

***Asian Studies* and the History of Chinese Logic: A Long and Fruitful Journey**

Jana S. ROŠKER, Editor-in-Chief

The history of logic in China is a topic of increasing relevance, not only because the subject is still far too neglected and little known in Western scholarship, but also because it can help us better understand modern China and its scientific and academic contributions to the contemporary world.

Chinese logic has always been the focus of interest of this journal in the field of Chinese thought and philosophy. Even in the original version of this journal, which was titled *Asian and African Studies* until 2012, we published several essays (e.g., Cui 2005; Wu 2005; Rošker 2005a; 2010a; 2010b, etc.) and even a special issue (see Rošker 2005b) on the problems of Chinese logic and its history. In recent years, the journal has also published several other articles dealing with the broader topic of Chinese logic (see, e.g., Hashi 2016; Vrhovski 2021a; Cui 2021).

This special issue outlines the process of the introduction of logic in 20th century China. It describes the institutional as well as the conceptual and theoretical dimensions of this process, and presents the work of numerous eminent intellectuals who devoted their lives to promoting and introducing a public discourse of logic during this period. It also presents the Chinese institutional background that enabled the development of logic in China, such as academies, university departments, journals, and academic societies.

We are very honoured and pleased to have succeeded in attracting two more than competent scholars to edit this special issue. The first is the internationally renowned Professor Chen Bo from Wuhan University, the second Dr. Jan Vrhovski, a research fellow from the University of Ljubljana. Both guest editors have already successfully collaborated last year when they published a special issue in the internationally renowned journal *Contemporary Chinese Thought* on the main implications of Bertrand Russell's visit to China in 1920–1921 (see Chen 2021; Vrhovski 2021a).

We are, of course, particularly pleased that Professor Chen Bo was willing to guest edit this issue, as he is one of the most influential, prolific, and knowledgeable contemporary Chinese scholars in this field of research. Professor Chen received his PhD from Renmin University of China in 1994, and is currently Professor of

Humanities and Social Sciences at the School of Philosophy, Wuhan University. Previously, he was a full professor at Department of Philosophy, Peking University from 1998 to 2021.

He has a strong international reputation in his research areas and has been a visiting scholar at the University of Helsinki (1997–1998), CSCC Fellow at the University of Miami, USA (2002–2003), Oxford University (2007–2008), and Nihon University (2014), among others. Professor Chen has received awards from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Social Science Research Council. In the past decade, he has organized several international conferences at Peking University on Frege, Quine, Kripke, Williamson, Hintikka, paradoxes, truth, modality, philosophical education, contemporary society, and metaphilosophy and philosophical methodology.

His major Chinese academic monographs include *Studies on Quine's Philosophy: From Logical and Linguistic Points of View* (1998), *Studies in Philosophy of Logic* (2004, revised and improved 2013), *Studies on Paradoxes* (2014), *Analytic Philosophy: Critique and Construction* (2018), to name a few. He has published nearly 300 articles in Chinese or English. Due to space constraints, we mention only his major articles on the history of Chinese logic (see Chen 2018), comparative logic (see Chen 2012; 2014; 2019; 2021), and classical Chinese logic (see, e.g., Chen, 2006; 2009) in the bibliography of this brief preface.

Jan Vrhovski, on the other hand, received his PhD from Charles University in Prague with a dissertation on *Patterns of Thought and Numbers: A History of Mathematical Logic in Late Republican and Early Socialist China (1930–1960)*. Despite his young age, he has already published a large number of original academic papers in international journals with high impact factor, including *History and Philosophy of Logic* (Vrhovski 2021d; 2021e), *Journal of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies* (Vrhovski 2020a), *Review of Religion and Chinese Society* (Vrhovski 2021f), and others. For several years he has also been among the most prolific contributors to this journal (see Vrhovski 2019; 2021b; 2021c).

We are particularly pleased and grateful to the two guest editors for their great help in selecting and collecting so many important and interesting articles on the history of Chinese logic written by some of the most brilliant contemporary Chinese scholars in this field of research. They all deserve the greatest credit for recording, systematizing, and interpreting the studies of logic in China and for bringing this fascinating subject to the attention of the wider Western academic world.

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