

OBITUARY

Jiazu GU (1941–2015)

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of the former Editor-in-Chief of our journal *Chinese Semiotic Studies*, Professor Jiazu GU, who passed away in Jiangsu People's Hospital on July 4, 2015, aged 74.

Professor Gu was born on July 14, 1941, in Soochow, Jiangsu. He graduated from Soochow University in 1964 and began teaching there upon his graduation. From 1988 to 1989, he worked as Visiting Professor at Saginaw Valley State University, Michigan, and from 1989 to 1991 as Visiting Researcher at Michigan State University. In 1992, he was promoted to Associate Professor at Soochow University. In 1993, he took a position at Nanjing University, and in 1995, went to teach at Nanjing Normal University, where he was promoted to Professor. He retired from this post in 2004.

Professor Gu's academic and research interests focused on cross-cultural communication and semiotics. Even after his retirement, he still persevered in academic activities and research work. Five years after his retirement, in 2009, Professor Gu launched the English language journal *Chinese Semiotic Studies* and was its Editor-in-Chief until 2010.

Professor Gu promoted the development of semiotic studies not only at Nanjing Normal University but also throughout China, laying the foundations for *Chinese Semiotic Studies* to develop into an international journal, and building a strong platform for semioticians at home and abroad to communicate with one another. Now published by De Gruyter Mouton, Berlin, *Chinese Semiotic Studies* enjoys an international reputation, an achievement largely due to Professor Gu's effort, enthusiasm, and wisdom.

Professor Gu was a right-minded, warm-hearted, and helpful person, which won him the love and esteem of his students, colleagues, and friends. Always rigorous in his own academic activities and in editing the journal, he maintained the highest degree of scholarship and in so doing, constituted a role model for us. His death marks a great loss to us personally, to our journal, and to the field of semiotic studies. As we painfully mourn the passing of Professor Jiazu Gu, we strive to uphold his standards of erudition by seeking ever to increase the quality of our journal.

Editorial Department

Chinese Semiotic Studies