

我的故事 ~ 7. 回报祖国



“ 澳大利亚和中国，一个是我的父亲，一个是我的母亲，你问我倾向于澳大利亚还是倾向于中国，就相当于你问你的小孩，你喜欢你的父亲还是喜欢你的母亲。很难回答。 ”

我的老家在山西。1990年10月份，我作为国家教委派出的访问学者来到澳大利亚，过来三个月以后，就拿到了澳大利亚奖学金，随后便转成私读，开始攻读博士学位。完成了学位毕业后便参加了工作。我所学的专业是工程化学，一直搞这个领域的设备咨询工作，后来逐渐开始有了自己的股份，收入颇丰。我们现在是几个合伙人投标，投标中标了，就做这个课题，然后就分包、生产，分四、五个件，有四、五个国家来生产这个，在不同国家里做不同东西。因为有好多东西要做，但只有某个国家有认证资格方才可以。所以一般是几国联合起来做。我对自己的工作还是比较满意的。经过多年的摸爬滚打，我和我的合伙人已经达成默契了。我和下属关系也很融洽。我现在住在西澳大利亚珀斯，有两个孩子，家庭幸福美满。

实际上最初是应该是去美国做访问学者的，由于某种原因，去美国的名额取消了，就转到了除了美加以外的任何英语国家。国家教委改派，就来到了澳大利亚。留在澳大利亚，还颇费了一番周折。因为在我们生活的那个年代，教委不批准我留在澳大利亚，要求我读书之后必须回国，澳大利亚政府给奖学金也不能拿。也算我运气好，国家政策不久放宽了。当时邓小平发表了讲话，说让留学生来去自由，毕竟他们的根在中国。最后我交付了800元的国家培养费，教委同意让我留在澳大利亚。澳大利亚是一个很友善的国家，很有耐心。人们会很细致地给你讲解诸如文化背景、规章制度等知识。所以我也算日久生情，逐渐对这个国家萌生出一种好感。但是最初的六个月还是感觉比较孤独，毕竟有文化差异。特别是我说话口音比较重，公司的同事最初听不懂，但时间长了，也就慢慢适应了。澳大利亚人的语言容忍度是很高的。现在家人也过来了，我们已经融入澳大利亚社会。但直到现在，好多澳大利亚的土语，我一看就发怵，真的不懂，但是土语也是澳大利亚文化的一部分，我要尽力去适应，因为毕竟是我选择了澳大利亚，澳大利亚接纳了我。

一踏上这片土地，就能感觉到澳大利亚扑面而来的平和和友好。我在这里遇到了一个很好的导师，就像我的父母一样，我很感激他。我刚到澳大利亚，他就亲自去飞机场接我，并让当时经济很困窘的我在他家住了四、五天，最后帮助我找了一个学生宿舍安身。我的导师退休好多年了，前段时间他得了癌症，但是控制得还不错，我们去年

还一起吃过饭。当时的留学生会也处处照顾我。

我用好奇的眼光打量着这个陌生的国度，这个曾经刻板地印在地图上或者在电视新闻中一闪而过的国家。我感受到了澳大利亚的先进和富足。在那个年代，澳大利亚就有免费喝茶和咖啡的公共场所，能用微波炉热饭……所有这一切，对于我都是那样新奇。我强烈地感觉到，中国闭关自守这么多年，真的需要向国外学习，来到澳大利亚之后确实发现这里的科学技术比中国先进。

澳大利亚人工作很努力，认真、敬业，责任意识很强，从来不会走所谓的捷径。他们会严格地按所有程序做完工程，所以工程质量从来不出现问题。我很佩服他们这一点，也在向他们学习。他们可能会为利益而产生争执，但一旦签了协议，他们就会全心全意、尽职尽责地做好工作。来到澳大利亚，另一个感受就是他们的动手能力要比中国人强得多。我们做研究的时候，实验室的管理员给你一本手册，你只能自己读手册，琢磨如何操作这个设备，没有一个人给你讲解。除非你解决不了，找一个工程师，他大致讲一下，但不会从头教你。中国正相反，仪器设备放在一个实验室，由专人管理，你拿来样品，专业人员给你测试，生怕弄坏。我觉得这也是合乎情理的，因为两国国情不同。仪器设备对中国来说很贵，而人工费不高，所以让专人去管理设备，延长寿命。而澳大利亚人工费很贵，澳大利亚一个工程师的工资就可以买一个设备。

澳大利亚人也很浪漫多情。我们公司有一个董事，是澳大利亚人。他妻子是一个澳大利亚画家。有一次，她快过生日的时候，他为了给她一个惊喜，把她的画悄悄地运到中国西安，准备举行一次画展。他妻子的妈妈84岁，平生第一次离开澳大利亚去中国参加女儿的画展，庆祝她的生日。当然，所有这一切都是秘密进行的。画展当天，他请了好多澳大利亚顶级的画家和西安的画家，并邀请西安文化厅厅长在一个五星级酒店主持画展开幕式。晚上，举行画展的时候，妻子问：“你知道今天晚上是我的生日吗？”他回答说：“我知道啊，所以今天晚上我们就在宾馆里面吃一个便饭吧。”最后，当我们打开这个厅这个大门进去一看，妻子惊呆了，她激动不已：“这全是我的画！”在场一百多位嘉宾一起鼓掌。她的眼泪哗一下就流出来了。

来澳这么多年，我觉得自己还是有所改变。我们从中国移居环境到澳大利亚是一个最大的变化，生活质量也改善了很多。但毕竟我的根还在中国，我也要积极为祖国做些贡献。我们投标，在宝钢中了几个标，定量买他们的钢材、设备，有时候一个订单，就要超过一亿美金以上。和他们一起吃饭，聊起来就说，他问：“你不回中国了？实际上是中国对你的培养。”我就说：“是的，我也要回报国家。”如果同样的情况下，可能首先想的就是祖国，我们中国的产品现在质量也好了，价格优惠，有竞争力，这是最主要的。

很多人说我是虽然加入了澳大利亚国籍，但心里还是中国人。有一天，我和一个合伙

人看一场板球冠亚军争夺赛——澳大利亚对英国。他就问我：“如果今天晚上是中国和澳大利亚比赛，你向着哪一方？”我告诉他：“你问的这个问题，就相当于你问你的小孩，你喜欢你的父亲还是喜欢你的母亲，很难回答。”因为我们现在在澳大利亚，就应该尊重澳大利亚的法律。我觉得我已经基本上适应澳大利亚的生活。可以这样说，我在澳大利亚很自在。我觉得自己已经从一个必然到一个自由的状态了。作为公民，我很关心澳大利亚经济的走向，例如现在澳大利亚矿业有些疲软，石油、天然气发展还可以，但是后劲不强。但农业、林业比较兴旺，所以澳大利亚的货币还是个平衡的澳币体系。对于政府，我感兴趣的原则就是：这个政府应该是勤劳的、能承受压力的政府，在救济金的发放问题上，我建议还是给他们加以鞭策为好。因为老拿救济金，特别是没有工作的年轻人，不能轻易给他救济金，因为这样会纵容他们的懒惰。

我更关注澳大利亚的多元文化。澳大利亚人还是很认同这个多元文化的，虽然也有个别人在谈到政治的时候，老说你是外国人、是华人，听不清等等。澳大利亚是个多元文化体，是一个比较能容忍的国家，它的位置离亚洲是最近的，也最能接受多元文化。如果承认多元文化是澳大利亚文化的一部分，那么我就是接受它的文化，把这个多元文化排除出去，那么我就不能接受它的文化。因为我是中国人，多元文化对我来说尤其重要。我力争正视西方和中国的差异。但无论如何，中西方彼此之间都存在着差异和偏见，因为两种文化骨子里就有差别。我和老外争执、讨论过，但是思维方式的不同，无法达成妥协，最后不得不放弃。

有时候是双方达成妥协。比如，订单下到中国了，中国有自己的制度，如果不遵循生意就做不成，老外就不得不放弃他的思维。但如果订单下到欧洲，就得遵循西方的思维方式，所以就是看倾向性在哪边，商业性是以利益为主的。不管怎样，尊重都是第一位的。其实，随着开放，中西方文化在逐渐靠近，但还是不同的。中国有好多文化比较含蓄，要去感觉；西方就比较直接。

实际上，我身上有这种双重文化认同感。中国现在强大起来了，我的中国身份从以前的劣势变成一种优势了。现在澳大利亚的小孩学中文的越来越多了，因为他们也认为不和中国打交道会是一个劣势。因为中国现在在发展壮大，有强大的经济竞争力，所以我越来越觉得会中文的重要性，也鼓励我的孩子努力学习中文。因为追根溯源，我们毕竟是华人，中国是我的祖国，是我的祖先生活过的地方。所以祖国的发展也牵动着我们的心，我无时无刻不在关心着祖国。

