

Center for History of World Civilizations

About the Center

Wellcome to the Center for History of World Civilizations at Northeast Normal University(hereinafter referred to as NENU). The center enjoys the active support of World History Major(National-level Discipline) , and in accordance with the planning requirements of the National Ministry Education which is the *Planning Focus on the Humanities & Social Science Research Base of General Institutes of Higher Education*. This center is reconstructed by The Institute for the History of Ancient Civilizations(IHAC), Institute of Medieval World History, and the faculty of World History Department of the School of History and Culture at NENU. It has been passed the assessment which carried out by the experts team from Ministry of Education in November 2000, and also approved by Ministry of Education to be listed among the ranks of Humanities & Social Science Research Base of General Institutes of Higher Education.

The notable historian Lin Zhichun(pseudonym: Rizhi) and Prof. Zhuhuan are employed as the honorary chairman of the center; The former director of Academic Council at the center is Prof. Zhaoyi and the present director is the Prof. Zhang Guang-xiang from Jilin University. Currently, Prof. Wang Jin-xin holds the post of chairman of the center.

Among the research areas of World Civilization History in our country, the history discipline of NENU has a long-standing historical origin and a rich academic tradition. The earliest well-known historians such as Lin Zhi-chun, Ding Ze-ming and Zhuhuan. Of those historians, we feel that they are not only have the remarkable achievements and well-known in the home and abroad, but also have been laid the solid footstone in the decision of academic orientations, the establishment of research institutions and the cultivation of historical talents.

Since the born of Center for History of World Civilizations, and under the powerful support of Ministry of Education, Social Sciences Administration Department of NENU, and related institutions of School of History and Culture. During more than one decade's construction, the academic staff carried forward older generation of scholars' fine academic tradition ,and developed achievements of culture construction of modern times with Chinese Characteristics. All these contributed to the major research projects at all levels and the well-qualified academic fruits. Through the innovations of academic ideas, methods and mechanisms, which makes the center become the top-level academic research institution in China and also plays an import role in the overseas. In the aspects of the reform of scientific research system, cultivation of talents, and social consultation as well as the academic exchanges, these are all playing the function of 'Window'.

Featured Research Project

The academic staff of the center has been undertaken: the Key National Project of Philosophy and the Social Sciences(2 items); Important Project(1 item); the Important Textbook of Marxism Construction Project(1 item); the Project of National Social Sciences Planning; the Project of The Youth; the Major Bidding Project of Research base of National Education Ministry; the Social

Scientific Planning Project of Jilin Province and Changchun City, and the Major Social Sciences Project of NENU. The total number of the projects are nearly more than 50, and the scientific funds over ten million yuan.

The center, in the academic research, has always adhered to the principle of 'Maintaining the strength of discipline, Concentrating the academic direction, and Intensifying the characteristics of studies'. It has produced a series of excellent fruits with qualified-academic and high social benefits. The academic staff has published more than 200 papers on the top-level academic journals, such as : *Social Sciences in China*, *Historical Research*, and *Historiography Quarterly*. Some of the papers are recorded by Chinese academic Yearbook and reprinted by *Xinhua Abstracts*, *Chinese Social Science Digest*, and *China University Academic Abstracts*. There are also over 10 papers which are published in the USA, France, Japan, Taiwan and HongKong, besides that, various academic monographs and translations(the total number is 53) are also published by our center and academic staff. Among these, two publications were awarded the Second Prize by the Ministry of Education, four publications were conferred the First Prize by Jilin Province, and more than thirty publications were awarded the prize by provincial and ministerial-level unites. Based on the above, this center is gradually forming the two broad academic brands, that is the *Series of Studies for World Civilizations* and *Collection of Translations on World Civilizations*, furthermore, the academic staff is also actively transforming the research achievements into the teaching contents, which could maintains the fine tradition of the writing of textbooks. There are three academic monographs awarded listed as the Key Textbook of Tenth Five-Year Plan, while the center has been applied the key textbook writing task of *World Ancient History* from the Construction of Marxism. The *World Ancient History* was listed as National-level Curriculum

