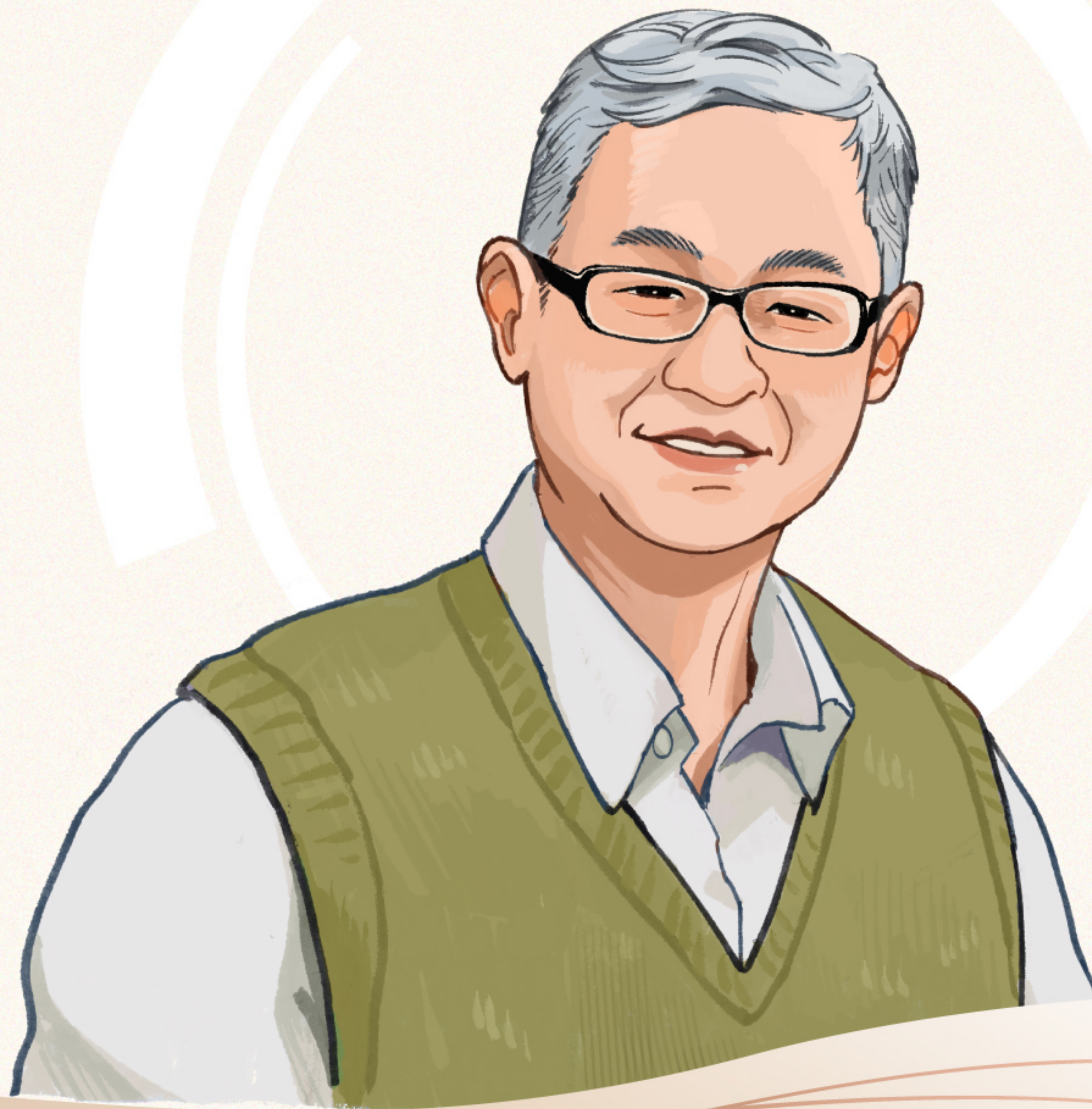




2026 Tang Prize

**SINOLOGY**

Ge Zhaoguang



# An Exemplar of Transdisciplinary Scholarship

Professor Ge Zhaoguang  
Leading Figure in Chinese Humanities over the Past Four Decades

Specializing in ancient Chinese thought, Professor Ge spans ancient and modern, transcending the disciplinary boundaries of literature, history, philosophy, religion, and art. While upholding the subjectivity of Chinese scholarship, he opens up dialogue with the world and explores new avenues of Sinology.

