

Contributors

CHIAO Wei, professor emeritus, contributed significantly to the establishment of a department for Chinese Studies at the University of Trier. He received his PhD in philosophy, ethnology, and linguistics at the University of Vienna. Since 1971 he has been working as Professor of Chinese Studies in Bonn and Trier. His major research topics include: linguistics (also lexicography and neologisms), Chinese philosophy, Chan Buddhism and Daoism.

Max DEEG is Professor of Buddhist Studies at the University of Cardiff. He received his PhD in Indian Studies at the University of Würzburg. From 2002 to 2006 he was professor at the Institute for Systematic Theology at the University of Vienna. His research interests include in particular Buddhist narratives and their roles for the construction of identity in premodern Buddhist communities.

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WANG Jianping is Professor of Muslim Studies at the World Religion Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. He received his PhD in History of Religions at the University of Lund, Sweden. From 1993 to 1998 he was a research fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has published widely on Islam in Asia.

ZHUO Xinping is Director of the World Religion Research Institute and the Christianity Research Center of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. He received his PhD in Religious Studies at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich. He is interested in theoretical approaches to religions in contemporary China, particularly in their relations to Western religious theories.

Erik ZÜRCHER (†2008) was Professor Emeritus of East Asian History at the University of Leiden, where he chaired the Institute of Chinese Studies from 1974 to 1990. His research interests included the reception of foreign complex systems of thought in premodern China, in particular of Buddhism (*The Buddhist Conquest of China*, 1972), but also of Christianity and the Jesuit mission.