

Beijing Normal University



Newsletter

Issue 26



Newsletter

Issue 26

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Cheng Jianping, Member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Chairman of the University Council of BNU, Speaks at the Second Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Session of the 14th CPPCC National Committee

On the afternoon of March 7, the second plenary meeting of the fourth session of the 14th CPPCC National Committee was held. Cheng Jianping, Member of the 14th National Committee of the CPPCC and Chairman of the University Council of BNU, delivered a speech at the meeting entitled Implementing the New Era's Virtue and Talent Development Project: *Promoting Effective Integration of Theoretical Instruction and Social Practice*.



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Beijing Normal University Holds Launch Ceremony of Institute for Advanced Study and Forum on Interdisciplinary Development

On March 20, the Launch Ceremony of the Institute for Advanced Study and the Forum on Interdisciplinary Development were held at the Changping Campus of Beijing Normal University (BNU) in Beijing.

Since its establishment by the university in 2025, the Institute for Advanced Study has achieved phased progress in its first year, including organizational structuring, research center planning, PI selection, and doctoral recruitment. Five interdisciplinary research centers have been established on the Beijing campus: the Interdisciplinary Research Institute of Aging and Health, the Frontier Biotechnology Center, the Center for Matter Transformation and Phase Regulation, the Center for Theoretical Chemistry and Intelligent Computing, and the Center for Basic Mathematics Research. Adhering to the philosophy of "High Standards, New Mechanisms, Internationalization, and High Efficiency," the



Institute strives to serve as a "pilot zone" for the university's comprehensive reform, a "main platform" for interdisciplinary development, and a "new window" for international exchange and cooperation. It aims to become a leading domestic and internationally recognized hub for interdisciplinary research and a base for cultivating top-tier innovative talents.

<https://news.bnu.edu.cn/zx/tgz/e4bfb6decacb475e840673b3e435ce74.htm>

World Digital Education Alliance Joint Secretariat Established

On January 12, the inauguration ceremony of the Joint Secretariat for the World Digital Education Alliance (WDEA) was held at Beijing Normal University (BNU). The Secretariat has been co-established by BNU and the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE).

The first meeting of the expert advisory committee was chaired by Yang Zongkai, Director of the Alliance's expert advisory committee. 19 digital education experts from 13 countries and regions participated the meeting. The discussions centered on the Alliance's development pathways and core work plans, providing strategic guidance for the Alliance to focus on key tasks and advance practical cooperation.



<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/3416dfe304964c0da7513ed12b36a2bf.htm>

Beijing Normal University Holds the Seventh BNU Young Scholars Forum

On the morning of January 20, the main forum of the Seventh BNU Young Scholars Forum was held in a hybrid (online and on-site) format. President Yu Jihong attended and delivered opening remarks, and Vice President Wang Ming presented the forum's keynote report. Nearly 1,000 young scholars from world-renowned universities and research institutions registered for the event, with over 20,000 viewers watching online.



<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/7f9e222bd03f42d295e2f46e01780c02.htm>

Beijing Normal University Holds Exhibition of Design Achievements & Project Launch Conference for the International Competition of the Children's Museum

On April 1, the Beijing Normal University Children's Museum International Design Competition Exhibition and Project Launch Event took place at the Yuanbai Building, Future Design College, Zhuhai Campus. BNU's Children's Museum is conceived as a flagship initiative for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, aiming to set a professional, standardized, and international benchmark for the children's museum sector in China. Grounded in the "learning ecosystem" concept, the project integrates public service, teacher education, and research, striving to make learning visible, researchable, and accompanied. Meanwhile, it is building a "1+1+1+N" resource transformation system to move

academic resources from static preservation to dynamic, evolving engagement.