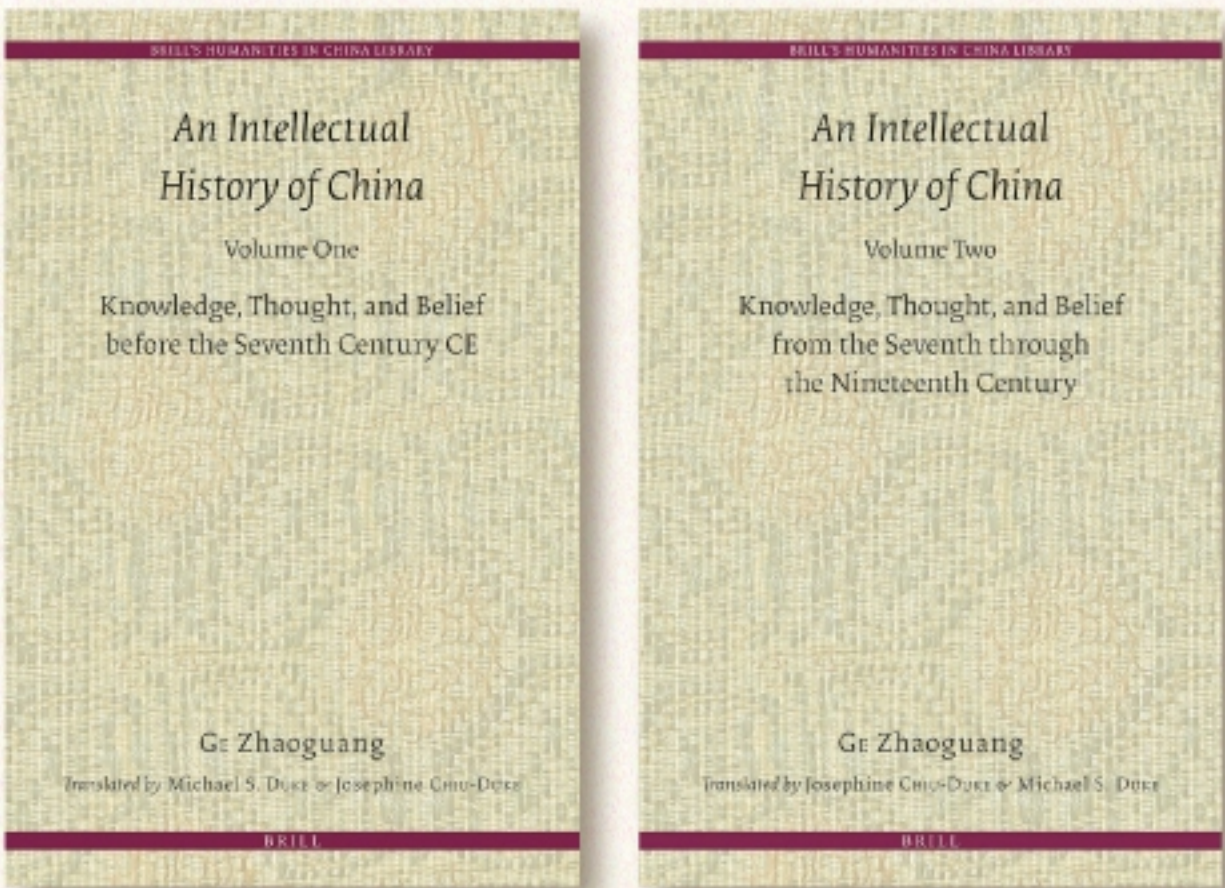
He is among the most influential Chinese scholars of global renown in contemporary Sinology.



# Expanding the Horizons of Intellectual History

First published in Chinese in 1998, Professor Ge Zhaoguang’s magnum opus, *An Intellectual History of China*, has resonated widely within both Chinese and international academia through his innovative approach.

Through sustained reflection on how intellectual history should be written, this seminal work incorporates ordinary people’s knowledge, beliefs, and culture, opening new possibilities for dialogue between intellectual history and both cultural and social history.