Academic Staff & Education

The Center for History of World Civilizations has more than 23 permanent academic staff. Of these: 15 are doctoral supervisor; 21 are statutory Professors; 17 are with the doctoral degree; 2 are the members of Discipline Reviewers Group of the State Council; 3 are the judges of National Fund of Social Sciences; 1 is the judge of National Publication Foundation; 1 is Special Term Professor of Yangtze River; 3 are the Excellent Expert of Provincial and Ministerial-level; 4 are the Century Talent of National Education Ministry; 3 are Special Term Professor of Cheng Fang-wu of NENU. The Studies and Translation of Classical Civilization Documents, the studies of Early Western Civilizations, and the Development Path Studies of Chinese Civilization Since the 15th Century, as well as the studies of East Asian History, and the other studies groups, which has been listed into the constructional rank of Innovation Team and Academic Team that are funded by the revival plan for humanities & social sciences of NENU. The center consciously integrates the study of Ph.Ds into research work, and guiding them enter into academic leading areas, for instance, one doctoral thesis has been awarded the National Excellent Thesis of Ph.D ,some of the Ph.Ds obtained the National Doctoral fellowship and as the visiting scholar in the overseas. As a academic institute, the center also cultivating and transporting the talents for the colleges and universities, such as Peking University, Fudan University, and Sichuan University as well as Xiamen University.

Academic Exchanges

One of the major tasks for the base construction is vigorously promoting the academic exchanges. The Center for History of World Civilizations, including its academic staff, has been separately held the international meetings and symposiums successfully, such as: the Fourth Symposium for History of World Civilizations; Doctoral Forum & International Symposium of Cold War History; the Annual Meeting & Council of Chinese Modern World History; the Symposium for the Western culture & Religions; International Symposium for Eastern-Asian of Intellectual History; and the Sixth Annual Meeting for the Forum of Chinese World History, which was praised as the most successful annual meeting by the Forum of World History. Of the symposiums, International Symposium of Cold War History was reported by the Phoenix TV and other famous TVs.

Since the foundation of the center, it plays the function of academic exchanges in the key research base, and held Academic Symposium for National World Civilization History and the Forum of National World History, as well as more than 20 academic meetings from the home and abroad. The center keeps a frequent academic exchanges with the international well-known colleges, universities and scientific research institutions, while entertaining over the hundred notable scholars and visitors from the UK, the USA, France, Australia, Japan, Russia, Greece, India, Republic of Korea and the DPRK, as well as Hong Kong and Taiwan. Some of the foreign experts are also employed in this center.

In addition that, the center has been established the solid academic relations with the scientific research institutions and universities, such as: the Institute of World History(IWH), the Institute of World Religions, Peking University, Tsinghua University, Fudan University, Renmin University of China, Nanjing University, Wuhan University, Sichuan University, Jilin University, Northwest University, Beijing Normal University, East China Normal University, Capital Normal University, Tianjin Normal University, and Fujian Normal University.

Social Services & Consultations

The main part of the center is basic discipline research, and it's always adheres to supply the academic services for the related disciplines of national colleges and universities, while focusing on the national requirements of social development and supplying its academic support.

The books and reference materials of world history of NENU has a solid foundation and also has a high reputation in our country. The center pursues a novel development path and devotes itself to principles for expertise, inventiveness and practicability. Currently, the center's library of western language covering the following aspects: namely Classical Studies, Assyriology, Egyptology, Hitlite, The ancient Jewish Studies, Studies for Western Europe in Middle Ages, and the History of America. These are making it the top-level in the Asian regions and also the unique one in Chinese history studies. The library has more than 900 thousand volumes and over 80 kinds of the professional journal which are considered as one of the outstanding professional libraries in national scientific research institutions. It has a cooperative relationship with the Material & Information Center for World History. These are making it a good opportunity to strength the construction of materials on world history. The library of center opening for the domestic colleges and universities, and has been fully demonstrated its functional advantages.

The center owns the only English version journal-Journal of Ancient Civilizations(JAC), and the unique-features Chinese version journal-The Journal of Ancient Civilizations, those are the perfect site for national academic fruits and publications. There is a high scholarly taste of the editing process, and it reflects the research processes for the domestic studies of ancient civilizations, and have vigorously been promoted the academic exchanges with the international.

The research Li Xiao-dong at the Center for History of World Civilizations, accompanied with Wu Bang-guo(the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee) and Li Ke-qiang(the Prime Minister) to pay a visit for Egypt, and explained the ancient civilizations histories of Egypt for the national leaders. therefore, he received a favorable appreciation by the leaders. During the visiting period, he has also been given the series of culture lectures for the stuff of the Chinese embassy in Egypt and obtained a high praises. The center's researchers have been actively supplied the services of theories and academic consultations for the national related state departments. Some of the consulting report which have been accepted and paid a high attention by national government and the Government of Jilin Province. At the same time, the center and its academic stuff are also actively participating the Key Base Construction of Humanities & Social Sciences in the local colleges and universities of Jilin Province, and offering advices and suggestions and supplying the consultations for the service objects.