是的，澳大利亚和中国，一个是我的父亲，一个是我的母亲。人在澳大利亚就要做对澳大利亚有用的事情，因为我毕竟是她们的公民。但是我毕竟又有中国的血脉，所以我对澳大利亚和中国就是像对待自己的父亲母亲。也有好多亲戚朋友问我：你觉得澳大利亚是你的家还是中国是你的家？你老了以后回来怎么办？可能是我老了，思乡之情很浓，也总是回家乡探亲访友。但是我走不动路的时候可能就留在澳大利亚了。在

澳大利亚呆的时间越长，就越渗透到她的文化中来了。入土以后骨灰可能就留在这里了。

不管如何努力，我跟孩子们在文化认同方面还是有差异的。这个差异是由双方所生长、生活的不同社会背景造成的。社会教育对人的一生影响及大，特别是幼年的时候。我来澳洲的时候都快30岁了，但不得不承认，直到现在，中国的烙印对我的思维还有影响。而我的孩子们在澳大利亚长大，他们的文化认同跟我们这一代人明显不同。他们头脑中根深蒂固的是澳大利亚文化。对中国的一些观点，我们有时候会产生不同的见解。比如说，对中国的改革开放、政府的一些措施策略等等，他们有好多是不认同我的，他们认为中国在自由方面做得还是不够。但是我熟知中国的文化，在中国，过度的自由就意味着滥用、误用自由。但是我从来不强迫孩子们。我对女儿说：你们代表未来，我们代表过去，所以你可以存在，我也得存在，你可以有自己的观点，我也可以有自己的观点，我们可以保留各自的观点。

我不后悔我选择了澳大利亚，我感到我走过的每一步人生路，都是有计划、有准备的，都是充实而幸福的。

My Story ~ 8. From Chinese Country Boy To An Australian Professor



“At the Olympic Games I would be delighted to see the national flags of both China and Australia flying as one.”

Before I left China, I worked at the Changchun Geography Institution of China Academy of Sciences. During the English language training before I left China, the English teacher who was from an American church gave every trainee an

English name. I was called Mike.

I came from the countryside, where my ancestors have been farmers for generations. My hometown is called Yangmingpu, a town where the Japanese invaders built an air base which was bombed by Chinese army. After I graduated from high school in 1976, I worked as the chief of Youth League Branch of my village; in addition, I was the assistant instructor of the village in addition to being a militiaman. In the year 1977, the college entrance examination system resumed, and most of the high school graduates started to prepare for the college entrance exams. Although I had my high school education in my county, I was not good at math, physics, and chemistry, especially inorganic chemistry and organic chemistry. At that time education in rural schools was taught without textbooks and there was no standard curriculum. After I graduated from high school, I held an administrative post in my village; as a result I had almost no time to review my lessons to prepare for the college entrance examination, so I went back to county high school and prepared for three months. I almost knew nothing about choosing which university and major, but I did know most boys chose science and engineering, therefore I chose science and engineering as my major. In my last application to Shanxi Normal College I choose physics as my major. After I got the letter of admission, I knew there were one major normal college and one major university in every province which would enrol you if you were lucky enough to be selected. As a country kid, all I was thinking was that as long as I could be a university student, I would get a job and be able to earn a living, so I didn't care which university accepted me. A Normal university was better, because they had free tuition, and students would get a food coupon and an allowance, so that was my preference. Finally, much to my surprise, I was admitted to Shanxi Normal University my major geography. I thought it was typing error, because I chosen physics not geography. I was worried, so I went to ask the Taiyuan Admission Office what had happened. Staff in the office told me they did not make a mistake, because the Department of Geography belongs to science and engineering. They also said the Department of Geography is the best department in the university. Students graduating from this department need not be teachers but could work at the Seismological Bureau, Hydrologic Station, and Land and Resources Bureau. I was very happy, so I studied very hard and achieved good results

As a child born and raised in the countryside, I knew that the Letter of Admission to a university was extreme important, it meant that I was no longer restricted to

a life in the countryside. I slowly began to love university life. At that time students who went college in 1977 and 1978 studied very hard. I also tried my best to work hard; I was chosen to be the study monitor. If you wanted to be in that position you had to be the top student as the top student, I got the highest average scores when I graduated from the university. Back then, the knowledge and teaching quality of my teachers was not of a high standard. Most of them were from the May Seventh Cadre School, and they simply repeated what the books said, so we had to study on our own. I started learning English from scratch. However, after one year's study, I took part in an English speaking contest and got very good scores in the non-English major group. I was the only student awarded the prize from my department, which encouraged me to study much harder. When I was a junior, I heard I could sit the Master's degree test, I started to prepare. After the test, I got letters of admission from two different departments: Department of Physics and Department of Chemistry. I was the first person to get this qualification in my department. That year, only three students qualified in my university. I chose Changchun Geography Institution of China Academy of Sciences to further my studies. As a student from the countryside, this was an outstanding achievement. I was quite excited to get the Letter of Admission. If going to university was an important step in my life, to obtain a Master's degree would make life even better.

Three years later, I was assigned to the Academy of Sciences. The Academy thought highly of me, but it was hard to further my study abroad. Being part of the first batch of graduates after the Culture Revolution, the Academy was unwilling to let me go abroad. Many of the graduates wanted to be go abroad, after working for three years, I was chosen to be a visiting scholar at the British Columbia University in Canada. My mentor was the head of department at the Institution of Asian studies. That year, after much communication we devised a study program He came up with a new theory, which focused on Asian urbanization and the different characteristic of Asian megacities. A lot of students were engaged in this project, some of whom did research into the Yangtze River delta, Pearl River delta and Australia. I chose to study Dalian-Shenyang city and Singapore city. My mentor encouraged me to sit the TOEFL test, and then got a scholarship which was the beginning of an academic career of me.

My wife and children were still in China, so I didn't know whether I should continue with my study abroad. At that time, I did not apply for a green card.

Considering my family, my status as one of the first assigned postgraduates, and the good treatment the Academy had given to me, I had no choice but to return to China. Still undecided, I got help from my mentor and finally, I decided to stay abroad. Due to my mentor's high standing in Asian studies, the Canadian ambassador to China and the cultural counselor would have background lectures before they went to China. My mentor wrote to my university, in which he highly praised me and asked to help with my wife and children's visa. Because of my mentor's letter, my wife and children got the visa, and I also became qualified as a Ph.D.

It was quite tough for me to get a doctorate. I studied social science which in the western world is quite hard. In 1995, after I finished my doctoral thesis, I started to look for a job. I finally obtained a position at the University of Melbourne. I got the interview with my schoolmate who was from Vancouver. I was not very confident because he was from an English speaking country.

I had the interview in Los Angeles. The five interviewees including a dean and an Australian student made me think that it would be impossible for me to be successful. However, with no pressure, I performed well and was accepted which was surmised me greatly. Many years have passed, but I still remember when the interviewer told me that I had made a deep impression on the dean and professors. And they liked my academic research methods. Also as a Chinese, I had more advantages because of my study in China than people from other countries. At that time, I had already obtained Canadian citizenship. Getting this job could be seen as the third important turning point in my life, which influenced my family's future.

Life in Australia went well. In my college's Asian studies research group, I focused on Asian development, environmental issues, issues of migrant workers, studies on water resources, and food security problems. We cooperated to some extent on urbanization development from the perspective of geography. I rose from a lecturer to a senior lecturer, to an associate professor and finally to a professor. During this process, I also took charge of teaching, and did some clerical work. Then I mainly took the lead in some of China's social sciences fund program. I also instructed 10 doctoral candidates and postgraduates. In the last two years, I have worked with others on three books and more than ten articles. When I was the dean, I instructed my students, and assisted with domestic and overseas projects, I was very busy and under a lot of stress.

Moving from China to Canada, then from Canada to Australia, I have experienced the Sino-western cultural differences. Driving in Australia takes a while to adapt, but life here is much more relaxed. Prices in Australia are quite high, especially the price of cars. Differences studies can also be found. In China, staff are assigned houses, but here I had to find and rent a house, However, if you work hard and save your money you can buy your own house; In China, postgraduates and young teachers often work at weekends and work late, in Australia, no one works at weekends. Another difference is that I only take a two-hour-lesson of one course during the week, plus 3 to 4 chapters of reading and a one-hour discussion period. If the chapter reading exceeds two hours the students would complain about the teacher. However, compared to China, there are no other obvious differences in aspects such as values, privacy and making friends etc.

