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## Editorial Report

This issue of the *Journal of the History of Ideas in East Asia* (hereafter: JHIEA) contains five columns, namely “Special Articles,” “Feature Articles,” “Research Articles,” “Research Notes on Keywords” and “Research Newsletters.” Together, these columns carry a total of fifteen articles.<sup>1</sup>

The “Special Article” column carries a total of two articles. The first is the continuation of an article by Professor Rudolf G. Wagner of Heidelberg University, Germany, entitled “China ‘Asleep’ and ‘Awakening’: A Study in Conceptualizing Asymmetry and Coping with It,” in which the author conducts an in-depth analysis of the metaphors “Asleep” and “Awakening” in China from the 19th century onwards. While exploring vocabulary, images and multiple other such forms and mediums,

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<sup>1</sup> This issue received a total of 17 articles (10 domestic, and 7 from mainland China and abroad). Excluding the two “Special Articles”, which were recommended by over two members of the editorial committee, “Hu Shih and Liberalism: A Summary of the International Conference Commemorating the 120th Birthday of Hu Shih” and “A report on “The International Conference on the Conceptual Change and Identity Making in Modern East Asia” and “The Workshop for Chinese Identity and the Formation of Modern State,” which are both short pieces from “Research Newsletters,” as well as “Research on the Investigation of Word Origins and Modern Keywords,” which serves as an introduction to the “Research Notes on Keywords” column, planned and presided over Professor Kuo-wei Shen and was therefore not required to be submitted for review, the remaining 12 articles were all forwarded to at least two reviewers. 8 of the 12 articles submitted for external review were approved, with an acceptance rate of 66%. This issue consists of a total of 15 articles (5 of which were delayed from the previous issue), 3 of these were internal manuscripts, constituting an overall proportion of 20%. The criteria for internal manuscripts are twofold: one, the author is directly or by association connected with *JHIEA*, and two, in the case of multiple authors, one among them is affiliated with the *JHIEA*.

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the article reveals, from a cross-cultural perspective, the interwoven nature of the underlying systems of expression of the period. The author sketches a concrete and detailed account of the process and direction of trans-cultural flux in the dispersion and appropriation of metaphors, while also placing particular emphasis on the asymmetry of power between concepts and metaphors in trans-language and trans-cultural flux. The second article, by Professor Huang Chun-chieh of National Taiwan University, entitled “On ‘Decontextualization’ and ‘Recontextualization’ in East Asian Cultural Interactions: Some Methodological Reflections” argues that in the course of interaction between different regions of East Asia, texts or thought introduced from foreign regions were often “decontextualized,” and then “recontextualized” in the context of the appropriating country in order to facilitate their integration into native culture and traditions. As a result, Huang posits the need, in research on the history of interaction in East Asia, to place texts or thought against a concrete and defined historical backdrop, and pay close attention to the guiding effect of the sentiments of intermediary agents in the process of “decontextualization” and “recontextualization.” The author attempts to explore the dynamic equilibrium between “textuality” and “contextuality” and between “truth” and “values” in the phenomenon of East Asian cultural interaction. Both articles focus on the global trans-lingual flux of vocabulary, concepts and images and emphasize the importance of research methodology in our approach to East Asian cultural interaction, representing a significant breakthrough in scholarship and providing novel perspectives from which to view East Asian Conceptual History.

