

Professor David Wang Der-wei
Doctor of Literature *honoris causa*


Citation

Today we are honoured to have Professor David Wang Der-wei, present at this ceremony to receive the degree of Doctor of Literature *honoris causa*. Professor Wang has attained an outstanding level of achievement in his research on Chinese Literature dating from the late Qing Dynasty to the present. He is the Chairman of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University, New York, U.S.A. He is also the Director of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Centre for Chinese Culture and Institutional History and Chairman of Columbia University's Committee on Asia and the Middle East. In addition, Professor Wang continues to serve as a member of the Editorial Boards of several prestigious university presses, including Harvard University Press, Duke University Press, Columbia University Press, and Stanford University Press.

Professor David Wang Der-wei, graduated from the National Taiwan University, majoring in Foreign Languages and Literature. He pursued further study at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and obtained the Master of Arts degree and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Comparative Literature.

Born and raised in Taiwan, Professor Wang has maintained a deep commitment and attachment to his Chinese heritage. With his excellent educational preparation for the profession of literature, Professor Wang has a clear focus in his research and carefully discriminates between true scholarship and quasi-scholarly criticism. He has chosen to produce scholarly works of excellence as his personal way to contribute to his own culture.

Although Professor Wang received rigorous academic training in Western literary theories and criticism in America, his unerring focus has been on Chinese literature. His early research was based on the structural approach, and his main research interest was the evolution of China's literary trends in the thirties and forties. With a professional close reading technique and the vision of a historian, Professor Wang analyzed the influence of nineteenth-century Western realism and naturalism on twentieth-century modern Chinese literature. His widely quoted authoritative work, *Fictional Realism in Twentieth-Century China: Mao Dun, Lao She, Shen Congwen*, is emblematic of the quality of Professor Wang's unique insights.

Professor Wang's scholarly interests and the scope of his research cover not only the literature of Taiwan and Chinese Mainland, but also the literature of Chinese-speaking communities throughout the world. His reading and study range over a wide spectrum: from vernacular stories to tales recording extraordinary events in the Ming Dynasty; from erotic courtesan novels and chivalric and court-case fiction to grotesque exposés and science fantasy in the late Qing Dynasty; from the May Fourth and revolutionary literature in modern China to new era and post-new era contemporary Chinese literature; from nativist literature to the literature of *fin-de-siecle splendour* in Taiwan; from Hong Kong's "Plain Leaf" literature to the popular literature of Jin Yong and Li Bihua in Hong Kong; from Chinese native writers'

works to works of the Malaysian Chinese; and from the literary mainstream in Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, and Malaysia, to marginalized non-canonical literary experiments, including works long neglected and forgotten. Professor Wang's extensive reading has given him a rich and multi-dimensional vision of China. His many famous scholarly works bear testimony to his remarkable achievements in the field of Chinese Literature. This list of works includes: *Narrating China: Modern Chinese Fiction from the Late Qing to the Contemporary Era*; *The Making of the Modern, the Making of a Literature*; *Reimagining China*; *Fin-de-Siecle Splendour: Repressed Modernities of Late Ching Fiction, 1848-1911*; and the forthcoming *The Monster That Is History: History, Violence, and Fictional Writing in Twentieth Century China*. As a scholar, Professor Wang has for years quietly pursued his scholarly endeavours with his own unique perspective on literature, and in so doing has won the acclaim of the academic world.

Even with the burden of a heavy schedule of teaching, research, and administrative work, Professor Wang still has found time for translation. He knows that it is not an easy task to promote foreign literature in the Western academic world, especially in an English-speaking market. But Professor Wang is firmly committed to this long-term, difficult and strenuous endeavour. In the past few years, he has been engaged in editing several anthologies of English translation of selected works of Chinese literature. One publication that should be specially noted is *Running Wild: New Chinese Writers*, published by Columbia University Press in 1994. In contemplating the scope of works to be included, Professor Wang thought that this anthology should not be confined to those of Taiwan and Chinese Mainland writers. He therefore included literary works of Hong Kong writers as well as writers in overseas Chinese communities. These literary works, marginalized because of the differences among their cultures, have indeed influenced and had a significant impact on the so-called "China" narrative. Thus, works of famous Hong Kong writers such as Xi Xi and Ye Si are included in the aforesaid publication. Professor Wang realized that only by being all-inclusive could his translation efforts result in a richer and more complete picture of Chinese literary works. And, only by so doing, could the variety of creative expressions and unique meanings embraced by the various Chinese communities be truthfully reflected.

Professor Wang has wholeheartedly committed himself to his scholarly pursuits in a gentle, thoughtful and well-balanced manner that has established his intellectual *bona fides*. He is gentle and polite, and speaks with a kind sense of humour. Adding to these, he is open-minded and generous in spirit. For years, Professor Wang has developed good cooperative relationships with colleagues and peers, and he is well appreciated and loved by them. His tireless efforts in various aspects of Chinese literature not only contribute significantly to the academic world but also set up a role model of an outstanding scholar for others to follow.