<https://news.bnu.edu.cn//zx/zhxw/1b894d823788465088f8c8692d022b16.htm>

BNU's "Chinese Dream · project to strengthen teaching force" Education Support Program Selected as a Model Project for Targeted Poverty Alleviation by the Ministry of Education (10th Round)

The results of the 10th round of selection for Model Projects for Targeted Poverty Alleviation by the Ministry of Education have recently been announced. Beijing Normal University's "Chinese Dream · project to strengthen teaching force" Comprehensive Education Support Program has been selected. Over the past three years, the program has served more than 20 rural schools, empowered over 300 rural teachers, and accompanied more than 80,000 rural primary and secondary school students. More than 4,100 volunteers have participated, with a total of 82,961 volunteer service hours. As one of the first universities to join the Graduate Teaching Volunteer Program, BNU has sent 320 volunteer teachers across 27 cohorts to regions such as Xinjiang, Guizhou, and

Sichuan, including 26 consecutive years of teaching support in Korla, Xinjiang. In 2025, the number of BNU students applying for the Western China Program increased by 375% year-on-year. A growing number of BNU students are solidifying

their ideals through volunteer service and grassroots practice, growing into educational professionals with both educational devotion and practical competence. (News Release March 13, 2026)

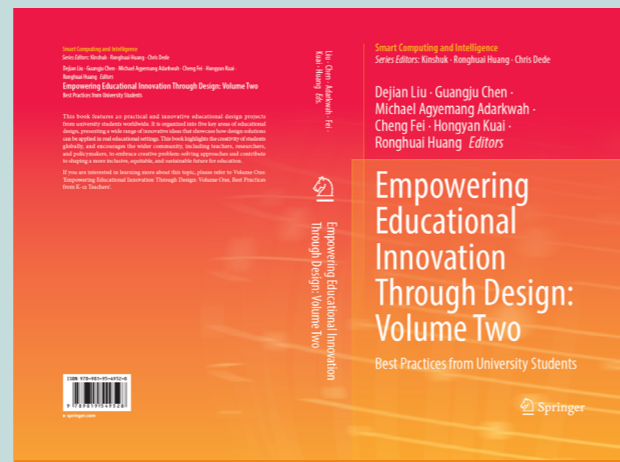


<https://news.bnu.edu.cn//zx/zhxw/8c16757a4640447fb852835a6cdb9a5a.htm>

Global Excellent Cases of Future Education Design Published: Youth Creativity Shapes the Future of Educational Innovation

Recently, the English case collection *Empowering Educational Innovation Through Design: Best Practices from University Students*, edited by experts from institutions including Beijing Normal University and published by the world-renowned Springer, has been officially released. Compiling outstanding works from the "Global Competition on Design for Future Education", the book aggregates the wisdom of young students from China, Serbia, Tunisia, the Maldives, and other countries, responding to global educational transformation challenges through design thinking. Meanwhile, as a key annual event of the "World Digital Education Alliance," the competition has been fully upgraded to the Global Competition on Design for Futures and launched in January 2026, expanding its scope to sustainable development fields. It stands as a vivid practice

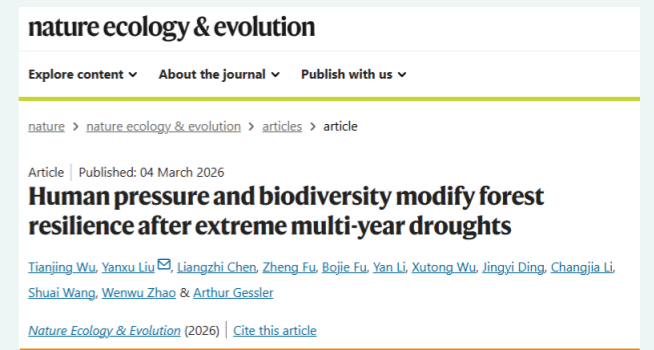
of implementing UNESCO's educational development initiatives and China's educational digitalization strategy.