From the life in the countryside to a life at university was like changing worlds. My life except for several big events is going well, smooth sailing. Perhaps it is God's will or Fate that I finally choose Australia in which to spend the second half of my life I get up early but go home late and give lessons in English. I have bought and sold houses as well as renovated and up-graded houses. I am satisfied that I live an ordinary life.

Undoubtedly in the academic field, you have to follow the rules of the game and you have to know how to act in the role. Whether natives or outsiders. You must understand the rules of the game, what kind of articles to write , what kind of research to undertake, which projects are of great significance, and how to obtain projects, etc., A few years after I got my PhD degree, I was qualified to guide doctoral students. I get along well with my colleagues, and we do research projects together. It is safe to say that I took a leading role in Asian and China studies. I have established myself in that field of study. I now go to China with students on field courses, field research and analysis. These days there is great cooperation between me and my colleagues. Making the best of both worlds and having an inquisitive mind enabled me to obtain my own position in my university. All the above makes me feel at ease, and I have gradually integrated into local life. I consider Australia to be my second home.

However, there are cultural differences between Chinese and Australians. Some people call us "banana", but I don't think so. I came to Australia in the 1980s, and we have a similar way of thinking, which means we have potential and we can quickly adapt to change. But some Chinese overseas students do things according

to the Chinese way of thinking and they have no spirit of adventure. They do not follow their mentor's advice and example; they only take action when their mentors tell them what to do. This is a challenge I have met after I came to Australia. The second doctoral student I guided did not work, steadily and in an orderly fashion. I tried my best to help him, but he still did not change his ways, and did things in a secretive way. This is a negative example of my experience as a supervisor of a PhD student, but I think it is cultural differences caused this problem. I also have some successful examples. One of my PhD students works as a superintendent in a research centre of the University of Queensland, other have become university teachers. I have learned that Australian students know the process of their courses very well, and they actively communicate with their mentors. As a Chinese, I always try to protect Chinese students, but there should not be too much special treatment. I always try to improve my Chinese students' spirit of adventure, guiding them to successfully finish their studies, and enhance their understanding of life.

I came to Australia when I was 27. I may have been a little immature, but I had an international perspective and a world view. If I completely give up on myself, I would not be me myself. In my experience, I think whether engaged in study or doing business, everyone has ambition and drive. Without these qualities, a person is of little value. Playing games should be under the guidance of rules. The reason that I can keep my position is that I have a Chinese background, and I know Chinese Culture. It is hard to find a person with similar experience and background. I can take a group of people back to China to do research, and receive respect and admiration for my methods and ability.

In Australia, as a Chinese, I am a professor with a Chinese face and a deep knowledge of Chinese culture, which fills me with pride, no matter in what the occasion.

I recall that I attended an international strategy conference at a university. The president of the university was present, he was quite curious when I was proudly introduced the prospects for the Chinese market. He also wanted to be updated on the latest information, I was happy to know that he valued my input, when we relaxed together chatting; the topic included some aspects of local culture. They love to talk about sport, like cricket, rugby and football. Unfortunately I do not understand the local culture very well, so I do not feel comfortable with it. When we study pure theory, we will face some abstract words, which sometimes I don't

clearly understand. When they have word games, I feel awkward; I don't know their culture, their celebrities, and sports news. Someone once asked me whether I have been accepted into Australian mainstream society. My answer is fifty-fifty. Having formal dinner parties, chatting with colleagues, drinking playing cards, joking and laughing makes you feel part of the circle. This is the first fifty. The second fifty is not about whether taking part or not, it is about whether you want to or not. I have my own circle. We get together brag, and drink wine at the weekend. But if there were foreigners present, it would not be so harmonious, and enjoyable in such a situation I would feel they are the "foreigners" in my own cultural circle.

To support my feeling it seems that even Australians have their own family and circle of friends which is not that easy to break into.

When asked the question "Which is your home, Australia or China?" I always reply Australia. But my spiritual home will always be China. I do hope my country will continue to develop and prosper. But when I go back, I find it hard to fit in. China is my ancestor's home, and for people like me it is not my current home.

I've been asking myself: if given a chance to work in China and go back there to live, will I fit in? Well, I go back four or five times a year and I know well the rules and customs here. Even a little child eating outside with parents will order the waiters around and people accept this. Actually I feel embarrassed living in China the shouting and queue-jumping in public, the money worship and the focus on job promotion. That uncomfortable feeling makes me a stranger in my homeland and I no longer feel part of my country.

Although I live in Australia, my heart belongs to China. I'm now an honorary professor of three universities. Being involved with current research programs at several domestic universities, I sincerely hope to help educate more PhD's for China and support them in both the international and domestic academic fields. I hope to enhance the friendship between China and Australia. I'm Australian with a Chinese face, a Chinese heart and Australian feelings. I hope both the Chinese and Australian flags will proudly fly above the Olympic Games venues. In this green land with a peaceful attitude, let us relax, free our imagination, feel the sunshine, enjoy the beautiful beaches, humanity, and embrace this wonderful world.

我的故事 ~ 8. 中国农村娃至澳洲大学教授



“我衷心希望中国和澳洲的国旗同时在奥林匹克运动会上升起”

在国内时，我在中国科学院长春地理研究所工作。在出国前参加培训班学习英语的时候，美国教会派来的英语老师，从《圣经》中给每个人取了个英文名字，他叫我迈克。

我是从东北农村出来的，父辈们祖祖辈辈都是农民。我的家乡阳明堡乡，当年是炸日本机场的地方。自从1976年高中毕业，就在村大队部做团支部书记，当民兵副指导员。1977年，中国恢复高考制度，大部分高中毕业生开始考大学，虽然我是在县城里读的高中，但对数学、物理和化学，尤其是无机化学、有机化学都分不清楚。当时的农村学校，上课很不正规，也没有教材，高中毕业后，在村里又担任行政职务，几乎没时间复习，所以特意回到县城高中复习了三个月。对报考上什么学校，选什么专业一无所知，只知道男孩子学工的多，因此，所有的志愿我都报的是工学院，最后一个志愿是山西师范学院物理专业。录取通知书下来才知道，每个省里都有一个重点师范院校，和重点院校同时录取，只要你是服从分配都能被录取。作为一个农村孩子，我心想只要能考上大学，以后就会有工作就会有饭吃，无论上哪所大学都行，上师范大学更好些，没有学费，国家还给每个人发粮票和补助金，因此就服从分配了。被山西师大地理系录取了。天啊，肯定是打错字了吧？物理和地理就差一个字，我急三火四，忐忑不安地跑到太原招生办想问个究竟。自己心想肯定是他们搞错了。招生办的工作人员告诉我没搞错，地理系就是理科。他们还说地理系是师范院校里最好的系，毕业后不用当老师。是唯一一个可以在地震局、水文站以及国土局工作的专业，当时还挺高兴。那就学地理吧，入学之后，我很努力地学习进步也很快。

作为一个农村孩子，通过考大学，金榜题名，在我一生中，那个录取通知书对我是太重要了，它意味着自己可以永远离开农村，可以找个吃商品粮的老婆，不会一辈子呆在农村，面对黄土背朝天了。上大学以后，从一无所知，到慢慢喜欢熟悉大学生活，

那时候77、78级学生学习都特别努力，自己更加倍勤奋，被推选当学习委员，学习委员成绩必须拔尖才能在同学中有威信。我的学习成绩总是第一名，毕业的时候，平均分最高。那时教师知识水平教学质量不是特好，大部分老师是从“五七”干校回来的，上课照着书本念，所以我们只能靠自己用功自学。英语都是零起点，第二年我就参加英语竞赛，非英语专业竞赛组我就榜上有名，在我们系是唯一获奖人，学习劲头越来越足。到大学三年级的时候，听说可以报考硕士，就开始准备。考试结果，我同时得到了物理系和化学系两个通知书。我是地理系有史以来第一个考上研究生的人，全校一共考上三个。来自小地方的我，考的是中科院长春地理研究所，在当时已经够出色了。拿到这个通知书，激动不已，考上大学是我人生第一大转折，考上硕士算是锦上添花了。

研究生读了三年，毕业以后，分到中科院，单位很器重我，但要想出国学习深造那可不容易。作为国家第一批人才，单位不会轻易把人放走的。科学院出国名额特别多，我工作了三年，才拿到一个公派名额，做访问学者。我选择了温哥华的英属哥伦比亚大学，导师是一个亚洲问题研究所的主任专家。这一年期间，我们在一起交流共同做了一个项目，当时他提出一个新的理论，研究亚洲城市化和城市群的特征差异，很多学生参加这个项目，其中有研究中国长江三角洲、珠江三角及澳洲，我选择研究大连沈阳城市群，及新加坡城市群。导师当时鼓励我考托福，我得到一个奖学金，开始了我的学术生涯。

