The ‘globalisation of Chinese social sciences’ -- and a comparative and comprehensive search on the theme ‘Chinese civilisation comparison’ in some digital databases in the West and CNKI

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Structure of this presentation

1. Introduction
2. Resources in ‘Chinese social science’
3. Globalisation of Chinese social science
4. General search on the theme ‘Chinese civilisation comparison’ in some major digital databases in the West
5. Comprehensive search ‘Chinese civilisation comparison’ in CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure 中国知网)
1. Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Greek/Roman</th>
<th>Italian</th>
<th>English/Scottish</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>German/ Swiss/ Austrian</th>
<th>American/ Canadian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Herbert Spencer 1820–1903</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alfred Schutz 1899–1959</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sir John Lubbock 1834–1913</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J.M. Keynes 1883–1946</td>
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In this table of 33 great so-called ‘social scientists’, the only from the East is Confucius. Moreover, there is an absence of modern names from modern times. It would be easy to add more names from the West, but what Chinese names could we add?
2. Key developments in ‘Chinese social science’

- One of the most important resources in the field is CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure), established by Tsinghua University and Tsinghua Tongfang Holding Group in 1999.
  
  - It was supported by the Education Ministry, Science and Technology Ministry, Propaganda Ministry and General Administration of Press and Publications, with self-developed cutting-edge Chinese digital library technologies and grid resources as a sharing platform.
  
  - CNKI has the most comprehensive system of Chinese academic knowledge resources – the China Integrated Knowledge Resources Database – covering journals, dissertations, newspapers, proceedings, yearbooks, reference works, encyclopaedias, patents, standards, science and technology achievements and laws and regulations and some well-known foreign-language resources from Springer, Taylor & Francis and Wiley, forming a complete knowledge service network.
  
  - The system is the core of the China knowledge resource base, totalling 101.9 million articles, encompassing a large amount of social scientific work, some of which has been translated into English.
3. Globalisation of Chinese social science

• The term ‘globalisation of social science (GCSS)’ could as easily be applied to the ‘globalisation of Indian or African social science’ as to the ‘globalisation of Chinese social science’, which is our focus here.

• The point is that GCSS is a live issue.

• The direction and outcomes of the globalisation of Chinese social scientific studies are neither Western nor Chinese, but add concepts, theories and methods derived from studying countries such as China – which have a long history, huge population and complex society – to the sum of human knowledge.
4. General search on the theme ‘Chinese civilisation comparison’ in some major digital databases in the West

We chose to look at the following libraries/databases in the West:

- Google
- JSTOR
- British Library
- Oxford Libraries/ Oxford Bibliographies Online
- Cambridge University / Library of the Needham Research Institute
- LSE (The London school of Economics and Political Science)
- SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies)
Comparing the dynamics of the development of civilization in China and India

By paezr on March 13, 2014

Jake Hughes
The developments of the Chinese and Indian civilizations lead to a number of different and complex dynamics. These two civilizations have some strong similarities in many aspects, yet also having a lot of contrasts. Both civilizations are from prehistory and have a great deal of identity and culture. Some borrowed and some earned.
… to the academic

- **Western Civilization with Chinese Comparisons** [WCwCC] 3rd edition, 2010

- Professors John G. Blair and Jerusha Hull McCormack have co-authored this sourcebook to introduce Western civilization to Chinese readers (or vice versa). It presumes that most readers have little informed sense of their own civilizational origins, even when they turn toward studying others. This book responds to a felt educational need in both China and the West. This book is a unique one-stop comparative culture approach to China and the West.

- This third edition, unlike the first two editions, is organized in two-week segments called Encounters. Each Encounter contains two parts, traditional and modern, with indicative readings from each civilization. …

- These co-authors teach comparative culture studies involving China and the West. They give joint lectures and work with teachers to develop and deliver comparative courses. Their sourcebook … frames a one-semester course. Its US edition is called *Comparing Civilizations: China and the West (CCCW)* (2013). …

- Since 2010 they have served as Co-President and Secretary-Treasurer of the International Association for Comparative Study of China and the West (IACSCW), whose first conference took place in July 2013 at Peking University. The first issue of its journal *Comparative Studies of China and the West* appeared in 2014.
A search on Google also revealed the biannual journal *Comparative Civilizations Review*, founded in 1979. Over the past 39 years, a total of 17 papers on China or related to Chinese civilization were published in the journal, of which strictly speaking only 4 were Chinese civilisation comparative studies:

1) **The Intrigue of Paradigmatic Similarity: Leibniz and China**, *Yu Liu*, Fall 2017

2) **The Myths and Realities of the Clash of Western and Chinese Civilizations in the 21st Century**, *Andrew Targowski*, Fall 2012

3) **Between Chinese and Western Civilizations: Reflections on Hong Kong before and after Reunification with China**, *Ricardo King-Sang Mak and Timothy Man-kong Wong*, Fall 2001