<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/27bd287d154e45cea6709cca8282aa21.htm>

The Human-Earth System Coupling Team of the Faculty of Geographical Science Published a Paper in Nature Ecology & Evolution

On March 4, the Human-Earth System Coupling Team from the Faculty of Geographical Science at Beijing Normal University published a research paper titled "Human pressure and biodiversity modify forest resilience after extreme multi-year droughts" in *Nature Ecology & Evolution*. The study mapped the spatial patterns of global forest resilience before and after multi-year droughts, and explored the mechanisms by which biological, abiotic, and anthropogenic factors influence forest resilience.



<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/f5408683411342409e17efb57f49ee11.htm>

Liu Yunzhe's Research Team from the Faculty of Psychology Published a Paper in Cell

On March 25, the research team led by Liu Yunzhe from the State Key Laboratory of Cognitive Neuroscience and Learning at the Faculty of Psychology, Beijing Normal University, published a study titled “Development of Non-Spatial Grid-Like Neural Codes Tracks Inference and Intelligence” in Cell online. The study collected developmental

neuroimaging data from participants aged 8 to 25 years old and employed an innovative cognitive map paradigm to systematically reveal how age-related neural coding based on cognitive maps supports the formation of abstract knowledge structures, enhances reasoning abilities, and improves knowledge assimilation capabilities.

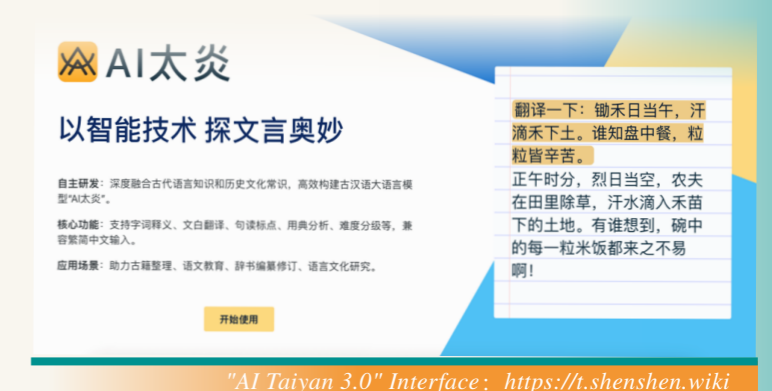


<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/16297f9e3a7845b79709dec27846dc54.htm>

AI Taiyan Ancient Chinese Large Language Model's Iterative Upgrade Selected as 2025 Top Ten News in Chinese Language Informatization and Digital Chinese Construction

Among the Top Ten News Stories of 2025 on the Informatization of Chinese Language and Characters and the Construction of Digital Chinese released by the National Language Resources Monitoring and Research Center of the Ministry of Education, the iterative upgrade of the “AI Taiyan” ancient Chinese large language model, developed by the team from the Chinese Characters and Language Research and Social Application Laboratory of Beijing Normal University, has been selected. “AI Taiyan” is a large language model for ancient Chinese independently developed by the research team of Beijing Normal University through the whole process. The model boasts strong capabilities in interpreting classical documents and supports various challenging classical Chinese understanding tasks,

including word explanation, classical-modern Chinese translation, sentence segmentation and punctuation, and allusion analysis. Named in tribute to Mr. Zhang Taiyan, a renowned modern master of Chinese studies, the model currently has users across all 34 provincial-level administrative regions in China, as well as in dozens of countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Belgium and Australia.