由于当时我妻子和孩子还在国内，犹豫自己是否继续念下去？那时送到手的绿卡我都没敢要。考虑到家庭就必须回国，因为我是第一批研究生毕业，第一梯队培养对象，国内单位对我的待遇也非常优厚。就在我举棋不定的时候，导师帮我解决了一切问题，让我没了后顾之忧，所以决定留下来。导师在研究亚洲问题方面很出名，所以加拿大驻中国大使，文化参赞去中国之前都要来英属哥伦比亚大学做讲座，他就给学校写了一封信，高度称赞我，请求帮助解决我家属和孩子的签证问题，由于这封极好的信，我妻子和孩子就拿到了签证，我也申请到了读博资格。

读博士时还是挺艰苦的，尤其我是读社会科学，文科在西方，在这个行当里面，你要做学问还是挺难的。1995年做完博士论文，开始找工作，几经周折才找到了墨尔本大学任教职位。当时我和温哥华的一位同学，同时得到这次面试的机会，同学是个洋人，讲地道的英语，我心想自己可能比不过他。面试定在洛杉矶，当时那个系主任，还有另一个澳洲学生，一共5个人被选参加面试，我想我更不可能了，就很放得开，越放得开就越答得好，最后准试的是我，挺意外。时隔多年，我还记得当时面试官对我说的话，他说，系主任和教授们都很喜欢我，喜欢我的学术研究方法，也因为我是中国人，研究中国比其他国家的人更精通，因此，把这个位子给了我。那时候我已经是加拿大公民了，这回可算是我人生中第三次重要转折点，决定了我和家人未来生活的去向。

来到澳大利亚，一切还算顺利，在学院里的亚洲研究课题组，我更多侧重亚洲发展、环境问题、农民工问题、水资源问题的研究、粮食安全问题，从地理学角度研究城市化发展问题，我们都经常有所合作。慢慢地就从讲师晋升到高级讲师，副教授到教授。之后负责管理教学，担任了一段行政工作。再后来，主要担任国内一些社科基金项目，带博士和硕士研究生10个人，最近两年与他人合作出版三本书和十几篇文章，最忙的时候是既做院长，又带研究生，国内外都有项目，学术压力也比较重。

我从中国到加拿大，从加拿大到澳洲，感受到中西方文化的差异。就像开车左行右行还得适应一段时间呢，但在这边工作生活更放松些。澳洲物价很高，特别是汽车价格很贵。做学问方面有一些细微的差异。在中国是靠单位给职工分房，在这里是租房住，打工赚钱等有能力就可以买房；在国内研究生、年轻的老师周末加班，挑灯夜战都很普遍，在澳洲，周末来办公室上班的，除了我没有其他人，最晚离开办公室的人还是我，这些就是差别。第二个差别，在这里教研究生，一门课一个星期只上两个小时，外加三个到四个章节的阅读，一个小时讨论课，一个星期如果超过两个阅读章节，学生就会投诉老师。其他方面，诸如价值观、隐私、交友等跟国内没有很明显的差异。

从农村考上大学，从一个轨道到另一个轨道，就像是变轨似的，一路走来还算顺利。对我来说，除了几个大的转折点之外，其他没有太大的曲折。最终选择到澳大利亚，选择了把自己的后半生扎根在这里，这一切都好像是天意，又像是命运之神的安排。我早起晚归，用英文上课到提职，买房卖房，拆了又盖，折腾几番，不算不顺利，过着平常人家的生活，我也感到很心满意足。

当然在学术领域里，也得遵循一些游戏规则，要学会你怎么进入角色，无论是本土人还是外来人，你要往上走就必须懂得一些游戏规则，包括发什么样的文章，做什么样的研究，哪方面的项目有重大意义，怎样才能拿到项目等等诸如此类的问题，这里面有很深的学问。博士毕业工作几年之后，我取得了指导博士生的资格。我和同事的关系都处的很好，我们一起做研究项目，可以说是我把学院有关对亚洲及中国的研究带起来的。现在开设有关此方面的很多课程，我现在也带学生去中国上野外课，做实地调查研究与分析。当然今天的成果是我和同事们坚持不懈的努力和完美的合作取得的。取长补短，勤学好问，向同事请教及时切磋，慢慢丰富自己，在学术研究和教学方面，使自己在大学站稳了脚跟，让自己心里踏实了很多，觉得自己在一点一点的融入当地人的生活中，逐渐的把澳洲当成了自己的家。

但是中国人和澳洲人还是存在着文化差异，有人把我们叫做香蕉人，我不这样认为。我们这批人是80年代初到澳洲的，具有东西方人共有的思维方式，很有潜力，转变的也很快。但有些中国留学生，只按照中国人思维，没有冒险精神，做事不按照导师行事，总得让导师牵着走，这是我到澳洲来在教学上遇到的难题。我带的第二个博士生，他不按照一步一个脚印、有条不紊的去做研究，我尽力帮助引导他，但他还是没有按

期完成，而自己却偷偷摸摸干另外的事了。这是我作为博导很失败的一个例子。但我觉得这是文化导致的。我带出来博士毕业生成功的很多，有在昆士兰大学研究中心做主管的，相当于大学研究办公室主任，还有几个成为大学教师。教授多年的经验是，澳洲学生很懂得课程的程序，他们与导师交流探讨问题是更主动。当然作为中国人我还是一直在尽量保护着中国学生，但又不能太过于人情味。多在暗中保护，不能轻易让别人觉察出来，我一直在努力培养中国学生的冒险精神，指导他们顺利完成学业。

我是二十七岁那年来澳洲的，虽说还有些稚嫩，但我的世界观已经完全成熟了，如果完全放弃我自己，我就不是我了。因为我觉得不论是做学问还是做生意，任何一个人，都要先有自我。没有自我，就没有价值了。玩游戏也要按照规则玩，之所以我能在这个位置上待下去，因为我有中国背景，懂中国文化，接中国地气，他们很难找到像我这样的一个人，我可以带着一帮人回国做研究，他们很尊重我对科研的方法，很器重我，但我始终淡化自我，同时强化自我。

在澳大利亚大学里，作为一个中国人，带有的是中国文化，具有中国脸的教授，无论在什么场合都觉得是一种自豪。记得有一次我参加大学的一个国际化战略会议，大学校长出席了，当我自豪的介绍中国市场的前景时，校长觉得很新奇，他需要了解这方面的动态。他还点名让我讲，那是一种自豪的感觉；但有的时候，如果几个人坐在一起聊天开玩笑，他们的话题包含很地道的本土文化，他们喜欢谈球-曲棍球、橄榄球等，而自己对他们的话题，对本土文化不甚了解，心里就会有不太爽的感觉。在我们研究纯理论的时候，会遇到一些非常抽象的词，有时我就只能理解一多半，有时甚至更少些。当他们玩文字时，我会感到尴尬。我不了解他们的文化，不了解明星，对新闻里的体育永远不懂，不了解。有人问我是否进入了澳大利亚主流社会？我的回答是一半一半吧。出席正式的宴会，与同事聊天，一起喝酒、打牌，与他们交往，开个玩笑，这些都是能进入当地人的圈子的。还有一半，不是说你进不进去，而是你想不想进去。我有我自己的圈子。周末在一起吹吹牛皮，喝喝白酒，如果有老外在场，那会有点扫兴，因为他们不会喝白酒，那时候自己的感觉是，他们才是我们生活圈子里的“老外”。

什么是主流？主流社会的定义又是什么？到底存在不存在这样一个主流，因为即使是澳洲人，他自己也有自己的家庭朋友圈，也不是什么人都可以进去的。

有人问我说过：“像你这样的墨尔本大学教授，你不在主流谁在？”我一直自问，到底有没有主流社会呢？首先要定位一下什么是主流，一个人是各自那个主流的一部分，在我那个小圈子里面，我就是主流。在墨尔本有百分之十的中国人口，甚至更多些，在我的大学校园里，百分之二十都是华人，讲北京话，天津话，那我们就是主流之一。传统是一个广义的，全球城市下的主流和非主流，如果按照狭义来说，只有本土西方文化才是主流，在多元文化这个背景下定义的主流。从传统意义上来说，我们有其一

