



包弼德教授
Professor Peter K. BOL

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Professor Peter K. BOL, Charles H. Carswell Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University, is a leading authority on the history of cultural elites in China from the seventh century to the 17th century.

Part of the US' baby boom generation, the prominent historian and sinologist was one of four children raised in a household that encouraged political awareness. As a child who liked to ponder, his passion for history budded early and its revolutionary nature has captivated him since. With Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War dominating the international headlines, there was a scant understanding of Chinese history and culture outside Asia when Prof Bol came of age. Intrigued as to why so little was known about a country that many call home, Prof Bol embarked on an academic journey that continues to bear fruit today.

After graduating from high school in the US, Prof Bol spent five years in Europe studying Chinese Language and Literature at Leiden University in Holland. In the early 1970s, his thirst for knowledge took him to Taiwan where he had the opportunity to study with a traditional scholar; he spent almost four years immersing himself in the Confucian Four Books and Five Classics. It was this experience that led him from institutional and political history to intellectual history. Prof Bol's life as a student culminated in his graduation with a PhD degree in Chinese History from Princeton University in 1982.

In the mid-1980s, Prof Bol began his illustrious academic career at Harvard University. It was there that he became involved in what we now call the "Digital Humanities", first through a collaboration with Fudan University on the China Historical Geographic Information System (CHGIS) project, with the lofty goal of building a database of historical administrative units stretching across from the unification of China in 221 BC to 1911 AD. Providing a base GIS platform, the project enables researchers to visualize as digital maps China's demarcations in its rich history.

In 2005, Harvard University recognized Prof Bol's pivotal role in driving geospatial analytical support for teachers and researchers by naming him as founding director of its fledgling Center for Geographic Analysis. From 2013, he went on to serve a five-year term as the University's Vice Provost, overseeing the establishment of the envelop pushing HarvardX, a strategic initiative that

包弼德教授現為哈佛大學東亞語言與文明系的 Charles H. Carswell 講座教授，是研究七至十七世紀中國文化精英歷史的權威學者。

這位著名歷史學家及漢學家生於美國嬰兒潮世代，是家中四孩之一，自幼受家庭薰陶，培養出政治觸覺。小時候的包教授喜歡思考，尤其鍾情歷史，並對其帶來的變革感到興味盎然。包教授成長於美國民權運動及越戰時期，當時相關新聞報道主導了各大媒體版面，致使亞洲以外地區對中國歷史及文化的所知甚少。眼見中國人口眾多但有關資料卻寥寥無幾，包教授決定投身相關學術領域，耕耘至今，碩果累累。

包教授在美國高中畢業後負笈歐洲，以五年時間於荷蘭萊頓大學攻讀中國語言及文學。他好學不倦，在1970年代初赴台灣跟隨一位研究傳統的學者研讀儒家經典「四書五經」，歷時近四年。正因這段經歷，包教授從攻讀制度及政治史轉為思想史，並在1982年完成普林斯頓大學的中國歷史博士學位。

1980年代中期，包教授於哈佛大學執教，開展璀璨的教學生涯。在哈佛期間，他涉獵現今所指的「數碼人文學」，與復旦大學合作推動「中國歷史地理信息系統」項目。此項目旨在為公元前221年中國統一至公元後1911年間的中國歷代行政區建立數據庫，目標宏大。它以地理信息系統平台為基礎，讓學者可透過數碼地圖，目睹中國疆界在歷史長河裏的變遷。

哈佛大學於2005年成立地理分析中心時，特別委任包教授為中心的創始主任，肯定他為教師及研究員提供地理空間分析支援的重要貢獻。2013年，他擔任大學的副教務長，並在五年任期內，監督大學落實嶄新的策略項目「HarvardX」，推動教研人員為世界各地的學習者編製一系列網上學習資源。

enables faculty to provide learners across the globe with an impressive range of online learning experiences. Collaborating with his Harvard University colleague Professor William C. KIRBY, Prof Bol was also instrumental in curating ChinaX, a set of 10 HarvardX courses on the culture and history of China throughout the ages.