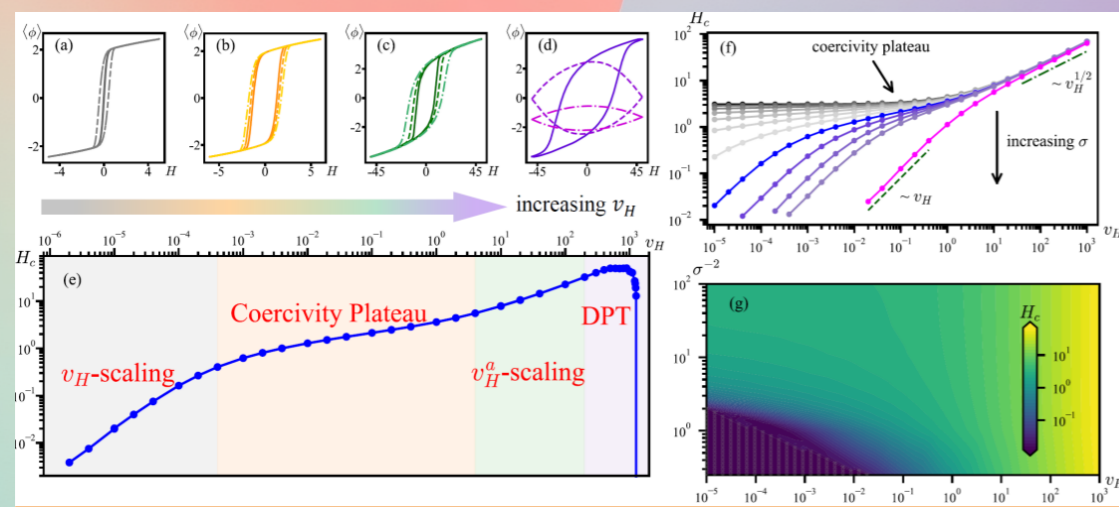
<https://news.bnu.edu.cn//zx/xzdt/efe0dc03d5d14ea68ba7cd0e0561a43a.htm>

Associate Professor Ma Yuhan's Group from the School of Physics and Astronomy Published Papers in Physical Review Letters and Physical Review E

The research group led by Associate Professor Yuhan Ma from the School of Physics and Astronomy at Beijing Normal University has introduced the physical concept of a coercivity landscape to study dynamic hysteresis in field-driven phase transitions. This concept

provides a systematic characterization of the rich nonequilibrium dynamics and finite-size scaling behavior exhibited by interacting systems under dynamic driving. The related results were published simultaneously as back-to-back papers in Physical Review Letters and Physical Review

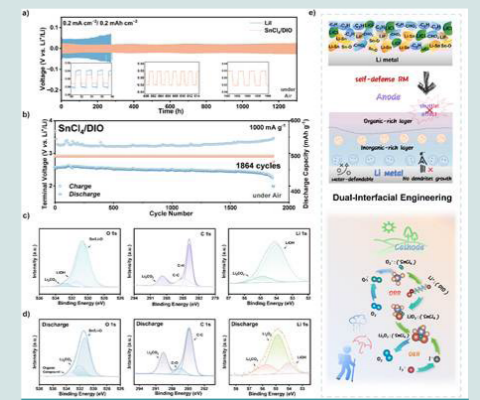
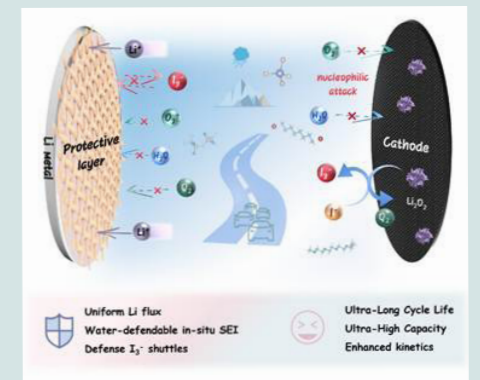
E. Among them, the Physical Review Letters paper, "Coercivity landscape characterizes dynamic hysteresis, Phys. Rev. Lett. 136, 117102 (2026)", was selected as an Editors' Suggestion and featured on the journal's homepage.