部分，但不是我的全部，意大利人有自己的朋友圈子，也有别的文化的穿插，有文化趋同性。从这个意义上看，我不会为此感到困惑，我没有感到被边缘化。我可以进入所谓的主战场，也可以撤出来，如果这个叫边缘化，我还愿意被边缘化。文化不存在主流，因为澳洲是一个多元文化并存的国家。文化本来就存在，没有优劣，没有主流非主流，每个文化都有同等价值，这是最基本的，也是肯定的，但是政治层面确实有主流，有利益冲突的。因此，主流是指从事政治活动的人而言的，是政治游戏而已。

来澳洲打工的人，他们本身住的也很好，但就心态来讲，他们对主流和非主流更敏感，更在意，更愿意把中间的这个线划分清晰，我们如果已经在这个主流里面飘了的话，看到的是微观层面的，对中间这个线我是不在乎的，我认为这个线是不存在的，可以跨过去，可以退回来。有些人觉得很难逾越这个线，觉得这个线是无形的，总觉得另一边邻居的草坪永远是绿的，那就只剩下渴望而不可及了。

当有人问我，“澳大利亚和中国，哪个是你的家？”我会说，澳洲是我的家。而情感家是在中国。我希望自己的祖国强大起来。但当回到中国的时候，那里的一切又让我感到不那么习惯。我觉得祖国是祖宗的国，不是我们现在的国。

我一直在问自己，假设有一个机会，让我回到中国去工作生活，我还能融入中国文化吗？我每年回国四五次，我懂酒桌文化，熟悉人情世故。就连父母领着很小的孩子下饭馆，把服务员指点的团团转的行为都习以为常。但在公共场合又听不得大呼小叫，忍受不了不排队现象。自己觉得在国内生活会很疲惫。我已经不习惯拜金主义，不看重职务升迁。那种不舒服、不习惯让我觉得自己成了个陌生人的、与中国文化习惯产生了隔阂。

虽然我走进澳洲文化，心依然是中国心。我现在是三个大学的荣誉教授。把自己的研究项目与中国的几个大学结合起来，我诚心希望能够为中国培养更多的博士生，通过我的指点，帮助他们在国际国内学术界名列前茅。通过自己的教学增进中澳洲之间的友谊。我是中国面孔澳洲公民，一颗中国心，一个澳洲情结；我希望中国和澳洲的国旗同时在奥林匹克运动会上升起。在这片绿草成荫，鸟语花香的土地上以平和的心态，放松的自我，畅想生命之歌，感受阳光、大海、人性、天地中所有的神奇与奥妙。

My Story ~ 9. Who Is The Foreigner In This Place?



“As long as you are not lazy, have a strong commitment and are willing to work, you can easily survive in this country.”

My hometown is Nanyang, Henan Province, where Zhuge Liang, a famous ancient Chinese strategist wrote his “Art of War”, titled as “Northern Expedition Memorial” during the Three Kingdoms period of ancient China.

I came to Australia in 1997 after graduation from a Chinese university, I majored in petroleum. I consider myself to be of average intelligence, I am conscientious and inclusive, serious about my work, so I have achieved good outcomes. Thanks to Curtin University which provided me with a full scholarship, I started to pursue my doctorate degree in Australia. At that time, the economic conditions of my family were not good, so I had to depend on myself completely.

I came to Australia alone. My supervisor suggested that he could help me to bring my family to Australia; he would reimburse the air tickets of my wife and child. At that time, I was very poor, so my supervisor’s offer was timely and a great help for me. I remember I had only 100 Australian Dollars in my pocket when I registered at Curtin University. A student was required to pay 250 Australian Dollars for registration; I didn’t have enough money for the fee. A deputy supervisor was with me, he saw my embarrassing situation and said, “No worries,” and wrote a cheque and paid for my registration fee. I was a good student, concentrated on my study without thinking about luxuries, I was happy with my simple life. Because of the scholarship, life was not too difficult. I heard that many of my predecessors coming to Australia had experienced a tough life and hardship. Compared to them, I thought I was luckier.

Nevertheless, like most Chinese students, I also took part-time jobs during my study period in Australia. I remember that my first job was related to my major,

doing translation in petroleum matters. An Australian company was planning to invest in a project in China; they came to our school seeking translators. I was the only Chinese student majoring in petroleum geology at that time. That was my first job. I thought the money was good, 25 Australian Dollars per hour. It was sky-high in comparison with other wages at that time. The translation project was big, so I organized two or three assistants to form a translation group. I was responsible for the task, including recording timesheets. I was so tired and busy but I felt great. Every week I earned more than one thousand Australian Dollars in my spare time.

My second job was working in a bakery. We also formed up a group made up of locals and foreigners from China and other countries. These were the jobs that I worked while I studied in Australia. While doing part-time work, I also successfully applied for a small scientific research fund from Australian Natural Science Fund to support my research project in the second year. My supervisor was very happy with me; because I didn't need to spend his money and he could even use my money on a business trip.

My Family

I have two children. The eldest girl was born in China; my son was born in Australia in June 1999. The birth of my son was very dramatic. In contrast to China, you can check the baby's gender in Australia. However, the doctors couldn't determine whether the baby was a boy or a girl. In the end, they guessed it was a girl, so we prepared things for a baby girl. It turned out to be a boy, so that was a pleasant surprise.

I have had a lot of help from my many friends and colleagues. However, the person I want to thank most is my wife who has always cared for me, for our children and family without complaints and has given great support to my life and career. Our parents are not so well, so both our children were raised by my wife. In particular, caring for the children was so hard when they were growing up. Thanks to her contribution and devotion, I was able to concentrate on my career. I think my wife is the person who had the greatest influence on my life.

My Career

I was an academic researcher to start with, and now I am a businessman. That's the biggest change in my career. There are objective reasons and also some subjective reasons. As the saying goes, "Difference in profession makes one feel worlds apart." From academic research to running an enterprise, these two areas

are totally different and to make such a change is not always easy, it is a continuous process of learning and accumulation.

Now, I manage a service company specializing in education and immigration, mainly engaged in consultation for Chinese students studying abroad, and organizing exchange programs between schools in China and Australia. We also organize student exchanges and Chinese investors to Australia, as well as foreign investment in both countries. We have established offices in Beijing and Melbourne. I employ many people with different backgrounds in my enterprise, including my Australian staff. My next target for my career is to possibly increase education projects, including vocational training and professional training between China and Australia based on strengthening the current work. Another target is very realistic, namely, how to expand the scale of the solar energy company being run by myself, focusing on the application of commercialization and how to store solar energy. My major is petroleum which belongs to the non-renewable energy resource; I would like to use my knowledge for this new project. I am organizing a team for project research into renewable energy.

Frankly speaking, I feel like taking a break and have a rest. I am over 50 years old, close to the retiring age. But I am not a person who enjoys an easy life. I may continue working and but withdraw myself from the front line a little. So I would like to take some time to travel, relax a bit and enjoy my life. Someone has said I am a workaholic. Actually, I am not. But when I see so many things that need to be done, I just do them until the task is completed. Otherwise, I don't feel comfortable. That is me, my work habits.

Cultural Identity

I think Australia is a country with a neat social structure, which is not only reflected in the legal and social systems, but more so in the people, including personal order - the code of conduct of individuals, ethical standards and people's behavior, etc. Personal order means the order of the whole society, everything here seems in perfect order. We can describe it as "harmonious", a very fashionable term in China nowadays.

After living in Australia for over a decade, I can see big changes; more and more mainland Chinese are coming to Australia, especially to Western Australia. I remember when I first came to Australia; you did not see many Chinese students from mainland China in Perth. The new generation of Chinese immigrants have made a great contribution to Australian society, including economy, culture and

industries; they have set up strong connections between China and Australia. I remember 20 years ago, everywhere was so quiet, shops closed at 5pm, you could only hear some noise during the peak time. But now, you can see people everywhere, shops and supermarkets are open at night and weekends. We even have traffic jams during rush hours. In another aspect, there was not much Chinese investment in Western Australia 20 years ago. The earliest investor was Anshan Iron and Steel Group Corporation. But now, many Chinese investors have invested in Western Australia, including big mining companies, petroleum companies, engineering and agricultural companies. It has been said that China needs Australian resources for their development; on the other hand, it is also true that China has realized the importance of Western Australia, not only mining resources, agriculture and technology, but also its cultural and service industries.