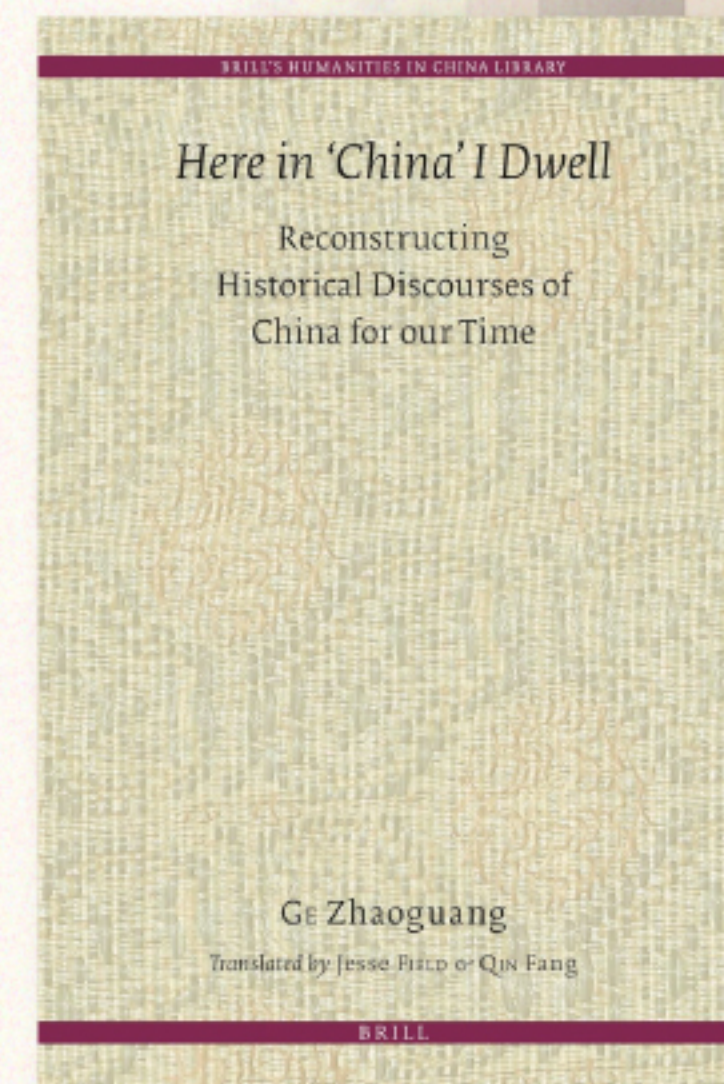
| Conventional Intellectual History | Professor Ge’s Intellectual History       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Centering Official Ideology       | Integrating Marginalized Perspectives     |
| Prioritizing Classical Texts      | Exploring Folk Beliefs and Culture        |
| Privileging Elite Thought         | Embracing Grassroots Knowledge and Values |

# Viewing China from Its Periphery

Through his explorations on “what is China,” Professor Ge has traced how the concept of “China” evolved historically and conceptually, inviting a rethinking of the relationship between “historical China” and “contemporary China.”

*Here in 'China' I Dwell* utilizes ancient imagery and travelogues to elucidate the complex interactions between China and its neighboring regions.

*Xiangxiang Yiyu* [Imagining a Foreign Place] reexamines China through Joseon envoys' travel accounts to Yenching (Beijing), fostering a research trend that observes China from standpoints beyond its borders.



# Contextualizing Religious Studies in History

Published in the 1980s and 1990s, Professor Ge's monographs on Buddhism, Daoism, and folk religions have undergone continuous revisions and reprints, remaining highly acclaimed.

*Chanzong Yu Zhongguo Wenhua* [Chan Buddhism and Chinese Culture] accessibly portrays Chan Buddhism's profound appeal to the literati class, while *Zhongguo Chan Sixiangshi* [An Intellectual History of Chinese Chan] masterfully analyzes the development of Chinese Buddhism and the rise and fall of its sects from the sixth to the tenth centuries.

*Qufushi Ji Qita* [A History of Subjugation and Other Things] shifts away from the vantage points of ruling authorities and mainstream society, adopting a Daoist lens to narrate how everyday rituals and mantic arts succumbed to Buddhist influence and official political norms, gradually fading into history.



