



◎ 跨文化视角下的中国：

外国专家的中国文化故事

—— 第一辑 ——

A CROSS-CULTURAL
PERSPECTIVE ON CHINA:
FOREIGN EXPERTS' CHINESE
CULTURAL STORIES

张红玲 主编

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前言

十五年前，我作为富布赖特学者在美国明尼苏达大学研修，在明尼阿波利斯这个美国中西部城市生活了近一年。作为一名跨文化研究学者，这一年对我来说既是学习和研究的一年，也是跨文化探索和实践的一年，可谓成果丰硕，感悟深刻。记得我有一个美国朋友，她年过五旬，事业有成，家庭幸福，当时刚辞去工作，回到学校攻读硕士学位。我们有共同修读的课程，经常一起上课、学习，于是便成为朋友。我经常受邀到她家做客，与她和她丈夫非常熟悉。他们善良、热情，喜欢阅读。然而，在多次闲聊过程中，我惊讶地发现他们对中国的了解相当有限，甚至偏颇。在他们看来，我远离丈夫和孩子，独自一人在美国生活学习，不可思议，“这就是‘红色中国’只讲革命、不讲人权的一个例证。”我回国后不久，邀请他们来上海旅游。他们从踏进我家大门那一刻起就接连发出惊讶和感叹：“啊，你们家竟然用的是木地板，有钢琴，还有鲜花！”在他们的印象里，中国还停留在封建、专制、落后的时代，普通百姓的生活怎么可能如此讲究！

由此，一个问题时时缠绕在我心头：为什么很多美国人对中国的理解与我们的期待如此大相径庭？他们对中国的刻板印象如何才能改变？

经过三十多年的改革开放，中国已经发展成为世界第二大经济体。随着国力的不断增强，世界期待中国承担更多国际责任，中国也希望在促进世界各国、各民族、各文化之间的沟通理解、交流互鉴方面起到更加积极的推动作用。十八大以来，习近平主席在多

次出访演讲中积极倡导构建人类命运共同体，合作共赢和命运共同体成为我国对外交往的重要理念。“一带一路”和亚投行等战略举措，就是这些理念的具体体现。

人文交流与心灵相通，是实现合作共赢、构建命运共同体的重要保证。每个文化都有其发展环境和历史渊源，具有各自的特点，人类文明因此而丰富多彩。中国文化源远流长，博大精深。正如习近平主席所说：“观察和认识中国，历史和现实都要看，物质和精神也都要看。中华民族5000多年文明史，中国人民近代以来170多年斗争史，中国共产党90多年奋斗史，中华人民共和国60多年发展史，改革开放30多年探索史，这些历史一脉相承，不可割裂。脱离了中国的历史，脱离了中国的文化，脱离了中国人的精神世界，脱离了当代中国的深刻变革，是难以正确认识中国的。”习总书记还强调，“要精心做好对外宣传工作，创新对外宣传方式，着力打造融通中外的新概念新范畴新表述，讲好中国故事，传播好中国声音。”

综上所述，如何让世界了解中国、认识中国，如何传播中国文化，讲述中国故事，这是一项意义重大又极具挑战的任务，是一个值得研究的课题。通常我们更关注的是，如何通过政府机构、文化组织、非政府组织、教育机构等有意识的组织行为，去进行中国文化的介绍和传播。近年来，随着公共外交理念不断推广，公众参与文化交流和传播的积极性越来越高。这些可以概括为中国文化传播的“走出去”模式。

让世界了解中国的另一个有效途径是“请进来”，即充分发挥留学生和在华旅游、工作的外籍人士的作用。这里包含两个层面的意义：第一，在华外籍学生和工作人员可以将他们在中国的亲身经历与感受带回

国，与国人分享；第二，他们对中国的印象反馈给我们，有助于我们更好地认识自我，完善自我。

上海外国语大学作为一所国际化水平较高的大学，每年聘请来自世界30余个国家的百余名专家来校任教或从事科学研究。他们或在上海短期停留（一个月至三个月），或长期生活（半年至一年，甚至十余年）。他们的足迹不仅集中于课堂、学校，出于对中国和中国文化的兴趣，他们常常会在工作之余，利用节假日去上海的大街小巷，去中国的东南西北、城市乡村，走走看看。以他们的视角来审视中国，一定会给我们带来新的发现。

“我的文化故事”是上海外国语大学跨文化研究中心教学团队自上世纪90年代以来，在“跨文化交际”课程中一直坚持的一项学习任务，来自世界各地修读本课程的学生都必须完成这项作业，目的是让学生回顾和反思自己的人生经历，记录和讲述让自己印象深刻或产生重要影响的跨文化经历，同时通过与其他同学分享、交流各自的文化故事，达到增强跨文化意识、提升跨文化能力的目的。