Although I have Australian citizenship, I still feel I am Chinese. Australia is an immigration country, 90% of the population are immigrants, thus cultural differences definitely exist. You can't deny it, even if the first and the second generations of the immigrants are totally different from the younger generation regarding each other's cultural identity. The young immigrant generation think and act as if they are locals, even if some were not born in Australia; they have integrated into the society. Take my daughter for example, she works in an Australian law firm, she is the only one with a Chinese background, but she is treated the same as everyone else. She has grown up and been educated in Australia, she talks just like an Australian young person. She might think her parents are foreigners. Even though I am not that old, Chinese culture is engraved in my bones. That does not prevent me from integrating into Australian society, I willingly accept Australian culture. Although I still cannot understand the local culture completely, such as their historical allusions, Aussie slang or jokes, sometimes I feel puzzled when everyone laughs at something which doesn't seem funny to me at all. Maybe it is the same when a foreigner tries to learn Chinese; they can be puzzled or confused with what the Chinese are talking about. In this multi-cultural country, it's hard to explain the concept of a "foreigner". Who is the foreigner in this place? Sometimes, I think many people around me are more foreign than myself.

Actually, the cultural identity may mean giving more topics to your cultural cycle so that you can talk about it without any obstacles. For example, we hold some gatherings. Actually, people talking with each other tend to have the same background. I think that is very natural. Thus, in social contact, it refers to

contact with things, a contact between friends, a contact between colleagues sometimes and also a contact with strangers. Sometimes, I think the concept “mainstream society” is not so accurate. As long as you can live here comfortably, are able to make a contribution to the society, the society also can accept you and your behavior is not incompatible with the society, you shall be a member of the mainstream society. Both of my two children were born here. They speak idiomatic English and go to the best local private school. My daughter was born in China and came to Australia with us at the age four. Now, she has graduated from college majoring in law with good results. At present, she works at a local law firm. Her colleagues and superiors treat her equally without discrimination. I think we are the social main stream.

Australia is a society in which one can survive very easily. As long as you are not lazy, are devoted and willing to work, you can not only reach the living standards of ordinary people, but also have a chance to step into the upper-middle society. If you want to live better, you may have to make more effort and need certain abilities and opportunities. In short, one can live very easily with personal ability and industrious work.

In Australia, human value tends to be reflected by personal ability. Sometimes you may think others look down upon you. However, if you are confident enough and strong enough, you will put it aside. Certainly, some people at low cultural levels have the language and behaviour and engage in racial discrimination. This phenomenon unfortunately exists everywhere.

I remember an old professor more than 70 years old who said, “What’s your objective for receiving education? It is to enjoy life.” As a matter of fact, in my opinion, enjoying life doesn’t mean enjoying personal life but refers to the concept that everyone enjoys life and this gives rise to a harmonious society.

我的故事 ~ 9. 到底谁是外国人?



“只要你不懒惰，肯付出，凭着个人能力和劳动，在这里生活很容易。”

我的老家是河南南阳，诸葛亮写下《出师表》的地方。我大学时学的是石油地质专业。1997年年初来到澳大利亚。我并不是天资极聪颖的人，但做事严谨、认真，成绩较好。当时澳大利亚的科廷大学给了我全额奖学金，我才决定过来读博士。因为那个时候家里条件不好，没有人资助，全靠自己。

我是单枪匹马来到澳洲的。我的导师当时许诺说，我可以把家人带过来，并且报销全部机票。当时经济还真是窘迫，所以导师的许诺对我来说，无异于雪中送炭。我记得第二天到学校去报到，兜里仅有100多澳元。开学注册的时候需要缴纳报名费——250澳元，但我当时划拉划拉，全部的家当也只有100多澳元。有一个副导师跟我一起去的。他看出了我的窘迫，说没关系，我给你划支票，我这才交上了钱。好在我只是上学，对生活没有太多的要求，每两个星期还有奖学金来支持生活，所以还没感到太多的困难。我听说有很多来澳的老前辈，经历了很艰苦的奋斗过程，跟他们相比，我可能比较幸运，并没有过多为生计而奔波。但是跟大多数中国学生一样，我上学期间也打过工。我记得打的第一份工是和我专业有关系的，搞石油方面的翻译。因为澳洲的公司要到中国投资做项目，请不到专业翻译，就找到我们学校，当时我可以说是学校唯一一个搞石油地质的学生。所以这应该是第一份工作吧。当时感觉钱真不少，每小时给25澳元。这个价钱相对于当时打工的价格，就算天价啦！因为工作比较多，我还组织了其他两、三个人组成一个翻译组来翻译，我还负责记录时间，很累，很忙碌。不过当时感觉，每个星期业余时间还能挣一千多澳元，真的不错！后来我还在面包房做过工。我们当时也是组成一个队，有澳洲本地人，有中国和其他国家过来打工的人。这些就是我当年在澳洲上学的时候打的工，但是我相对打工比较少。因为入学的第二年我从澳大利亚的国家自然科学基金申请了一个小的科研经费来支持我的课题研究。我的导师也挺高兴，因为我不用花他的钱，他们出差还可以用我的钱。

家庭

我有两个孩子。老大是女孩，在中国出生。1999年六月，我儿子在澳洲出生。儿子的出生很有戏剧性。澳洲不同于中国，在澳洲你可以随便检查孩子的性别。但我儿子出生前医生一直无法看清是男孩还是女孩。最后他们认为很可能是一个女孩，于是我们当时都按照女孩的标准准备了衣物。结果生下来以后是个男孩，所以这是一个惊喜。

我在澳洲有很多朋友、同事，他们都曾经无私地帮助过我。但我最应该感谢的还是我

的妻子，她一直无怨无悔地照顾我，照顾孩子，照顾这个家，对我的生活和事业给予了极大的支持。我们双方的父母身体都不太好，这两个孩子全是她一手拉扯大的。尤其孩子小的时候，照顾起来真的非常辛苦。是她的付出和奉献，使我能够放下心去做自己的事业。我觉得我的妻子应该是对我一生影响最大的人。

事业

我以前是做学术研究的，现在从商了。这是我个人事业最大的改变。这个改变有客观的原因，当然也有一些主观原因。俗话说：“隔行如隔山”，从搞学术转到去做企业，这两者是截然不同的两个领域，这个改变过程并不是一帆风顺的，而是一个不断学习和积累的过程。

现在我有一个教育和移民的服务公司，主要从事包括中国留学生咨询，中国和澳大利亚学校之间的交流，还有一些学者之间的交流以及中国投资人在澳投资、工作等。我们在中国的北京和澳洲的墨尔本都设立了办公室。在我的企业里，我雇佣了不同种族、不同背景的人，包括很多澳洲本地的员工。我的事业的下一个目标是在巩固好现在工作的基础上，可能增加一些中国和澳洲之间的教育、职业培训，专业的培训交流等项目。另外一个目标是很现实的，也就是如何扩大我现在正在做的太阳能公司的规模，尤其是商业化的应用以及如何储存太阳能。我是搞石油的，石油属于不可再生能源，而太阳能属于可再生能源。现在我们有一个团队在花精力潜心研究这个项目。

说实话，我现在也盼着退休，我也五十多岁了，快到退休年龄了。但我是一个闲不住的人，可能还会继续做下去，希望能往后退到二线吧！能够有更多时间出去旅游，放松心情，享受生活。有人说我是一个工作狂，其实也不完全是，但有时候看工作堆在那儿，就想尽快完成，如果做不好，就感觉到好像欠点什么东西，有时候感觉挺累，所以就想以后能够越早退休越好。

文化认同

我觉得澳大利亚是一个很有秩序的国家，它的秩序性不仅仅表现在法律体系、社会制度上，而更多地表现在个人的秩序上。也就是说包括人的行为准则、道德标准、生活细节等方方面面。个人的秩序性就维系了整个社会的秩序，使得社会有亲和力，用现今中国的一句时髦的话来说，就叫做“和谐”。

来到澳大利亚这十多年，感觉这个国家自身变化也很大。我刚刚过来的时候，华人是有一些，但中国大陆的人在澳洲很少，现在可能每一个系的专业可能都远远超过那个时候从中国大陆来的学生。华人在澳大利亚西澳所占的人口比例增加了很多。华人对澳洲社会、经济、文化以及两国之间的交流也做出了很大贡献。我记得当年来的时候，在公路上，除了高峰阶段之外，大部分时间很安静，现在即使是低峰期，也超过当年

高峰期的人数了。甚至包括铁路开通以后，公路上并不见人车减少，反而增加了。另一个方面，就是以前中国在西澳的投资是很少的。最早是鞍钢在这儿，这是最早的投资。后来中国主要的矿业、石油公司和一些工程类的公司在这边都有投资，这一方面反映了中国发展需要这方面的资源；另一方面，也体现了中国认识到了西澳的重要性和优势所在，它的矿业资源、农业，以及和它相关的技术、服务业。