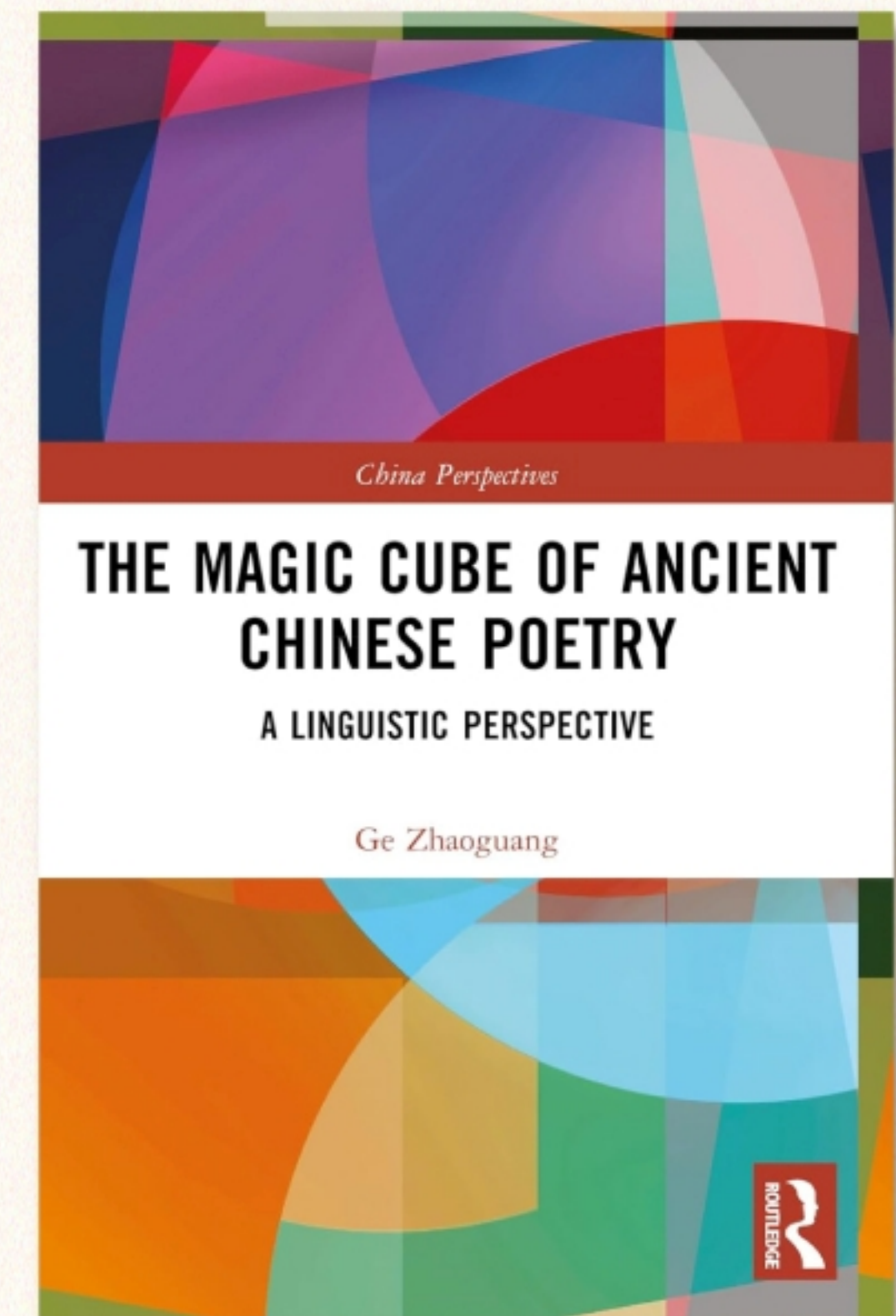
Portrait of Bodhidharma  
(*Chanzong Yu Zhongguo Wenhua*)

## Transcending Disciplinary Boundaries: Synthesis of Literature, History, and Philosophy

Beyond his expertise in religion and intellectual history, Professor Ge has conducted in-depth investigations into classical poetry and the interplay of religion and literature through works such as *The Magic Cube of Ancient Chinese Poetry*, *Xiangxiangli De Shijie* [The World of Imagination], and *Zhongguo Zongjiao Yu Wenxue Lunji* [The Studies in Chinese Religion and Literature].

In recent years, he has also approached maps, imagery of frontier ethnicities, and religious art from the perspective of the history of thought, attending to the diverse facets of the humanities.

By founding the National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Fudan University, he broke through narrow academic boundaries to foster the cross-disciplinary convergence of literature, history, and philosophy. This initiative has promoted a global-facing institution for transdisciplinary academic research.