4) **India in a Chinese Mirror: An Assessment of Xuazang's Buddhist Records of the Western World**, *Michel Cartier*, Spring 1988
VIEWING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FRAMEWORK OF CHINESE CIVILIZATION

Chao-lung Xu
Japan Review, No. 9 (1997), pp. 205-222

Topics: Civilization, Valleys, Chinese culture, Japanese culture, Rice, Excavations, Cemeteries, Chinese history, Political power, Archaeological sites
‘Wow! You’re dedicated’

1. “Neither 'Primitives' nor 'Others,' but Somehow Not Quite like 'Us': The Fortunes of Psychic Unity and Essentialism in Chinese Studies”


   - Abstract: This paper re-evaluates a persistent but controversial claim in studies of China – to wit, that Chinese thought exhibited a different logical structure than that found in Europe. …

2. “Evaluation of Emotions in European and Chinese Traditions: Differences and Analogies”

   - Paolo Santangelo / Monumenta Serica / Vol. 53 (2005), pp. 401-427
JSTOR – a helpful feature

• https://www.jstor.org/action/doBasicSearch?searchType=facetSearch&page=30&sd=&ed=&facet_anthropology-discipline=YW50aHJvcG9sb2d5LWRpc2NpcGxpbmU%3D&facet_asianstudies-discipline=YXNpYW5zdHVkaWVzLWRpc2NpcGxpbmU%3D&facet_sociology-discipline=c29jaW9sb2d5LWRpc2NpcGxpbmU%3D&acc=off&w=on&fc=off&Query=Chinese%20civilisation%20comparison&group=none
Oxford LibGuides

- The following filters were applied: Anthropology, Chinese Studies, Geography, International Relations, Linguistics, Political Science, Public Health, Social Work and Sociology.
A useful find for a researcher

• *Chinese Society* / Xianbi Huang

• “Chinese society” is an all-encompassing term, of course, and presents a very broad picture. Whatever aspects are highlighted, they may run the risk, as the Chinese saying *guan zhong kui bao* implies, of looking at a leopard through a tube and ending up with a limited view. Over the decades, however, a number of works have been produced that offer a sound, general overview of Chinese society, through which readers can acquire a sense of the most important issues and domains that are involved in understanding China. In this regard, both Chinese and Western scholars have made significant contributions. *Fei 1992* is one of the best-known sociological books on Chinese society. *Stockman 2000* and *Zang 2011* provide general surveys of the sociology of Chinese society, capturing major dimensions in China’s social changes and transformation, while *Perry and Selden 2010* examines the complexity of life in contemporary China from the angles of social change, conflict, and resistance. *Kipnis, et al. 2009* adopts a dual approach of empirical description and theoretical analysis to investigate Mao-era and contemporary Chinese society and politics. *Tang and Parish 2000* presents an overview of varying patterns in Chinese urban life in the post-reform era. *Chan, et al. 2009* portrays a picture and analysis of Chinese rural society from the revolution to the globalization period. *Li, et al. 2008* is a representative work of Chinese sociologists on sociology and Chinese society in recent years.
Explore the British Library

Results 1 - 10 of 59 for Everything in this catalogue
Sort by: relevance

1. 5050: Speech is civilization itself?: A comparison drawn between the Chinese and Indian cultural tradition
   Huang, R.

2. Terrien de Lacouperie's Western Origin of Early Chinese Civilization: Its Dissemination in East Asia and Textual Comparison
   Jiang, S.

Details  I want this  Notes & Tags
SOAS – the search
SOAS – an assortment of results

1. *Indian and Chinese immigrant communities: comparative perspectives* / Jayati Bhattacharya and Coonoor Kripalani, editors
   - (an interdisciplinary collection of essays)

2. *At the table: food and family around the world* / Ken Albala, editor
   - Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood, an imprint of ABC-CLIO, LLC [2016].
   - (examines all aspects of dinner in international settings, enabling cross-cultural comparisons and an understanding of the effects of modernization and globalization on food habits)
Searching to study - recommendations

• Choosing the right search terms is important, but the right terms may not become apparent until after you start searching.

• Bear in mind that there will inevitably be overlap between the contents of libraries and that several libraries will all contain some of the same key works.

• The fact that these key works do crop up frequently indicates that these are the ones to pursue in conducting research.

• Avoid being overwhelmed by conducting searches in too many sources.

• Be flexible.