虽然我现在已经加入澳大利亚国籍了，但从骨子里面还认同自己是一个土生土长的中国人，澳大利亚本身就是一个移民国家，90%以上的人口都是外来移民，所以文化差异肯定是有的，这点你无法否认。即使第一代移民和第二代移民，在文化认同上都完全不同。他们认为他们所处的就是本地的文化，这就是他们的文化。但我们的骨子里刻着的仍然是中国的文化。但这并不妨碍你融入、适应或接受澳大利亚文化。虽然我们仍然没法完全理解那些牵扯到澳洲的本土文化，比如历史典故、俚语、笑话等。其实跟外国人学中文道理是一样的，他们也常常瞪大眼睛，一头雾水，不知道你说什么。在澳大利亚这个多元文化的国家，“外国人”这个概念也很难说清楚。到底谁是外国人？有时候，我反而觉得周围的很多人比我更像是外国人。

其实所谓文化认同，可能恰恰就是给你的文化圈子更多的话题，你谈起来没有什么障碍。比如我们搞一些聚会，其实人们要谈话的对象往往是相同背景的，我觉得这是很自然的。所以在社交中，有时候是事物上的接触，有时候是一种朋友间的接触，有时候是同事之间的接触，还有一种是和陌生人的接触。我觉得有时候我倒觉得“主流社会”这个概念不是那么准确。你本身能够在这儿生活得舒舒服服，能够对社会做出贡献，社会也能够接纳你，并且你的活动没有跟社会格格不入，你就应该是主流社会的一员。我的两个小孩子都是在这里出生的，他们说着一口地道的英语，上的当地最好的私立学校。大女儿是国内出生，四岁来到澳洲，现在大学毕业了，学的是法律，成绩很好，现在在当地一家律师事务所工作，同事和上司对她一视同仁。我觉得我们都是社会主流。澳洲是一个非常容易生存的社会。只要你不懒惰，肯付出，不仅能容易达到普通人的生活标准，而且还能够步入中上阶级社会。如果你想生活得更好，可能就要付出更多的努力，并需要一定的能力和机遇。简而言之，一个人凭着个人能力和辛勤的劳动，在这里生活是很容易的。

在澳洲，人的价值更多地是体现在个人能力上。可能有的时候你会觉得别人有点看不起你，但是如果足够自信，足够强大，你会把它放在一边。当然，在社会上，也有一些文化层次比较低的人有种族歧视的语言和行为，这种现象是几乎任何地方都有的。我记得刚到澳洲留学的时候，一位70多岁的老教授说过这么一句话：“你接受教育的目的是什么？就是享受生活”。其实我理解的享受生活并不是说单纯个人的享受生活，而是大家都享受生活，那么整个社会才能和谐。

My Story ~ 10. A Party With One Member



“I like politics, for I don’t want people to experience what I have suffered in my life.”

It was 1998 at a friend’s party in Perth.

The first general consul of the Chinese Consulate in Perth would soon return to China. It seemed that people felt reluctant to see him leave. The Consul General was in an amiable mood and gave the impression that he was familiar with every member of Chinese community. Being an ordinary man, or being an actor or an official, playing with shares, or collections, or playing with politics, having played to such a degree that people already missed him even before he departed; he was so successful that he should be seen as one of those on the peak of the human pyramid. That year was an Australian national election year. Who says the Chinese are not interested in politics? My circle of friends and colleagues definitely value their right to vote.

No matter who we support, we must be present on the polling day. According to Australia’s rules, everyone must vote. If you don’t vote you must explain why or face a fine even though it is a small amount. We don’t expect to be given money that we haven’t earned; but we should not have to take out the money that is already in our pockets.

When I drove home after the party, I listened to an ABC radio interview about the election. The interview was at his home, where he displayed a placard to protest against racism. After he had bought the land and built a house, because of his Asian appearance, everyday someone threw rocks, and smashed his property. Although he reported the problem, the police didn’t deal with it. Because of lack of evidence (even though it was known who did it). He was harassed all year

round, was fearful and extremely anxious and suffered terribly. Therefore he was determined to establish a party which would give a Chinese voice to these issues. This man was really bold; it was unprecedented in Australian history. Good Man! If the opportunity arose I would definitely like to meet this giant and I'd like to vote for him. It was unbelievable that just two days later, someone introduced me to Ed.

I met Ed at his home along with many others, at a social gathering. I found there were a lot of professors and lecturers from all universities of Perth who were from China, Southeast Asia, and from India. Later, I found out that all of these people were elite scholars. ED is Mr. Huang. That day we met to discuss the establishment of the Unity Party and to participate in the national election. Mr. Huang said "nobody listens when only one person speaks, but someone will listen when one party speaks." From then on, I was inadvertently caught up in a political election, and witnessed the largest tide of Chinese participation in politics in the history of Australia.

That year, the Australian political landscape changed.

A newly elected federal member, Pauline Hanson, in her maiden speech spoke in negative way about Australian aborigines, Asian Australians and immigration. For a time, he became a hero in the eyes of right wing conservative voters. Hanson was central to setting up "the One Nation party". Moreover she campaigned to expel Asian people and was even more rampant toward the aboriginal people. "Go back to where you came from" was her rallying cry. This Australian continent is the original home of the aboriginal people, who should get out? In order to win votes, the One Nation party brought out the so-called "Zero immigration" policy, and advocated the return of all refugees back home after five years, and called for the Government to abolish the multicultural policy, enforced an English examination for new immigrations, and strictly control the entry of immigrant's elder parents (Family Reunion). The Liberal party led by John Howard took a noncommittal attitude toward One Nation party. Basically he did not object, because Hanson was not a member of the Liberal party. The racist policies of One Nation became the major reason for Chinese participation in politics. The proverb says: "the rabbit would also kick the eagle in anxiety". In Sydney's east, a Chinese Australian leader took an initial step to set up a political party called the Unity Party. Mr. Huang from W.A contacted the east, and decided to set up the Unity Party of the Western Australia in order to participate in the election that year.

Mr. Huang had run a post office agency for many years, a mom-and-pop store and he knew a lot of people. He had retired recently, and sold the business. He had been a chairman of the postal industry association for many years, and conducted a variety of negotiations on behalf of the industry, such as fighting for fair competition environment, bargaining with the government, etc. Therefore he had accumulated a lot of “politics” understanding. Mr. Huang said it needed two basic conditions to establish a political party. First, it must have a Constitution; the eastern Unity Party already had a Constitution and it was available to use after reference and revision. Second, it must have at least 500 members - that was not difficult. The key was to have nominated candidates, including the Senate candidate and the House of Representatives candidate.

The first was the Senate candidate. At that time, the number of Chinese in Perth was not large, thus it not only involved Chinese, but also included other Asian organizations and Aboriginal organizations as allies. After much discussion and negotiation, Ted Wilkes was nominated. He was an aborigine, who had been awarded “Australian of the Year”. The Unity party could be represented by one senator in the Senate with a six year term if it just acquired four percent of the votes.

The next was the candidate for the House of Representatives. The Unity Party, as a small party, was not able to nominate a candidate in each electorate. Therefore as an election strategy, it had to find those electorates that had close number of votes for the two major parties. Sometimes, the election was decided by a small party who could decide who won and who lost the seat. However, government officials can't be candidates unless they resign their position and if they lost the election, they would have no job to return to. Therefore Mr. Huang was the obvious candidate for the Unity Party. I also recall there was a university teacher's wish from Hong Kong, running a restaurant; a white man married to a Chinese woman who had opened a grocery store. In addition, there was also a doctor.

Finally, it was a question of money. The nominated candidates were required to pay the nomination fee to the election committee. There were different amounts for the House and the Senate, the amount ranged from hundreds to thousands of dollars. It was a large amount of money for several nominations and the Unity Party had no money. A money raising campaign was organized and it raised enough to nominate the candidates.

The first meeting was held at a community center almost 100 people attended, most were from Asia. Mr. Huang and his wife were busy throughout, and a chairman was elected followed by other Party business.

The emergence of the Unity Party had the two major parties acknowledge its impact. This election battle really made the ruling Liberal party anxious. Chinese participation in politics showed that Chinese were not just cooks in a restaurant as imagined by mainstream society, but would stand up for their rights. There was a lot of negotiation between the big parties and small parties before the election. Sometimes, a big party found the candidate of a small party had similar policies and asked for his support. Thus it was very common that the candidate transferred to another camp. In the spring and autumn period of history, there were no righteous wars. Confucius was a native of Lu country, but originally came from Song country, even took a salary from Wei country.