<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/ab517fff22564d1f85fb42060b8ad5ff.htm>

Professor Genban Sun's Team from the College of Chemistry Publishes Significant Findings in Angewandte Chemie International Edition

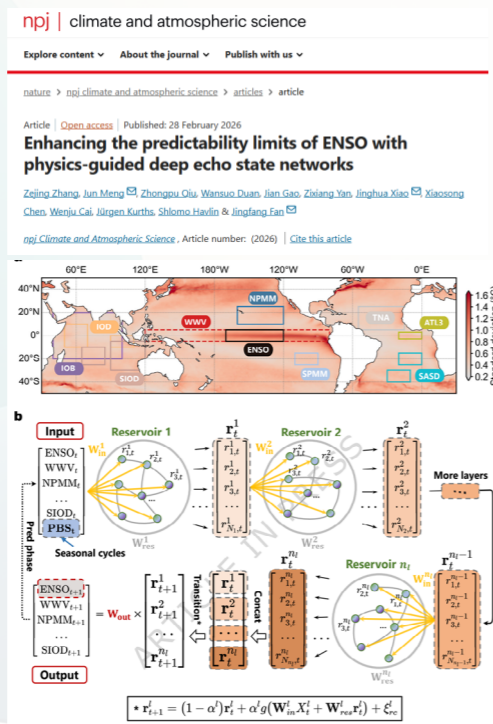
Recently, the team led by Professor Sun Genban from the College of Chemistry Published their significant findings titled "Toward Practical Ultralong-Life Li-Air Batteries in High-Humidity Environments: A Synergistic Strategy for Dual-Interfacial Engineering" in Angewandte Chemie International Edition.



<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/670c2836c5a24752910796ec0a083334.htm>

Professor Fan Jingfang's Team from the School of Systems Science Published a Research Paper in npj Climate and Atmospheric Science

Recently, Professor Fan Jingfang's team from the School of Systems Science at Beijing Normal University, in collaboration with Institute of Atmospheric Physics at Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, and other research institutions, published a research paper titled "Enhancing the predictability limits of ENSO with physics-guided Deep Echo State Networks" in npj Climate and Atmospheric Science. The study proposes a novel prediction framework that integrates climate physics mechanisms with artificial intelligence algorithms, providing a new theoretical and technical approach to improve the long-term prediction capabilities of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). It improves knowledge assimilation capabilities.



<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/e29748b4424845b88e6bbe476f92e9c2.htm>

Professor Xia Xinghui's Team from the School of Environment at Beijing Normal University Published an Article in One Earth

On January 16th, a research paper titled "Human-impacted lakes contribute over one-third of global lake greenhouse gas emissions" was published in One Earth, a Cell journal, by the team of Professor Xia Xinghui from the School of Environment at Beijing Normal University.



<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/14970955287b40d7a0fe94e9a12c5178.htm>

Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park Has been Selected into the Third Batch of National Ecological Quality Comprehensive Monitoring Stations

On January 7, 2026, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced the third batch of National Ecological Quality Comprehensive Monitoring Stations. The Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park Station, led by Beijing Normal University's National Field Scientific Observation and Research Station for Northeast China Tiger and Leopard Biodiversity, was selected. Co-established with the Jilin Provincial Ecological Environment Monitoring Center, Jilin Provincial Environmental Emergency Command Center, Dalian Ocean University, and Yanbian University, the station is situated in the Changbai Mountain water conservation and

biodiversity protection zone. Built on the forest ecosystem of the Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park, it focuses on long-term regional ecological quality evolution and key ecological process monitoring, conducting systematic observations and assessments of biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration. Through an integrated sky-ground-space monitoring network, the station will enhance continuous monitoring and assessment of tiger, leopard, and associated species biodiversity, habitat quality, and environmental factors, serving as a vital technological support platform for regional ecological protection and high-quality development.

<https://news.bnu.edu.cn//zx/xzdt/a69207a747f945dbae69361b14032081.htm>

"Looking China · Youth Film Project" Screening Event Held in Athens, Greece

On March 20, a screening of works, created by Greek faculty members and students under the "Looking China · Youth Film Project," initiated by the Center for Greece-China Studies (KEAK I II) and supported by the Academy for International Communication of Chinese Culture at Beijing Normal University (BNU), was held at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (University of Athens) in Greece.



