Logic in China and The West

Close Encounters of the Third Kind
Logic in the Bode Schlucht

"Please don’t…”
A Young Kid Gazes at China in the 1960s

Judge Dee
Little Red Book
Shortwave World Radio
The Academic Life

One’s field adds a new identity

Shared endeavor, no national or racial divides, cohesion by ideas

Greater than ourselves. We contribute to it and pass it on
No Historical or Cultural Boundaries

Colleagues in logic:

Mozi  Aristotle  Dignaga  Ibn Sina
The Silk Road

A good thing?

Seneca on clothes that hide nothing

Merchants, politicians, soldiers, scholars, artists, traveled the Silk Road for millennia: academics last

Hubert Vos portrait of Empress Cixi
Eurasian Culture

After all these historical streams, ‘western culture’ is Eurasian culture

Each artifact or idea around you embodies a long past of cross-cultural influences

timeline Beijing Capital Museum
Tsinghua Campus

Founded 1911, Boxer indemnity fund

Top ranked university in China
UvA Tsinghua Joint Research Center in Logic
Research

One World: topics like everywhere

AI, causality, explainability (science + humanities)

Logic angles: Amsterdam. Beijing. Stanford seminar
Teaching

Mining the real gold in the university:

creative students

We train the future professors
Teachers Are Like Parents

Not just transfer but relationship

Teaching in China: relationship for life

hiking the hills around Beijing
Public Outreach and Surprise Encounters

Traveling conferences
LORI Xi’an 2021

Dutch pirates

Chinese sense of humor
History of Logical Thought in China
Schools in Pre-Unification China

Mohists vs. Confucians:
argumentation, universality
independent from social roles

bamboo slip center
Mohist Logic

knowledge: hearing from others, proof, or experience

major logical laws behind these same as today

modern dynamic logics of information flow
First Encounter: Buddhist Logic

Journey to the West

live debating practice
Second Encounter: The Jesuits

Euclid (logic, friendship) translated, tomb Matteo Ricci
The Third Encounter

Chinese students overseas, Jin Yuelin
Creating a World History of Logic
Pre-Conclusion

Bertrand Russell and his school: language matters

“China” can stand for: the country, the government, the culture, the people, etc.

Especially in times of tension, mixing all these together leads to harmful confusions

Russell’s book on China
My Focus: the Chinese People

- longest cable-stay bridge
- dancing under the freeway
- retirees in the park
Conclusion

Academic cooperation Europe China is more than economic transactions or fleeting encounters.

It is about scholars and scientists creating communities and a shared culture.

It’s not just about today: but a stage in a long history as our ancestors trod the Silk Roads or sailed the southern oceans.
Post-Conclusion

For the boy looking from the outside in the 1960s, it is still an amazing privilege to be involved