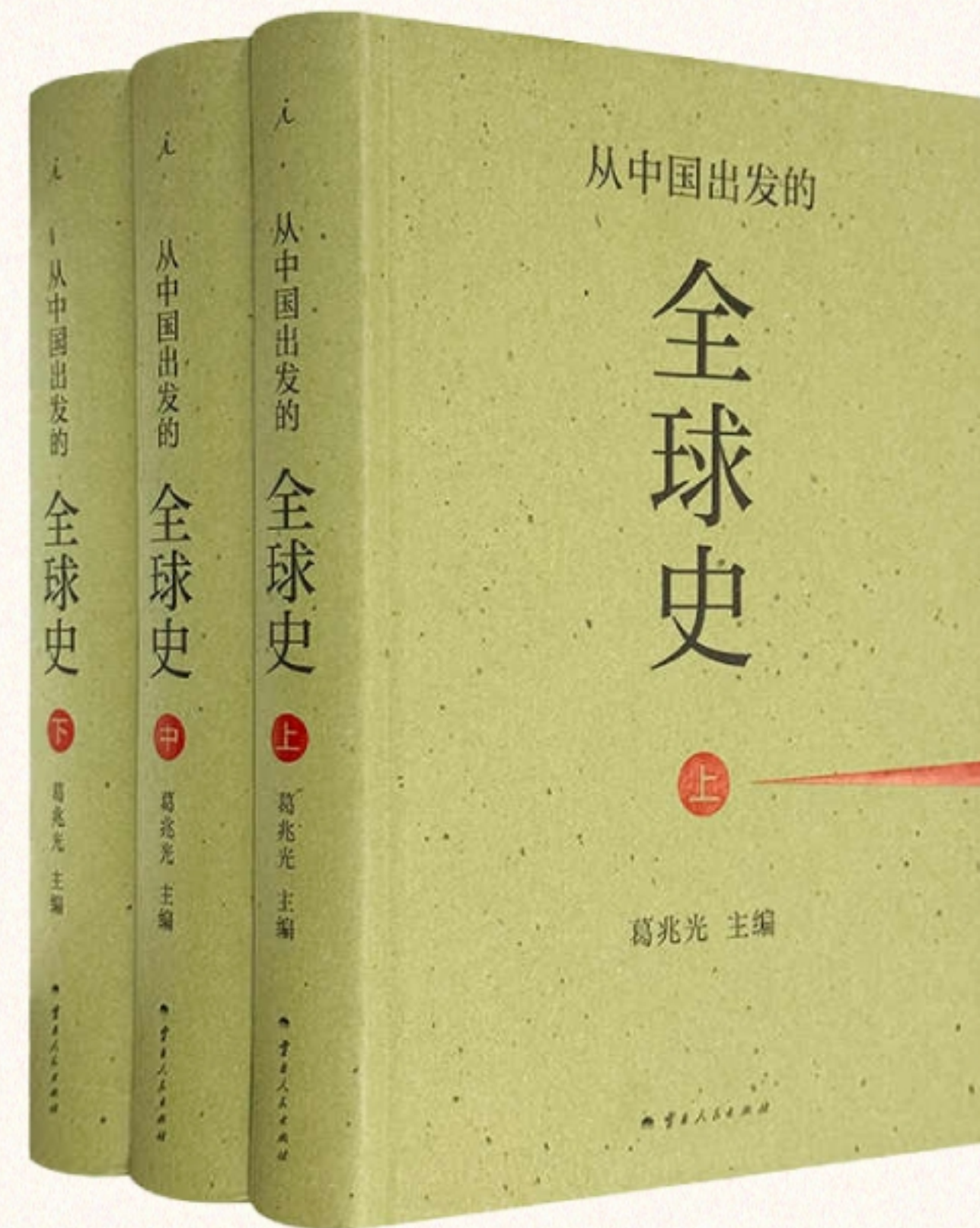


# Locating China in World History

Orchestrated by Professor Ge, *Cong Zhongguo Chufa De Quanqiushi* [Global History from the Chinese Perspective] originated as an online program bringing together twenty mid-career scholars across disciplines, yielding a three-volume monograph in 2024.

As the first global history written entirely from a Chinese viewpoint, this work explores China's position within the global context.

Through stories of people and material objects, the series historicalizes a narrative where “history transcends nations,” pursuing the noble idea of cultivating global citizenship.



# A Boundary-Reframing Guide for Contemporary Sinology

Many of Professor Ge Zhaoguang's publications have become university textbooks, with a number of his works also translated into Japanese, Korean, English, German, and French, extending his influence far beyond the barriers of generations and languages.

Actively engaging with the international academic community, he navigates the dialectical space between traditional Chinese culture and contemporary academic theories. Through this open horizon, he continues to deepen the understanding of Chinese thought across both domestic and international academia.