Mr. Chairman, Professor Wang has attained excellence in research on Chinese literature, publishing more than ten books on specialized subjects and more than a hundred articles. His scholarly works contributed significantly to the promotion and spread of Chinese culture and literature. May I now present Professor David Wang Der-wei to you for the award of the degree of Doctor of Literature *honoris causa*.

王德威教授
榮譽文學博士



贊辭

今天我們很榮幸一睹王德威教授的風采。王教授對晚清以降的華文文學研究卓然有成，他就是我們今年嶺南大學榮譽文學博士的得主。目前王德威教授是美國哥倫比亞大學東亞語言文化系系主任，哥大蔣經國基金會中國文化與制度史研究中心主任，同時他也在校內具有重要地位的哥大亞洲與中東通識課程委員會擔任主席。除此之外，王德威教授還為多間學術出版社擔任編審工作，譬如美國的哈佛大學出版社、杜克大學出版社、哥倫比亞大學出版社以及史丹福大學出版社。

王德威教授畢業於台灣大學外文系，主修英語文學。畢業後來到美國威斯康辛大學麥迪遜校區研修比較文學，並於該校獲得比較文學碩士與博士學位。

對生茲養茲、念茲在茲的祖國所具有的切身關懷，可以是多方面的。對王德威教授來說，以他優秀的專業訓練為本，保持一種清醒而警覺的研究視角，釐清學術與外部的批評距離，生產品質卓越的學術作品，都可說是一種對自身文化的關照。

雖然王教授所接受的是美國正統學院派西方文學理論與文學批評的嚴格訓練，但是王德威教授卻始終心繫中國文學。王教授早期的研究方法以結構主義為主，當時主要的研究興趣是三、四十年代的中國文學流變現象。王教授的研究以精讀文本和史家的眼光作為研究的經緯，考察十九世紀西方寫實主義與自然主義思潮對二十世紀中國現代文學的影響。 *Fictional Realism in Twentieth-Century China: Mao Dun, Lao She, Shen Congwen* 便是王教授權威著作之一。

王德威教授研究的興趣與視野，不僅限於台灣或大陸文學，而是在於華文文學的整體。他的文本閱讀十分寬泛，從明代小說到傳奇；從晚清的狎邪小說、俠義公案小說、到譴責小說、科幻小說；從中國現代感時憂國文學、革命文學，到

當代新時期、後新時期文學；從台灣的鄉土文學到浮躁喧囂的華麗的世紀末文學；從香港的素葉文學，到金庸、李碧華的通俗文學；從中國本土文學到馬華文學；從兩岸四地的主流文學到種種非主流的文藝試驗，甚至是一些被人忽視、遺忘的作品。閱讀的寬泛為他帶來了豐富多元的中國想像。王教授扎實的文本研究，取得了卓越的成果。他的著名學術著作《小說中國：晚清到當代的中文小說》，《如何現代，怎樣文學》，《想像中國的方法》，*Fin-de-Siecle Splendor: Repressed Modernities of Late Ching Fiction, 1848-1911*，以及即將出版的*The Monster That Is History: History, Violence, and Fictional Writing in Twentieth Century China* 都可以說代表了他這方面研究的成就。作為一個學者，王教授以他獨到的文學視野和多年的默默耕耘，贏得了學界的讚賞。

除了教學、研究、與行政的工作之外，王德威教授對翻譯也沒有冷落。王教授知道，任何一種外國文學要在西方的學術界及英文市場做出推介都不是一件容易的事。但對他來說，這一漫長、艱鉅、吃力而又不一定討好的工作卻是必須作的。過去數年來他一直致力於編輯英譯華文文學選集的工作。其中特別值得一提的是一九九四年哥大出版的*Running Wild: New Chinese Writers*。在考慮編選範圍時，王教授認為這本譯集不能只限於台灣和大陸的作品，由於被置於邊緣的不同文化的聲音對所謂「中國」的論述具有相當大的衝擊和影響，因此香港以及海外的各種華人社團文學創作的聲音也應該收錄進來。就這樣，這本書也收入了香港著名作家西西、也斯等人的作品。王教授認為只有這樣編纂的選集，才可以比較完整的呈現華文創作的面貌，也只有這樣編纂的選集，才可以將華人社會所包容的各種創作特徵以及在其文化生產上所代表的獨特意義真實地反映出來。

王德威教授為學以敬、待人以誠。他溫文儒雅，談吐風趣幽默，不僅有著開放坦蕩的胸襟，也有著宏大兼容的視野。多年來，王教授與同事、同業合作無間，深受大家的推崇和愛戴，而他在多方面的不懈努力，不僅使學界獲益匪淺，也為後來的學子樹立了優秀學人的典範。

主席先生，王德威教授在華文文學研究方面成績輝煌，專著十餘種，文章百餘篇，為傳播和弘揚中華文學與文化的神髓貢獻良多。我謹此恭請主席先生頒授榮譽文學博士學位予王德威教授。