

# The Xiaozhuang Model of International Chinese Language Teaching:

## Rethinking Experiential Learning

What is the most effective approach to international Chinese language teaching? Evidently, there will be no uncontroversial answer. By presenting the Xiaozhuang Model of international Chinese language teaching, this session presents arguments and insights from experienced international Chinese language teachers and scholars from China, Russia, and the United States. Professor Xueming Yang, the former Director and Librarian of Nanjing Xiaozhuang University Library, will first present the Xiaozhuang teaching tradition, which is closely related to the origins of the experiential learning theories, based on his systematic study of the unique library collections at Xiaozhuang. By comparing selected Tao Xingzhi's (1891-1946) critical theories and statements with David Kolb's (1939- ) theory of experiential learning, Yang argues that Tao's theory of "unity in teaching, learning and reflective acting" is indeed reflective experiential learning.

With the expertise of the pedagogy of international Chinese language teaching, Mr. Yufeng Niu will compare the most representative modes of international Chinese language teaching around the world. Based on his PhD program work, Niu's presentation will also respond to the Chinese language pedagogical issues in the context of current global economic situation and globalization. Different from Niu's micro- and global perspective, Professor Yan Li will focus on the specific Chinese idiom teaching. According to her longtime teaching experience, alternative strategies of Chinese idiom teaching provide the students with at least the original language settings and contexts that they indeed need. As part of the Xiaozhuang tradition established by Mr. Tao Xingzhi, such alternative teaching strategies are also "reflective actions" of experiential learning. Professor Wen Xing's presentation in the end of the session will define and compare the Xiaozhuang Model with both Dartmouth College's intensive language teaching Rassias Method and David A. Kolb's popular theory of experiential learning. Xing will argue that the Xiaozhuang Model of international Chinese language teaching is more comprehensive and holistic than the Rassias Method. Tao Xingzhi's idea of "teaching, learning, and reflective acting are united" that defined the Xiaozhuang Model pays more attention to both experiential and lifetime learning, thus makes the Xiaozhuang Model the potential candidate for one of the most effective approaches to international Chinese language teaching.

This panel is proposed as an online session.