The China Biographical Database, a joint project of Harvard University, Academia Sinica, and Peking University, is yet another groundbreaking initiative through which Prof Bol has helped facilitate digital information exchange between Asian and Western scholars and bridge intellectual divides. The ever-expanding publicly accessible resource offers data on the lives and careers of over 640,000 historical men and women as of this August.

Over the years, Prof Bol has authored numerous highly regarded articles and books on topics pertinent to sinology in not only English and Chinese, but also in Japanese and Korean. Notable titles include *"This Culture of Ours": Intellectual Transitions in T'ang and Sung China*, which takes readers on an odyssey of the Chinese elites' collective culture from the seventh century to the 12th century; *Neo-Confucianism in History*, which explores the Neo-Confucian movement of the Song, Yuan, and Ming dynasties; and *Localizing Learning: The Literati Enterprise in Wuzhou, 1100-1600*, the first chronicle of Song, Yuan, and Ming dynasties' intellectual history viewed through a local lens.

As a venerated expert in his field, Prof Bol has forged strong bonds with his academic peers at various world-leading universities, including HKUST. For over a decade he has collaborated on research projects in Chinese history with colleagues at HKUST. In March 2017, Prof Bol delivered a keynote speech on HarvardX at an International Forum on Online Education and General Education, co-organized by the School of Humanities and Social Science of HKUST.

Outside of work, Prof Bol enjoys an unobtrusive life with his wife in Lexington, Massachusetts where gardening and cooking are among his favorite pastimes. A firm believer that budding sinologists have a solid grasp of key source texts, he currently spends his spare time researching for his next book, a history of learning in China between the eighth and 18th centuries.

To HKUST, Prof Bol brings advancement and sharing of knowledge. The University is today delighted to salute Prof Bol for his commitment to history and education, enabling cross-cultural understanding between the East and West.

包教授又與大學同僚柯偉林教授聯手，為「HarvardX」策劃出一系列共十個名為「ChinaX」的中國課，教授不同時代的中國文化及歷史知識。

包教授致力推動亞洲與西方學者在數碼資訊領域展開交流，以拉近雙方的學術差異，其中一項突破性舉措便是推展「中國歷代人物傳記資料庫」項目。此資料庫由哈佛大學、中央研究院及北京大學共同創立，截至今年八月，已收錄了超過640,000名歷史人物的生平及職業數據。資料庫的數據量仍陸續增長，並開放予公眾查閱。

包教授歷年來筆耕不輟，除了中英雙語外，亦以日文及韓文撰寫了大量備受推崇的漢學文章及書籍。他的著作甚豐，其中《斯文：唐宋思想的轉型》帶領讀者穿梭七至十二世紀，認識中國精英的集體文化史；《歷史上的理學》探討了宋元明朝的理學運動；而《志學斯邑：十二至十七世紀婺州士人之志業》則是首本以本土視角記述宋元明朝思想史的編年史。

包教授作為行內泰斗，一直與多所世界領先大學，包括香港科技大學（科大），保持緊密聯繫。過去十多年，他與科大學者攜手進行中國歷史研究項目。2017年3月，科大人文社會科學學院參與合辦網上教育及通識教育國際論壇，亦邀得包教授就「HarvardX」發表主題演講。

包教授與妻子現居於麻省萊星頓市，工餘時愛好園藝和下廚，生活隱逸寫意。他始終堅信漢學家應熟讀關鍵的學術文獻，現時亦利用空餘時間研究八至十八世紀的中國學習史，埋首籌備下一部著作。

包教授向科大展現了積極推進知識、促進學術分享的無私精神。他致力貢獻歷史研究與教育發展，對增強中西跨文化的相互了解居功厥偉。科大謹此衷心表揚。