This issue’s “Features Articles” column was planned and presided over by Research Associate Pan Kwang-che of the Institute of Modern History at Academia Sinica. Four articles have been accepted under

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this issue's leitmotif, "From 'New Terms' to 'Keywords'," which aim to highlight how in modern China many "New Terms" transmitted from the West competed with each other and were either selectively filtered to become "keywords" or were abandoned and fell into disuse. Such analysis reveals the development of the lexicalization of western concepts. Pan Kwang-che's article "A Forgotten New Term: 'Bolixitiende' in Late Qing China," observes the phenomenon of how the translated Chinese terms for "President:" "*Bolixitiende*," "*Tongling*" and "*Zongtong*" were employed simultaneously and competed with each other on the "speech market," with "*Zongtong*" emerging victorious and replacing "*Bolixitiende*," which was subsequently to fall from usage. The article displays how not all "new terms" become "keywords" as they went through the process of "filtering." Professor Han Cheng-hua's article "From 'Academic' to 'Politic:' The Appropriation of the Concept of Consciousness," is a treatment of how the concept of "consciousness" in modern China shifted from an "academic debate" to a "political debate." The author provides a detailed analysis of the transformation of the concept of "consciousness" in modern China, and describes how it became an important keyword in political discourse. Chelsea Lei's article "Turning Crisis into Opportunity: An Essay on the Cultural Preconditions of Contemporary Crisis Mentality through a Conceptual Analysis of Weiji," compares the conceptual history of "crisis" in both China and the West, and observes the development of the concept of "crisis" in modern China. The author asserts that from 1895 to 1925 the concept of "crisis" was incorporated into nationalism, republicanism, communism and other such ideologies, thereby expanding its content of meaning and forming a new group of keywords. Hu Wan-ting's article "The Emergence and Evolution of the Word "Nationalism" in Modern China (1901-1935)" provides a

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historical treatment of the term “nationalism” and observes the expansion of the term’s meaning in modern China as well as its development from a “new term” to a “keyword.” The article points out how the term “nationalism,” other advocating ideology and stimulating patriotic sentiment, also served as a synonym for the former patriarchal society. The author argues that the term is closely related to the formation of the concept of the “nation” in modern China, and precipitated the transformation to “modernity.” Together, these four articles provide a comprehensive account of how, following its reception of western concepts, modern China formed new terms through “translingual practices,” and how, through the mechanism of filtering, these new terms either faced elimination or took on prominent roles as keywords. Through observing the passage from “new terms” to “keywords,” we can gain an understanding how modern China brought new topics and propositions into focus.

The “Research Articles” column carries a total of two articles: Professor Shen Guo-wei’s article entitled “Research on the Investigation of Word Origins and Modern Keywords,” traces such changes as “from concepts to new terms,” “the dissemination and settling of new terms” and “from new terms to keywords,” analyzing keywords as an intermediary in the system of modern thought. The author argues that while keywords encapsulate the creation and settling of new and translated terms, they also act as vehicles for modern concepts and reflect the progression of East Asia’s acceptance of Western civilization. While offering a further treatment of the relation between keywords and research in conceptual history, the author cites the translation between the Chinese and Japanese vocabularies as an example, sharing his experience in the compilation of Japanese linguistic material to shed light on research on keywords and conceptual history in China. Associate Professor Yang Jui-sung of the

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Department of History at Chengchi University has contributed an article entitled “The ‘Four Hundred Millions’ Discourse/Imagination of the Nation in Modern China,” which integrates B. Anderson’s idea of the “imagined” community on which the structure of nationalism relies, and explores how in the modern period the term the “four hundred millions,” which was formerly a numeric and scientific population figure, came to be combined with the imagined symbol for blood relatives “*tongbao*,” thereby transforming into a nationalist symbol for modern China. The article analyzes the historic development of the formation of the term the “four hundred millions,” arguing that while acting as a symbol for population, the term also marked China’s emergence as a “nation-state,” the all important transition in which China broke away from the traditional order of “all under heaven,” and developed a new world view.