• Be diligent!
5. Comprehensive search ‘Chinese civilisation comparison’ in CNKI (中国知网)

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</tbody>
</table>

- The largest number of results is from English sources found on the Chinese site.
- There is access from the Chinese site to the English site, but no access from the English to the Chinese site. We suggest that it should be added.
- These works include Chinese translation into multiple languages, as well as original publications in their own language.
Based on the above results, we selected 178 items: 30 can be found on the English site, and only 10 papers have English abstracts:

- The Characteristics of Chinese Civilization and the Process of Formation – A Comparative Study of Eastern and Western Civilization
- Cross-Civilization Comparison of Literary Research
- Cultivating Critical Thinking Skills in Cross-cultural Comparisons – A Case Study on the Experiment in Teaching the Course Western Civilization with Chinese Comparisons
- A Study of Comparative Aesthetics of Cross-civilization
- A Comparative Study on Mythological Values between Pre-Qin and Ancient Greece
- Comparative Analysis of Political Civilization between Contemporary China and the USA
- Cross-civilization Study – The Theory and Practice of Chinese Comparative Literature in the 21st Century
- ‘Non-human Feelings’ from a Comparative Perspective between Eastern and Western Civilizations – A Case Study of The Three-Cornered World
- A Case Study of the Crisis of Cross-civilization – A Comparative Study of Tea Flower and Du Shiniang
- Cultural Renaissance and Comparative Literature – A Reinterpretation of Chinese Literature and the Reconstruction of Modern Culture
The 178 items cover social sciences and humanities disciplines and methodology:

1. Methodology and General (70 items)
2. History of Civilisation (9 items)
3. Ways of Thinking, Ideology and Religion (9 items)
4. Democracy and Politics (11 items)
5. The Legal System and the Rule of Law (7 items)
6. Country/Region (12 items)
7. Science, Technology, Production, Geography, City, Architecture (10 items)
8. Ecological Civilisation (19 items)
9. Literature and Culture (21 items)
10. Classics (4 items)
11. Other (6 items)
Taking political science as an example:

1. Differences in the Geographical Environment and the Types of Political System in Classical Civilization – A Comparison between Pre-Qin China and Ancient Greece

2. A Comparative Study of Compromise and Tolerance from the Perspective of Political Civilization

3. Two Dimensions of China's Democratization Model – A Comparative Study between China and Foreign Countries, Based on the Theoretical Framework of Political Civilization

4. Civilization and the State – A discussion on ‘Positioning Standards’ in Comparative Studies between China and the USA

5. The Development of Political Civilization from a Comparative Perspective between Chinese and Western Political Systems

6. Comparative Analysis of Political Civilization between Contemporary China and the USA

7. A Comparative Study of the Ancient Chinese and Western Civilizations of Political Consciousness – Pre-Qin Confucianism and Aristotle of Ancient Greece

8. Looking at China's Rise and Strategic Thinking in a Comparison between Chinese and Western Civilizations

9. Public Opinion Supervision and Political Civilization – A Comparative Study between China and the USA

10. Comparison of Chinese and Western Models of the Power Architecture of Contemporary Diversity in Political Civilization – Setting up Supports for the Regime’s Platform

11. For the People and Democracy -- A Comparative Study of the Sources of Political Ideas between Chinese and Western Civilizations
Highlights from the list of 178 papers:


• The earliest paper calling on scholars to conduct comparative studies on Chinese civilisation is: ‘The tasks of current comparative studies on Chinese civilization’, by ZHENG Hangsheng, in 1994.

• Current ‘hot topic’ for comparative studies is ‘ecological civilisation’, e.g.
  o A Comparative Study of Thought in Two Ecological Civilizations – A Case Study on the Thoughts on Ecological Civilization of Philip Clayton and John B. Foster
  o Re-examination of China's Water Rights under the Overall Plan of Ecocivilization Reform – Based on a Comparison of Water Governance between China, Germany and the EU
  o Ethical Comparison of the Development and Positive Solutions of Ecological Civilization between China and Foreign Countries
  o A Comparative Study on Thoughts on Ecological Civilization between Han and Uighur Proverbs
  o On the Development of Contemporary Ecological Civilization and the Ideological Basis of Chinese Traditional Culture – A Comparison between the East and the West
  o A Comparative Study of Views on Contemporary Chinese Ecological Civilization and Ecological Marxism
  o A Comparative Study on the Promotion of Ecological Civilization in China and Japan -- A Case Study of Circular Economic Development
Using ‘civilisation comparison’ (文明比较) as keywords to conduct a basic search on CNKI’s Chinese site.
The general trend from 1984 to date. The peak year was 2015.
The proportion of works for each research area. 366 papers on basic research (social science) make up 73.05% of the total. The others include: industry guidance (social science) (45), policy research (social science) (30) and more.
The top 20 publishing institutions: Sichuan University (24) Suzhou University (16) Renmin University of China (12) Shenzhen University (12) Peking University (11) Nanjing University (7) Beijing Forestry University (6) Beijing Normal University (6) Tianjin Normal University (6) Tsinghua University (6) China University of Political Science and Law (6) Jilin University (6) Fujian Normal University (6) Zhengzhou University (5) Henan University (5)
Top funding sources of the publications, including: National Social Science Fund (36) National Natural Science Foundation of China (3) Shaanxi Provincial Education Commission Fund (2) China Postdoctoral Science Foundation (2) Henan Provincial Soft Science Research Program (2) Ministry of Education Study Returned Research Fund (1)
CNKI currently have few books in their database and only book reviews are available for learning about the related book titles. We recommend an additional search for relevant titles in Chinese should be conducted.