for these years of cooperation since 2005 on this and related projects, and for the excellent work by the editorial team in the SISU Intercultural Institute (SII).

We specifically express our gratitude for the award of a SISU "211 Project" 3-year Key Research Project (KX161010) entitled "Intercultural Communication Series Research" (2007 – 2010) of which the development of these two volumes was an integral part. They are now being completed as part of a two-year SISU Research Project (Grant  $\sharp$  2011114032) entitled "Interdisciplinary Research on Chinese People's Values" (2012 – 2013).

Earlier renewable grants provided by Resource Exchange International, Inc. were also instrumental to framing, launching, and carrying out this project. Specifically important was funding for "the Shanghai Chinese Values Project (SCVP)" and its extensions from 1996 –

2006 (REI Project #CHN-Kul-2-96, Initial Grant, Phase 2, Phase 3).

This overall project and focus of research at SISU has been committed to contributing to the internationalization and interdisciplinary cooperation of the university, the SII, and the field by linking cooperating intercultural researchers on interdisciplinary research and writing projects, selecting and editing the best new work, and publishing continuing topical volumes in this monograph series of *Intercultural Research*.

While past volumes in this series have sought to showcase the research achievements of our national CAFIC scholars or those doing studies on the Chinese in the IAICS or ACCS, these two volumes seek to highlight the benchmarks of international scholarship in an effort to move the enterprise of values studies forward both domestically and internationally.

This series was not designed to be a set of "conference volumes" as some have suggested, but rather from the outset, to provide a series where each volume is focused on one important topic/theme, and each chapter is a specially invited "state-of-the-art" summary of a key topic in intercultural communication studies. This volume in particular attempts to fulfill the high goals we have for this series, having both international and domestic scholars providing their best work as a reference or benchmark on which to further the research agenda. We are grateful to all who have contributed, and all who will build on the chapters put forward here.

The Editors, Shanghai

### **Series Preface**

Michael H. Prosser

Chair, SII International Advisory Board

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Ancient Athens served as an intercultural and intellectual crossroads for Asia and Europe. The Greek philosopher, Socrates' famous statement "I am neither a citizen of Athens, nor of Greece, but of the world" speaks eloquently of the impact of intercultural communication, comparative analysis, and the importance of identity clarification both in his and contemporary society. Greek philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle all looked outward from their own culture, identifying or debating major world value orientations such as goodness, justice, truth, and happiness. For East Asia, multiple schools of thought developed during the Spring and Autumn Period, shaping China's cross-state communication. Confucius' Analects articulated the role of ren (benevolence and kindness), li (propriety and right living through ritual), de (moral power), dao (internalized moral direction), and mianzi or lian (externalized social image and harmony). These Confucian orientations were integrated into what became the fabric of not only the Chinese state, but the educational and philosophical orientation of much of East and South Eastern Asia.

All of these early cultural conceptualizations of identities and values strongly support the potentially positive intercultural, multicultural, and global world orientations that have enhanced a dialogue of civilizations and cultures, and stress factors that are unifying rather than divisive. The challenge continues to be substantial since intercultural, multicultural, and global communication might just as easily be highly negative with increasing war, poverty, crime, and pandemics. The goal of all those interested in promoting a better local and global society vastly prefers the

former.

The location from which this series originates shows some of these dynamics and contradictions. Just as each nation and people must deal with highs and lows, China is grappling both with some of the positive dialogues of modernization and internationalization, and also the challenges of divergent cultural or global discourses. From the depths of the Wenchuan earthquake in Sichuan that rallied not only the nation's, but the world's sympathy, engagement and commitment to rebuild, to the heights of the spectacularly well-orchestrated and successful 2008 Beijing Olympics; from the ongoing challenges of natural disasters like floods or human tragedies and accidents or the global financial crisis, to the futuristic development of Shanghai and its visionary and record-breaking participation and cooperation at the 2010 Shanghai Expo, we see these human and intercultural dynamics at work.

I would suggest that intercultural communication as a field has emerged to embody and embrace both these challenges of human clashes and the dialogues across cultures and civilizations. The anthropologists Edward T. Hall and Ruth Benedict serve as the symbolic grandparents of intercultural communication in North America, though neither set out to begin a new field. Others in North America in the 1960s and 1970s and coming from various viewpoints (see Vol. 2 for the complete list of influencing scholars) and I sought early to develop an intercultural communication discipline or sub-discipline, which has now spread broadly through much of the academic world.

When the field of intercultural communication began to develop rapidly in China during the 1980s and 1990s, such Chinese scholars (also alphabetical) as Ruiqing Du, Yihong Gao, Wenxiang Gong, Jiazu Gu, Shijie Guan, Daokuan He, Wenzhong Hu, Yuxin Jia, Dajin Lin, Hongyin Wang, Qi Wang, and their contemporaries each brought and Sinocized many of these western intercultural theories and practical implications for China. Michael Harris Bond (originally from Canada), Kuo-Shu Yang, Kwang-Kuo Hwang, Chong-fan Yang, Kwok Leung, Lianxiang Sha (in Beijing), Kai-ping Peng (originally form Beijing, now at UC Berkeley)

and others have also sought to indigenize social and cultural psychology to strengthen Chinese scholarship on intercultural communication. Currently many Chinese scholars, either in China itself, in North America, or other regions around the world, have developed robust theories and models or have postulated newer ones, as has been well articulated and documented by Hui-ching Chang, Guo-Ming Chen, Ling Chen, Wenshan Jia and Mingzhi He, in the premier volume of this series, *Intercultural Perspectives on Chinese Communication* (2007).

