THE BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT: FOUR CASE STUDIES

1  CHINA AUSTRALIA LITERARY FORUM (CALF)

Leading Australian and Chinese authors have met regularly every two years since 2011 to exchange views in a project developed by the Writing and Society Research Centre at Western Sydney University. The fourth meeting will be held in Guangzhou in May 2017. Participants will discuss issues of mutual interest including the literary themes of mobility, philosophy and society, and professional concerns including translation, reviews and publishing. These forums have greatly increased mutual understanding and opened new markets for writers on both sides. The fourth meeting will contribute to the ARC Discovery Project ‘Other Worlds: Forms of World Literature’ (DP170101002), which involves a collaboration between scholars at WSU and the University of Adelaide.

The Australia China Institute for Arts and Culture at Western Sydney University, working with the Writing and Society Research Centre, supports CALF as part of its research themes of Communication and Culture.

2  POETIC ENERGIES ACROSS SONIC SPACE: NEW MULTI-ARTFORM SYMPOSIUM

Music being a medium that communicates at an abstract and coded level, new Australian music draws on the multiple influences of cultures across Australia and the region. This symposium to be held in Penrith NSW in July 2017 involves creatives from Australia and Hong Kong, such as composers and musicians collaborating with energies from multi-artform engagements with visual artists and poets, working together to create new multi-media performances in the spirit of Chinese literati multi-dimensionality, for concerts that will also be recorded and made available internationally.

The Australia China Institute for Arts and Culture at Western Sydney University supports this New Multi-Artform Symposium orientated around music as part of its research theme of Arts and Culture.

3  SUBTITLING SUCCESS: “IF YOU ARE THE ONE”

“If You Are The One” is a record-breaking long-running SBS TV series. Originally aimed at the Chinese domestic market, it has achieved cult status in Australia due almost entirely to skilful subtitling by Dr Jing Han of Western Sydney University. This technical achievement conveys the humour, cultural backgrounds and personalities of the young Chinese participants to the audience. The series therefore allows greater understanding by the audience of the complexities of life in China today and helps build people-to-people relationships. Some Chinese-speaking Australians have also participated in the show.
Dr Han is an Adjunct Fellow of the Australia China Institute for Arts and Culture at Western Sydney University.

4 “OPEN ACCESS”: DIGITAL PUBLISHING IN CHINA

As literature, media and scholarship moves on line, Chinese culture is becoming globalised, but “open access” is not established or interpreted in the same way in China as in the West. China is also highly advanced in many technical aspects of digital transformation. Dr Xiang Ren researches the development of digital publishing in China and what this means for Australia’s cultural engagement with that country. Understanding the complex roles of the government, various institutions and market forces in China will help Australians at all levels develop strategies for engaging with China’s rising digital publishing and innovation systems.

Dr Ren is a Research Fellow of the Australia China Institute for Arts and Culture at Western Sydney University.