<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/ec03dfecdb3e4088a6ce9bac3d975d87.htm>

"Climate Change and Systemic Risk Governance" Project Led by Professor Wang Ming Selected for UNESCO's "International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development" Initiative

Recently, the project "Climate Change and Systemic Risk Governance," spearheaded by Professor Wang Ming of the School of National Safety and Emergency Management, was selected for the project list of the implementation strategy for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) "International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD, 2024-2033)."

Against the backdrop of global warming, the frequency and intensity of disasters such as extreme heat, droughts, torrential rains, and floods are continuously increasing. This poses severe challenges to ecosystems, public health, food security, infrastructure operations, and social stability. Addressing the needs of global systemic risk governance, this project highlights interdisciplinary integration. It covers various fields,

including infrastructure, grain production, economic trade, the ecological environment, and global risk governance. The project aims to construct a new system for systemic risk identification, assessment, and decision-making; develop core technologies and database platforms; promote the application of artificial intelligence in risk governance; and carry out global demonstrative research.



<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/6e444008f8334c32a83e81d5d230d2e0.htm>

From April 4 to 11, at the invitation of the Chinese government, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand visited China. On April 9, Princess Sirindhorn and her delegation visited Beijing Normal University (BNU).



On January 26, Anna Hakobyan, Executive Director of the MY STEP Foundation visited Beijing Normal University.



On the afternoon of January 14, Arthur Williams, Ambassador of Jamaica to China, and his wife Jala Bernard-Williams visited Beijing Normal University (BNU).



From January 25 to 28, Zhou Zuoyu, Director of the UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (UNESCO INRULED), led a delegation to Sri Lanka to advance the flagship project of educational digitalization.



The "Understanding China · Greater Bay Area Tour" program for young students from Beijing Normal University and Princeton University was held at the Zhuhai Campus.



International Students from Phoenix School Participated in "2025 Talent Show of International Students in Guangdong"

On December 30, the "2025 Talent Show of International Students in Guangdong" was held at the Guangzhou International Campus of South China University of Technology. The event was organized by the Department of Education of Guangdong Province and hosted by South China University of Technology. Faculty and student representatives from 14 universities across Guangdong participated, showcasing achievements in international education and cross-cultural exchange.

International student representatives from the Phoenix School of Beijing Normal University at Zhuhai (BNU Zhuhai) presented an integrated performance combining choral singing and traditional dance, titled Ascending the Spring Mountain. The piece blended vocal and ethnic dance elements, highlighting the participants' engagement with Chinese culture through artistic expression.



<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/b55efa53dfde4af3a80d80da3eeb3c5a.htm>

YANG Lihui : To Showcase the Charm of Chinese Folk Culture to the World

After three decades of dedicated research on folk culture, she has pioneered the new academic field of “mythologism”.

She has enabled the world to accurately understand Chinese myths and driven a paradigm shift in contemporary Chinese folklore studies.

She has built a bridge between China’s intangible cultural heritage protection practices and international frameworks.

Yang Lihui is Professor and Director of the Institute of Folk Literature at the School of Chinese Language and Literature, Beijing Normal University. She also serves as Director of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Research and Development Center of BNU, Vice President of the Chinese Folklore Society, and Vice Chairperson of the Beijing Folk Artists Association. Her main research areas include folk literature, folklore, mythology, and intangible cultural heritage studies.



Focus on changes in life and pursue scholarship "oriented toward the present"

Her rich experience and deep love for diverse cultures were the direct motivation that led Yang Lihui to choose folklore as her research field in the first place. “Academic research should originate from life and return to life. Especially when studying ‘life’ itself, it must stand the test of real-life practice.” In Yang Lihui’s view, “life” is the key concept in the study of folklore and folk literature, and fieldwork is an important method in folklore research. It requires researchers to immerse themselves in the actual living environments of their research subjects, observing and understanding local customs and ideas.

