HOW and WHY LANGUAGE LEARNING is USEFUL in CHINA CAREERS
A CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY PRINCETON IN BEIJING
OCTOBER 22-23
10 GUYOT HALL
How and Why Language Learning is Useful in China Careers

There is wide agreement that language is the gateway to culture; that the better one is at a second language, the more natural, and effective, communication in it will be; and that the more two languages differ, the more important it is to cross the divide. But exactly why is this so? Exactly what are the benefits, in various kinds of cross-cultural work, of getting good at a language? These questions have not, at least for the case of Chinese, been carefully studied, and may also not have been adequately appreciated. The professional journals in the Chinese language teaching field contain much about how to analyze language, how to teach it, and how to test results, but almost nothing on why language learning matters later on in life. The purpose of this conference is to address this question, for academics, as well as for people in business, journalism, government work, and elsewhere.

Presenters:
Julia Andrews, Art History, The Ohio State University
Ira Belkin, New York University
Bill Bikales, United Nations (retired)
Donald Clarke, George Washington University
Owen Fletcher, US State Department
James Gadsden, US State Department (retired)
Gregory Gilligan, Managing Director PGA Tour (Professional Golf Association) for Greater China
Thomas Gorman, Chair and Editor-in-Chief, FORTUNE China
James Hargett, Literature, SUNY Albany
Peter Hessler, The New Yorker
Ian Johnson, The New York Times
Perry Link, Literature, University of California, Riverside
Melinda Liu, Newsweek
Mary Kay Magistad, NPR
Anna Shields, Literature, Princeton University
Julian Smisek, US State Department
Rory Truex, Princeton University
Geoff Ziebart, former President, China for Crane Company

Commenters:
Liu Lening, Columbia University
Sun Chao-fen, Stanford University
Zhu Yongping, Notre Dame University

Organizers:
Chou Chih-ping, Princeton University
Perry Link, University of California Riverside
Henry Zhao, Princeton in Beijing
Conference Program
Saturday, October 22
10 Guyot Hall

9:00 AM-9:05 AM Welcome

9:05 AM-9:55 AM Panel One: Academic Humanities
Chair and Commenter: Chou Chih-ping, Princeton University

Presenters:
Julia Andrews, Art History, The Ohio State University
James Hargett, Literature, SUNY Albany
Perry Link, Literature, University of California, Riverside
Anna Shields, Literature, Princeton University

9:55 AM-10:45 AM Moderated Discussion

10:45 AM-11:00 AM Coffee Break

11:00 AM-11:30 AM Panel Two: Business
Chair and Commenter: Perry Link, University of California Riverside

Presenters:
Gregory Gilligan, Managing Director PGA Tour (Professional Golf Association) for Greater China
Thomas Gorman, Chair and Editor-in-Chief, FORTUNE China [paper summarized by Perry Link]
Geoff Ziebart, former President, China for Crane Company

11:30 AM-12:00 PM Moderated Discussion

12:00 PM-1:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM-2:20 PM Panel Three: Journalism
Chair and Commenter: Sun Chao-fen, Stanford University

Presenters:
Peter Hessler, The New Yorker
Ian Johnson, The New York Times
Melinda Liu, Newsweek
Mary Kay Magistad, NPR


2:30 PM-3:20 PM Moderated Discussion

3:20 PM-3:35 PM Coffee Break

3:35 PM-4:15 PM Panel Four: Law and Political Science
Chair and Commenter: Zhu Yongping, Notre Dame University

Presenters:
Ira Belkin, New York University
Donald Clarke, George Washington University
Rory Truex, Princeton University
Sunday, October 23
10 Guyot Hall

9:00 AM-9:50 AM  **Panel Five: Government Work**  
Chair and Commenter: Liu Lening, Columbia University

Presenters:
Bill Bikales, United Nations (retired)  
Owen Fletcher, US State Department  
James Gadsden, US State Department (retired)  
Julian Smisek, US State Department

9:50 AM-10:30 AM  Moderated Discussion

10:30 AM-10:45 AM  Coffee Break

10:45 AM-11:15 AM  **Panel Six: Professional Language Teachers Reflect**  
Chih-ping Chou (Chair), Liu Lening, Sun Chao-fen, Zhu Yongping

11:15 AM-12:15 PM  **Open Discussion**  
Moderators: Chih-ping Chou and Perry Link