

RESEARCH NOTE: THE DEWEY CENTER AT FUDAN UNIVERSITY

SUN NING
Fudan University



Editor's Note: Research notes offer a starting point for inquiry; they aim to introduce and orient our readers to existing literature on topics in Dewey Scholarship. They are not necessarily intended as exhaustive bibliographies or detailed treatments of the topics. Whether solicited or volunteered, the notes are reviewed for quality by the *Dewey Studies* editorial staff, but are not subjected to anonymous peer review. Readers wishing to prepare such notes are invited to send queries to Daniel Brunson, Reviews Editor, at

daniel.brunson@morgan.edu



Volume 2 · Number 1 · Spring 2018 · Pages 103-105

Pragmatism was introduced into China in the early 20th century. Together with the Marxism freshly introduced also at that time, they constructed the New Cultural Movement Union in China, and contributed significantly to the enlightenment of Chinese minds. However, due to the complicity of social environment, the Marxists and non-Marxists in China developed some serious misunderstandings as well as fierce oppositions. Pragmatism studies thus were halted until the late 1970s.

In 1980s, Prof. Liu Fangtong from Fudan University initiated communication between Chinese and American scholars. He established the connections with SAAP, as well as with the Center for Dewey Studies at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Based on these new interests, Fudan University held an extensive national conference on pragmatism in 1998. At that conference, Chinese scholars revalued pragmatism and reached a wide consensus. Also, after a long preparation, Fudan University held a series of international conferences; attendees included Chinese and many international scholars. In 2004, the Center for Dewey and American philosophy Studies was founded at Fudan University, which marked the full recovery of the pragmatism studies in China and the normalization of the communication between Chinese and international scholars. The Center was renamed as the Dewey Center in 2014.

Pragmatism studies in China have gained strong support from the government. The Dewey Center was founded directly under the leadership of Fudan University. We have held several international conferences that were not only supported by the university, but also approved by the government.

Since 2006, supported by the government and the National Social Science Fund, the Dewey Center and the scholars from other institutions have been collaborating on the translation of the 37 volumes of *The Collected Works of John Dewey* into Chinese. This great project was completed in 2015. The publication of Dewey's works in Chinese is the first complete translation of *The Collected Works of John Dewey* in the world. It will contribute a lot to pragmatism studies, and especially Dewey studies, in China. After the completion of the

Collected Works, under the new directorship of Prof. Chen Yajun, we have published 6 volumes of *The Selected Works of John Dewey*. Also we have initiated an annual called *Pragmatic Studies*.

To use Dewey Center as a platform, we eagerly want to enhance the international communication between Chinese scholars and the scholars from all over the world. We have proposed to found a Society for the studies of pragmatism and American philosophy in China. We want to extend the proposal to all the scholars with regard to founding an international institution for the advancement of pragmatism and American philosophy studies. The Dewey Center at Fudan University will contribute by all means to this project.