

The project aims to explore the philosophical views of history and historiography in nineteenth- and twentieth-century China. In contrast to the classical Chinese historiosophy, the Chinese philosophy of history in the nineteenth and twentieth century was a response to the challenge in the shape of Western ideas. The usage of native Chinese concepts for this purpose has resulted in approaches to history that are unique in the world historical thought, most of which are, however, still unexamined. To date there has been no book in any Western language devoted to the Chinese philosophy of history during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The project intends to fill this lacuna in the scholarship by means of publication of a series of academic papers and an English-language monograph.

The project will be based on original Chinese sources, and the historical reconstruction of particular philosophical positions will be theoretically developed by using a homogeneous conceptual apparatus, which will allow thinkers of different ideological options and various paradigms to be compared, and finally – to compare their views of history and historiography with analogous Western ideas. The project shall examine the Chinese philosophies of history that responded to such Western views as, i.a., progressivism, social evolutionism, utopian socialism, historical idealism, Hegelianism, pragmatism, positivism, Marxism, philosophy of historiography, theories of civilization, Catholic theology of history, existential historical ontology, analytical philosophy of history, and narrativism. The research results will also intensify the intercultural dialogue with theoreticians of historiography and historians of contemporary philosophy, thereby deepening our knowledge of contemporary Chinese historical and political culture.