The “Research Notes on Keywords” column carries a total of three articles: Chen Shuo-win’s “‘Modern:’ In Imagination and Translation” explores translations and traditional meanings of “modernity,” while also defining the shifts and cultural meanings of “*xiandai*,” the definitive Chinese translation of “modernity.” The author portrays how China dealt with the shock of the West and its accompanying changes, bringing the imagination of the future nationalist culture into fine relief. Tracy Lee’s article “Construction, Dissolving and Converting—The Transition in the Ideology of the Hero in Modern Chinese” divides the shifts in “the ideology of the hero” in late Qing and early Republican China into four phases, tracing the development from “official discourse” to “political discourse” to “cultural discourse.” The author follows the evolution of the concept of the hero in lexical meaning from the dominance of the “official elite” to meanings centered on the awakening of the “masses” or “personalized” individual values. Chen Yu-fang’s article “The Change

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of Superstition in the Late Qing Dynasty and Early Republic of China” investigates the changes in the implicated content and objects of the word “superstition.” The author posits that the huge increase in the use of the word “superstition” after 1902 was closely related to the dissemination of the concept of “science.” After “scientific” knowledge came to replace Confucian thought, Confucian thought, which had previously rallied against “superstitious” ideas, was in turn imbued with “superstitious” overtones. The article also portrays the process of ideological transformation from “chinese learning for fundamental principles and western learning for practical uses” (*zhongxueweiti, xixueweiyong*) to “embracing and protecting science and democracy.” These three articles investigate the spread, evolution and developmental context of keywords, while also attempting to trace the historical evolution of concepts.

The “Research Newsletters” column carries a total of four articles: Professor Lee Haeng-hoon of Hallym University, Korea, has contributed an article entitled “Korean Conceptual History: Its Present Conditions and Future Prospects,” which assesses the present conditions and characteristics of Korean research in conceptual history. Professor Lee argues that the formation of a range of ideas in modern Korea should not just be seen as the acceptance of external ideas and culture by the Korean people, but should also be viewed from a transcultural research perspective, highlighting how traditional ideas changed form in the context of modern language. In the process of such, the author establishes a new position from which to discuss East Asian conceptual history. Professor Lee Kyng-ku, also of Hallym University, Korea, has authored an article entitled “Korean Conceptual History and Modern Paradigm,” in which he provides an historical assessment of research in modern conceptual history and the birth of disciplinary models. The article also puts forth the idea of

“modernity of the premodern,” advocating a perspective that takes Korea (and East Asia as a whole) as the starting point for research in conceptual history, while also anticipating a further breakthrough in the development of exchange in East Asian conceptual history research. Assistant Professor Pan Shaw-yu and Dr. Joscha Chung have co-authored “A Report on “The International Conference on the Conceptual Change and Identity Making in Modern East Asia” and “The Workshop for Chinese Identity and the Formation of Modern State,” providing a report and evaluation of the conference, which, encompassing a symposium, a colloquium, monographic speeches, panel sessions and a workshop, brought together both native and foreign scholars to conduct exchange on the most recent academic trends and research in the field of conceptual history. Subjects under discussion included the developmental trends and future of the digital humanities, the present conditions of Sino-Japanese-Korean research in keywords and conceptual history, the specialized database for the history of modern Chinese thought and literature, tabloid entertainment culture, and the development of databases for modern literary journals. Dr. Duan Lian’s article on “Hu Shih and Liberalism: A Summary of the International Conference Commemorating the 120<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Hu Shih” introduces the core ideas of the conference, approaching the topic of “liberalism” from the aspects of politics, thought, culture and society. The author’s account of Hu Shih and the development of modern Chinese liberalism constitutes an in-depth reflection and review of the work of this seminal scholar and the issues of his time. All four articles, no matter whether it be in their review of past research, or in their sharing of the most recent academic achievements, undoubtedly display the attention that East Asian conceptual history enjoys among academic circles today, as well as its deep rooted commitment to the dialogue between history,

literature, iconology, psychology, sociology, political science, and other such cross-disciplinary endeavors through which our publication strives to uphold academic ideals in the humanities and social sciences.

The successful publication of this issue owes much to the support of the respective authors, the tireless work of the reviewers, and the contribution of each and every member on the editorial board. To all of those involved, we offer our most heartfelt thanks.

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(Translated by William Blythe)