“外国专家的中国文化故事”项目借鉴“跨文化交际”课程教学的经验，利用外国专家在华生活和工作的机会，请他们讲述自己的中国文化故事，以期从中发现他们对中国的关注点，了解他们眼中的中国。实际上，高校外国专家群体素质高、有思想，他们来中国除了教学科研之外，本来就有探索中国、了解中国的希望。当我校的外国专家了解这个项目时，大都表现出极高的热情和参与愿望。因此，征稿通知发出仅四个月，我们就收到了30位专家的来稿。这些稿件内容丰富，形式各异。体裁方面，有散文、小说、诗歌、演讲等。稿件内容涉猎广泛，有历史、哲学、语

言、文学、美食、旅游等。有的从宏观角度出发，纵论古今，横贯中外；有的从微观小事入手，以个体的细腻笔触，描绘自己在中国工作和生活的心路历程；有的对中国经济的飞速发展表示惊叹、赞美，也有的对中国社会的不良现象提出批评。撰稿外教中，少数人刚到中国数月，尚处于各种新鲜事物的感官“轰炸”之中，因而笔下的叙述更多的是对中国的“第一印象”；而更多的撰稿者在中国工作生活已有数年，个别甚至已经在中国结婚生子，会说流利的汉语，对中国的熟悉早已超出看“西洋镜”或会讲“上海话”的层面，因而他们笔下的中国又是另一番图景。

由于这些外国专家来自世界各地，每个人的文化及家庭背景、教育情况、宗教信仰、价值观往往迥异，加上他们独特的人生经历，导致他们看待事物的角度非常多元化。尽管如此，大多数外国人在中国生活和工作一段时间以后，都会达成一个共识，即中国文化之博大精深，中国社会之错综复杂，中国发展之天翻地覆，绝不是一个外国人一朝一夕就能真正理解领悟的，而这其中的矛盾和不确定性也恰恰是生活在中国的挑战和乐趣所在。援引一位法国专家在《解读中国》一文中的话：“……法国正在日益变成一个停滞不前、自我封闭、对外来人愈加严苛的国家。法国可预见的、洁净的和标准化的舒适生活很容易麻痹人的感官……相反，中国却让你的感官觉醒，让你感到自己是活着的，它强迫你去感受。中国人有一种‘万事皆有可能’的心态，而当今的法国人却变得日益悲观消极。中国是生机盎然的，而法国却在沉睡。对有些外国人来说，中国实在有点难以消化。但对我来说，每天的感官刺激让我能保持清醒和活力。对很多外国人来说，他们对中国的感情是爱恨交织。对我来

说，它是连绵不断的喧闹、矛盾和变化，当我不在中国时，就会想念这一切。随着在中国生活的时间越来越长，我发现自己对中国的理解和认知也日渐加深，同样，我的困惑也越来越多，但我已经逐渐学会用泰然处之的心态面对它们。”

这位来自欧洲的外国专家道出了很多在华外国人的心声。事实上，我们在与外国人打交道的过程中常会发现，那些对中国文化抱有强烈好奇心、乐于发现并探索新鲜事物、敢于走出自我心理舒适区（comfort zone）、勇于尝试的外国人，往往更容易适应当地环境；反之，那些不愿意敞开心胸、抗拒接触或理解当地文化的外国人往往有着很糟糕的文化体验。令人欣慰的是，我们从绝大多数外国专家的来稿中感受到的是前者：他们努力学习汉语和中国文化，积极扩大社交圈子，兴致勃勃地品尝中国美食，前往中国各地体验当地的风土人情。尽管他们在中国免不了遇到挫败和不快，但总体来说，在中国工作、生活的经历对他们来说绝对是独一无二、永生难忘的。

在当今全球化的背景下，越来越多的人离开故乡，选择“生活在别处”。“不识庐山真面目，只缘身在此山中。”作为中国人，我们对身边的一切早已习以为常，感官趋于迟钝。而这些外国人既在“山外”，又在“山中”，他们充满感性的、对我们长期忽视的细节的重新发现也因此显得更加有趣和弥足珍贵。此书最大的价值，或许不是这群外国人在中国工作、生活的点滴，而在于，从他们那里，我们会发现还有一个我们不熟悉、不了解的“别样中国”。

《跨文化视角下的中国》是一套外国人讲述中国故事、传播中国文化的系列丛书，得到了上海外国语大学I类高峰学科（外国语言文学）建设项目的资助。

参与本书组稿、编辑和翻译的人员包括：

组稿：张红玲、张赟、梁晓雪

编辑：张红玲、林帜

翻译：George Fleming（费祖志）、梁晓雪等

上海外国语大学小语种专业的师生为其外国专家的作品提供了小语种翻译服务。上海外语教育出版社的梁瀚杰作为责任编辑为本书的策划和定稿提出了想法，贡献了智慧。对他们的付出，在此谨致以衷心的感谢。

张红玲

2016年8月

PREFACE

Fifteen years ago, I studied at the University of Minnesota as a Fulbright Scholar, living in Minneapolis for almost a year. As a researcher of cross-cultural studies, that year was for me about learning and research as well as an opportunity to put my theories about cross-cultural studies to practice. I gained many insights from my time in Minneapolis. There was an American friend of mine in her fifties, who had a successful career and happy family life. She had just resigned from her job and returned to academia to pursue a Master's degree. We shared certain courses and often went to class or studied together, becoming friends. She often invited me to her home; I grew close to her and her husband. They were kind, warm people, and avid readers. However, after many conversations I realized that they had a very limited, even skewed, picture of China. They could not understand my decision to leave behind my husband and child to study in America alone — for them it was “proof that ‘Red China’ was interested only in revolution and not human rights.” Not long after I returned to China, I invited them to Shanghai on holiday. The moment they stepped

in to my home, they were gasping nonstop in amazement: “What? You actually have a wooden floor, a piano and fresh flowers!”