The SISU Intercultural Institute (SII) of Shanghai International Studies University (SISU), under the executive leadership of Steve J. Kulich (顾力行), has accepted a mandate to undertake an *Intercultural Research* series of volumes which seeks to publish "cutting edge and seminal articles on the state of the intercultural field" in a variety of areas. As formulated in the establishment of the series, Kulich emphasized that "Each volume will focus on one primary domain and will include diverse theoretical and applied research from cultural, intercultural or crosscultural approaches for that area, seeking to present and frame a 'state of the art' or an extended development summary on the topic."

The SII is committed to close cooperation with both Chinese and international scholars, and that was reflected both in the first volume entitled *Intercultural Perspectives on Chinese Communication*, where domestic scholars of the CAFIC were joined by international scholars from communication studies, social linguistics, indigenous and cross-cultural psychology to contribute seminal reviews of IC in their areas of focus. SII is also committed to highlight and bring some integration to the diverse disciplines that influence, contribute to or are informed by intercultural scholarship. This is illustrated particularly by efforts in that first and subsequent volumes to invite contributions from communication studies at both the interpersonal (*jiaoji*) as well as mass communication (*chuanbo*) levels and also to include the perspectives of cultural psychology, cultural anthropology and other related fields. The interdisciplinary nature of IC motivates the SII team to identify and integrate those aspects that contribute to shared foundations for the field, especially as these reflect

intercultural, multicultural human development, in keeping with our motto to "develop a discipline to develop people."

This focus on cooperation continues with the biennial thematic IC conferences held by Shanghai Normal University, part of the dynamic cooperation among CAFIC Shanghai Branch institutions (which also includes regular cross-city scholar forums and the annual IC outstanding MA thesis conference). The next two volumes have highlighted such interdisciplinary and multi-perspective scholarship on *Identity and Intercultural Communication* focusing on *I: Theoretical and Contextual Construction* (Vol. 2), and *II: Conceptual and Contextual Applications* (Vol. 3). Other volumes in the series take up the important topic of IC values — *Value Frameworks at the Theoretical Crossroads of Culture* (Vol. 4) and *Value Dimensions and Their Contextual Dynamics across Cultures* (Vol. 5). Later volumes will focus on subsequent SHNU conference themes, like IC and acculturation, IC research methodologies and other important topics for IC disciplinary development.

Naturally, since Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press is publishing the series, Chinese academic contributions are especially encouraged, as well as those from the wider international academic community. Based on Professor Kulich's many years of scholarship on values, it is very meaningful that the SISU Intercultural Institute's fourth and fifth volumes are centered on the continuing examination of value studies and their applications. Indeed, the first year postgraduate course that he has taught since 2002 for intercultural communication MA students focuses specifically on the theoretical and applied research on value studies, identities, and core-culture domains. It may be one of the few such courses internationally to stand alone on these topics within the broader academic study of intercultural communication. Related to other strands of research, the course that he developed in 2005 on "Intercultural Research Foundations: History and Status" has become a springboard for one of the first doctoral programs in intercultural communication (kuawenhua jiaoji) in China. Coursework, conference papers and contributions to the "Interdisciplinary Survey of Intercultural Communication Research" will surely provide ongoing stimulus and ready application for future volumes.

In his foreword for the first volume, Intercultural Perspectives on Chinese Communication (2007), Shijie Guan noted that three features characterize the book: (1) It serves as an interdisciplinary platform for China's IC research; (2) it emphasizes the importance of scientific methodology in IC research; (3) it focuses on the localization of IC research. He concludes his remarks by saying that "The publication of this series is an occasion to celebrate for the entire Chinese IC community: My hope is that it develops into a series that is interdisciplinary, methodology-promoting, indigenized into the Chinese settings and blend well theories with practice (p. xvi)." As he also notes in that foreword, "In today's world, communication between various cultures have become an important task for human beings. Just as Lourdes Arizpe, chair of the Scientific Committee of the World Culture Report, 2000, says, 'Cultural exchanges are in fact the axis of the new phenomena' as global cultures develop and change (p. ix)."

Since the initial books by Edward T. Hall, The Silent Language, The Hidden Dimension, Beyond Culture, and The Dance of Life began to shape the early study of intercultural communication theoretically and practically, so too, it is reasonable to assume that these volumes might provide new impetus for the academic study of various cultural contexts. The historical development, frameworks and research approaches presented both by well-established and emerging scholars in these volumes will surely move the academic understanding of key intercultural topic areas ahead. Each volume's contribution toward highlighting theoretical constructs, clarifying the "state of the art" and presenting cutting edge research and practical applications will hopefully contribute to a new apex in the field of intercultural communication. To the ongoing development of the intercultural communication discipline both in China and abroad this series is dedicated.

June 16, 2012, Charlottesville, Virginia