

2009-10 Princeton Global Scholar

Ge Zhaoguang. Professor Ge is the founding director of the National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai. Formally launched in March 2007, the National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies is modeled on the Institute for Advanced Studies and the Wissenschafts Kollege in Berlin and is a base for original and innovative work in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. As a platform for research in Chinese literature, history, and philosophy, the institute strives to promote interdisciplinary work and advance the study of Chinese culture within a global perspective. The institute also engages actively in the collection, compilations, and emendation of all sorts of newly discovered texts (mostly found at archaeological sites).

Professor Ge is a specialist in medieval Chinese religion and history. He is a leading scholar of the intellectual and institutional history of Chan (i.e., Zen) Buddhism in China, but is well known to scholars of history, literature, and religion in general. He is prominent among sinologists in United States. A graduate of Peking University, Professor Ge taught at Tsinghua University for a number of years. He is known for many important publications, more than fifteen books in total. His studies of *Chan Religion and Chinese Culture* (1986) and *Daoist Religion and Chinese Culture* (1987) have been very influential in historicizing the important role of Chinese religion in medieval Chinese state and society. *Intellectual History of Chan Buddhism* (1995) is the definitive work on Chan thought in China from the sixth to ninth centuries. He has reached out to broader audiences in works like *Ten Lectures on Ancient Chinese Society and Culture* (2003).

Within the Department of East Asian Studies at Princeton, Professor Ge will interact with colleagues such as Professors Benjamin Elman in East Asian Studies and Stephen Teiser in Religion on scholarship areas of medieval history and the history of religion. Professor Ge will serve as a resource for faculty and graduate students throughout the East Asian Studies community and will make annual presentations at the East Asian Studies Department lunchtime colloquium (an event that brings together all faculty and graduate students each week). In addition, he will be a core participant in a three-year collaborative research project sponsored by the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies and the Program in East Asian Studies, directed by Professors Benjamin Elman, Susan Naquin, and David Howell.

As a Princeton Global Scholar, Professor Ge's appointment deepens Princeton's relationship with Fudan University. The prominence of Fudan University within China, and the centrality of the National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies for the study of history, literature, religion, and philosophy, make this relationship an extremely valuable one not only for collaborative faculty research networks, but also for the Program in East Asian Studies at Princeton and the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies to facilitate short-term visits by graduate students in the humanities at both institutions, as well as for Princeton students to spend a summer, semester, or year, in Shanghai and likewise possible for Fudan University to occasionally dispatch students to Princeton to interact with faculty and graduate students.