With a focus on people’s real lives, and in response to the deeply rooted backward-facing perspective in folklore and folk literature studies, Yang Lihui proposed actively promoting a present-oriented turn in the discipline. Before the mid-1990s, a text-centered, backward-facing research perspective prevailed in Chinese folklore studies, focusing mainly on tracing the historical evolution of folklore. Influenced by Professor Zhong Jingwen’s idea that “folklore is a modern discipline,” Yang Lihui argues that folklore is not merely a study of the past, but should also confront the present and explore the profound impacts of dramatic social changes on folk customs.



With graduate students in the summer of 2025

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Based on local practices, we showcase the charm of Chinese folk culture to the world



Covers of the first edition of the English version of Handbook of Chinese Mythology (2005) and the reprinted edition by Oxford University Press (2008)

As a scholar who has long been engaged in folk culture research and intangible cultural heritage protection, Yang Lihui is not only one of the academic leaders in Chinese folklore and folk literature, but also a key figure in advancing China's intangible cultural heritage conservation. In 2005, Handbook of Chinese Mythology, an English monograph authored by Yang Lihui as the primary writer, was published by ABC-CLIO in the United States. As the first English-language work on Chinese mythology authored by a Chinese mythologist, it systematically introduces Chinese mythology and the achievements of Chinese mythological studies, and presents the living myths of China's multiple ethnic groups, contributing to a more accurate understanding of Chinese mythology worldwide. Following its publication, the book was reviewed by the

American magazine Booklist as "offering readers a rare opportunity to experience Chinese mythology from a Chinese perspective." The Journal of Folklore Research, a leading publication in American folklore studies, also commented that the work "makes a significant contribution to mythological studies, folklore research, and East Asian studies." It was reissued by Oxford University Press in 2006. Her monograph Mythologism: The Appropriation and Reconstruction of Myth in Heritage Tourism and Digital Media, completed by her team over nearly a decade, creatively reveals the new forms and characteristics of ancient mythic traditions in contemporary society. It has been praised by American scholars as a "groundbreaking work" that "matters not only for China but will also resonate across East Asia and other societies around the world."

In 2004, China joined the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, becoming the sixth country in the world to accede to the Convention. Over the past two decades, China's intangible cultural heritage protection has made remarkable and globally recognized achievements. Yang Lihui holds that the protection of intangible cultural heritage is inseparably linked to folklore studies. She points out that the concept of "intangible cultural heritage" did not emerge out of nowhere; its origin lies in the urgent need of the international community to protect "folklore" amid the impacts of globalization and modernization. In her research, Yang Lihui has naturally extended her focus from folklore and folk literature to the field of intangible cultural heritage protection. She applies folkloric theories and methods to deepen the practice and academic research of ICH safeguarding, offers policy advice for China's ICH protection, and uses her professional expertise to serve the national strategy for intangible cultural heritage. At the same time, she actively participates in the evaluation of world intangible cultural heritage projects, serving the international community as a Chinese expert.



Attending the 12th Session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on Jeju Island, the Republic of Korea, in 2017

In 2014, as head of the delegation of the Chinese Folklore Society, Yang Lihui attended the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held at the headquarters of UNESCO. At this session, the Chinese Folklore Society, as a professional organization, successfully ran for membership and became one of the advisory bodies of the Intergovernmental Committee. From 2015 to 2017, serving as deputy head of the expert group of the Chinese Folklore Society, Yang Lihui and her team fully participated in the evaluation of intangible cultural heritage nomination files submitted by various countries to UNESCO for three consecutive years. In 2020, she was invited as a representative of Chinese experts to serve on the judging panel of the 2020 Jeonju International Award for the Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Republic of Korea.

Yang Lihui stated, "We hope that our research will reveal the dynamic mechanisms that keep folk culture and intangible cultural heritage vibrant in contemporary social life, contribute to the construction of China's independent knowledge system, enrich the global academic community with Chinese wisdom, and thereby advance folklore studies worldwide."

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