The China of their imagination was a country stuck in the feudal, autocratic, backwards era, where the ordinary people could not possibly afford such luxuries. After that, I was frustrated by a question: why was so many Americans’ understanding of China so skewed from what we Chinese had hoped? How could stereotypes be changed?

After more than three decades of economic and political reform, China has become the world’s second largest economy. With increased international influence, the international community hopes that China will take on more responsibility internationally. Meanwhile, China also desires to play a more active role in creating understanding and learning between countries, nations and cultures around the world. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, President Xi Jinping has on numerous visits abroad emphasized the necessity for mankind to see its symbiotic destiny. This and cooperation for mutual benefit have become an important part of Chinese diplomacy. The “One Belt One Road” initiative, the AIIB and other strategic measures have put into practice these diplomatic ideals.

Bringing together individuals and minds is an important way to ensure success in mutual benefit cooperation and symbiotic destiny. Each culture has developed against a particular environment and historical context, and has its own distinct character. This has allowed human civilization to become as rich and varied as it is. Chinese culture is both ancient and

profound. To quote President Xi, "Observing and understanding China requires a knowledge of both history and the present, of the material as well as the spiritual. Chinese history is unbroken, from the beginning of the Chinese civilization over five millennia ago, through the struggles of the Chinese people over the past 170 years, the endeavors of the Communist Party of China over the past 90 years, the development of the People's Republic of China over the past 60 years, and the explorations of Reform and Opening Up of the past three decades. A proper understanding of China is incomplete without understanding Chinese history, culture, the spiritual realm of its people, and the profound changes the country has undergone."

Xi Jinping has also emphasized that "China needs to make significant efforts in promoting itself globally, using innovative new methods. Our country needs to focus on combining Chinese and international ideas and expressions, in order to tell the story of China and make China's voice heard."

In summary, to tell the Chinese story by improving international understanding of China and promoting traditional Chinese culture is an extremely important but challenging task, and one worthy of study. In the past, there has been a focus on conscious, organized efforts by government, cultural groups, NGOs, and educational institutions to inform about and promote Chinese culture. In recent years, with growing recognition of the importance of public diplomacy, the public has played an increasingly central role in cultural transmission. These developments can be summarized as the "Going

Global” move in Chinese culture.

Another effective means to inform the world about China is to “invite” the world in. This refers to the role played by international students, tourists and foreign workers in China. This group is important for two reasons. Firstly, international students and professionals in our country can relate their experiences in China to their compatriots back home. Secondly, by informing us of their impressions, we can gain another perspective on ourselves and improve.

As an elite institution that is comparatively open to the outside world, Shanghai International Studies University (SISU) recruits about 200 foreign experts from more than 30 countries around the world each year to teach or undertake research. Some of them stay for shorter periods (one to three months), while others stay here for the long term (half a year to a year, or even more than a decade). They leave their mark not only in the classroom and around the university: because of their interest in our country and its culture, in addition to the duties of their work, they often explore the snaking alleyways of Shanghai; travel around the country; and see both urban and rural areas. China viewed from their perspective is surely instructive for us.

“China in My Eyes” began as a task in the Cross-Cultural Communication course at Shanghai International Studies University’s Center for Cross-Cultural Research in the 1990s. Students on this course from all over the world have been required to complete this task, with a view to getting them to reflect on their experiences, and to record those events which

had a particularly strong impact on them cross-culturally. Furthermore, by sharing their experiences with those around them and learning about those of their peers, these students gain a better understanding of cross-cultural experience and learn about adapting in different cultural contexts.

Inspired by the Cross-Cultural Communication course, the “China in My Eyes” project asks foreign experts working and living in China to share their China stories, in order to discover issues of particular relevance and see our country from their point of view. These university-employed foreign experts are of a high caliber, are idealists, and have come to China not just to pursue teaching and research but also to learn about our country. When SISU’s foreign experts learned about our project, the vast majority expressed a keen willingness to take part. This is how, in just four months after we issued a call for submissions, we received 30 essays from our international faculty. These stories cover a wide range of topics and forms. They include prose, novels, poetry, and speeches, covering (amongst other topics) history, philosophy, language, literature, cuisine and travel. Some contributions take a macroscopic view, taking a broad look at China’s history and development and its interaction with other countries; others focus on a particular experience, seeking through intricate personal stories to describe the experience of work and life in China. Others still remark with wonder and praise at the pace of development in our country, or provide some criticisms of the less positive aspects of our society.

Of those international faculty who submitted contributions,