



**Göttinger Vorträge zum modernen China**

**(Re)Constructing Chinese National and Cultural Identities  
in the Age of Globalization**

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**ABSTRACT**

Undoubtedly, the issue of globalization and culture has become an intellectual fashion, especially in the past decade in the Chinese context. Those who welcome the advent of globalization regard it as a good opportunity to develop their career in a broader global context. Others are very much worried about the fact that it might well gulp Chinese culture and even blur their national and cultural identity. But to us literary scholars of non-English speaking countries, what we are most anxious about is the (re)location of our own culture in an age of globalization when cultures from different countries or nations are more and more homogenizing with the identity of weak cultures more and more obscuring. The lecture will first of all deal with the issue of globalization from a cultural and literary perspective and its positive and negative effect on current Chinese cultural and literary studies. Then the popularization of English world wide will be touched upon with regard to its practice in China. The speaker also points out that since cultural globalization has appeared beyond anyone's resistance, seeking a unique Chinese national and cultural identity is almost impossible, for such an attempt has much to do with the construction or reconstruction of Chinese critical discourse. The speaker concludes with his reconstructing of Neo-Confucianism which will be viewed as a unique theoretic discourse co-existing and having dialogue with Western theory of modernity and postmodernity.

Wang Ning is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Tsinghua University and Zhiyuan Chair Professor of Humanities at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Among his numerous books and articles in Chinese, he has authored two books in English: *Globalization and Cultural Translation* (2004) and *Translated Modernities: Literary and Cultural Perspectives on Globalization and China* (2010) and published dozens of articles in English in some leading international journals.