An election campaign needs publicity, but the party had no funds for advertising so Mr. Huang wrote a press release, contacted a Chinese person in Perth and our article was printed on the front page of the "West Australia Chinese Newspaper".
"..According to newspaper reports, Australian mainstream society does not object to Hanson and her One Nation party. This saying is not groundless. In the Queensland parliamentary election, the One Nation party is extremely prominent. Some say it is not right for Hanson to be anti-immigration but she is correct in her criticism of the Aborigines. It is evident the White Australian evil still lingers. Friends say that Hanson is not worth worrying about she is just a puppet, but the consideration is armored vehicle with a weapon behind and the One Nation Party coming to climax with each passing day. This remark is correct, Australia is a democratic country with free speech. But if the man who is contrary to the interest that you hold your veins, you would become a caged bird, fish in net; they are the knife, and you are the meat on the plate; if dragon lays on the shore, how can it exert? Therefore, the most important thing is to hold your votes, don't lose and don't forget, the most important thing of all is not to fill out the ballot paper incorrectly."

The voting procedure is very complex, two ballot papers are required. One for the selection of a candidate; another was for election of a party. There were dozens of candidates, and more than ten parties. Few people could figure it out. People who were not interested in the election result would fill in the vote without thought. A mistake would result in a wasted vote. Every candidate had spent a lot of money,

thus they were afraid that voters would fill out the ballot papers incorrectly and money would be wasted. Therefore each party produced a “voting guide” to assist voters.

On October 3 polling day, the primary school across from my home was the polling place. That day, the candidates set up their Party bill boards featuring brightly coloured photos. Party volunteers welcomed the voters, and handed out the party “How to vote” cards. I was a volunteer for the Unity Party. The prime locations were occupied by the large parties. I was in a corner with my “How to vote” cards. Nearby stood a “One Nation” representative, I knew we couldn’t beat the large parties but could we defeat him?

The election results were announced that night, no candidate of the Unity Party was elected. There was a total 93,968 votes in the Senate, representing 0.83%, which was less than one percent of all the votes. But the One Nation party won over more than a million votes, accounting for 9%, and won a seat in the Senate. They won 11 of a total of 89 seats in her important base, Queensland.

Chinese participation in the election resulted in a glorious defeat. One Nation didn’t last long and finally was swept out by the Prime Minister of Australia, Tony Abbot. Pauline Hanson was not even elected as a senator and gradually faded out of the political arena. One Nation Party faced in-fighting and other corruption scandals and was continuously exposed by the media, the Party never recovered from such exposure. The political environment in Australia showed that it did not tolerate extreme right wing politics.

The Unity Party also faded out of people’s view. The Party supporters returned to their previous life. It was over, right? Not yet. Mr. Huang insisted that the Unity Party remain as a protest, voice on behalf of the Chinese community. I continued to receive his mass e-mails every day, most were addressed to various government agencies, political parties, and media organizations raising matters of concern. Mr. Huang in the name of Unity Party Chairman wrote to support his appeal.

There was another matter which made Huang angry and was reported in the media.

A Chinese lecturer at Edith Cowan University was recruited and came to Perth from Germany. Chinese New Year’s Eve 1999, this person didn’t know what year it was, and worked at home until mid-night. He felt hungry. He was confronted by

two policemen who ask him where he was from. He instinctively struggled to understand what has happened, and this led to more trouble. The Policemen simply ignored his protest and wrested him to the ground, handcuffed and threw him into a police car, and took him to the police station. The next day, when police interrogated him they realized that this man could speak fluent English, Chinese, and German. They were looking for drug traffickers and had arrested the wrong person! Later Mr. Huang sought an apology from the police. Was this not a replica of the Los Angeles Rodney King case in Perth? He protested in the name of the Unity Party to strongly urge the police that this issue could not be solved by a simple apology. They should be prosecuted for “racist crime against an innocent man”. The two police officers were put on trial and punished.

Later on, I also took part in several annual meetings of the parties. At the last meeting, there were fewer than 10 people, so I left the Party. I had very little contact with Mr. Huang, except that I saw him and his wife on some occasions and we made small talk. I knew that he later established a natives association of Shandong, an organization which he led. He helped many people with their 457 short-term work visas to obtain government security benefits. In order to do this, he even had to negotiate with Tony Abbott during the general election.

Mr. Huang is from Shandong Province. When he was 16 years old, he went to Hong Kong and became an apprentice to his uncle. He felt that he was totally dependent on his uncle even though he and his uncle were relatives. He'd rather live with his mom and dad. His cousin was studying in Sydney. When she returned for a holiday, they had a chat and she knew that Mr. Huang had been awarded a scholarship sponsored by the Colombo Plan of Australia. He came to Australia in 1954 for technical secondary education majoring in agriculture. How about that? That was similar to the students who studied abroad financed by scholarship in the 1980s to 1990s—only 30 years earlier? That is the faith of mankind. There really were pennies from the heaven and you have to believe it. Many celebrities have been awarded a Colombo Plan Scholarship, including the former Prime Minister of Nepal, Minister of Singapore and Malaysia, famous doctors from India, etc. But people like Mr. Huang with no prestigious family background to study in Australia by scholarship were very rare. At that time, Australia had the white Australia Police, so he suffered discrimination, which made him aware of racism all his life.

Time flies and things have changed by 2014; it was already 16 years after the

Unity Party had been established. I was astonished to find that the website of the Unity Party were still running and even active on Twitter, which was so incredible. One afternoon, I went to Mr. Huang's living room and we began chatting.

Mr. Huang was still hale and hearty without any signs of his age. "...Yes, the Unity Party still existed. As long as there are more than 6 people, it can remain registered. It can run so long as there are regulations. The only regret is that you cannot take part in election campaigns."

What I was curious about was that why a party with only one member can exist for 16 years?

"Because I like politics." For some people, politics is the dirtiest game in the world, but it is also the most effective method to change society...Why am I so interested in politics? It is from my personal experience. 50 years ago, my wife came to Australia for a reunion with me. It took 3 years from Shandong to Hong Kong and to get the spouse visa in Australia. She stayed in Hong Kong for a very long time. I expected to see her every day and called her every week but got no answer. I really didn't know what to do. Later someone told me to speak to a Member of Parliament. This was a good idea and three months later, she got the visa. This man changed my life; I will never forget him for the rest of my life. Political power enables decisions to be made. I like politics, because political power can be used to help others...Now, I've retired for a dozen years. All the work I do is voluntary. You say I am active? Yes, I am willing to do this even if I am not paid. What is my future plan? Ten years or twenty years? Since I like politics, I will stay in my political life till I die..." Mr. Huang became talkative when we discussed politics.

"So what do you do every day?"

"Here is my schedule. After breakfast, I will check all the emails and browse the newspaper. It takes about 3 hours. Then after lunch, I will meet some friends. You'd better come in the afternoon in the future; because I work in the morning...You asked me what kind of emails? Well, all kinds of emails from all over the world. I go through the newspaper, and I read everything. Two from China, like Xinhua News Agency, one from Hong Kong, one from Taiwan, one from Singapore and two from Japan. How many? Yes, seven. Also the BBC, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Australian Newspaper*, *West Australian* from Australia and some local tabloids. How many in

total? Let's count. 14. So I browse these 14 websites every day. And of course they are in English. I read not only politics but all kinds of news. Whenever there is some interesting news, I will copy it down and mass text it to my friends. I will ask them to make a comment or answer some questions. Maybe today is focused on Abe, tomorrow will be Obama and the next day will be Abbott...I also wrote a letter to the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. There are many people in my mass-texting group, including leaders of the European countries and Asian countries and various editors of periodicals and magazines in the world. Generally there is no response but someone will acknowledge my emails."

"You continue to send emails without reply?" I asked.

Mr. Huang responded by saying: "my purpose is conveying the information, whether it creates an answer or not is not my consideration. Different people have different opinions. For me, replying or not is not very important. You can delete it if you don't like it. The New York Times always answers automatically to show that they have received the opinion, but never make a comment.

Sometimes I use the name of Unity Party, I also use other names—dozens of names, because I don't want people to know whether I am a Chinese or Japanese or European. This is a kind of game, keeps me motivated and my mind active. Retirees should have hobbies, and coincidentally my interest is politics. I use the computer as a tool to spread information and constantly connect with the outside world."

"You really didn't receive any response?"

Mr. Huang smiley said: "Once Barack Obama in his campaign period replied to an E-mail to me, of course it was addressed to the Unity Party and wanted a 10 dollar donation... He wanted me to forward the mail in order to get more donations. I replied that if you, Barack Obama promise that you will not make war in Asia in the future, you surely can obtain the 10 dollars donation from me. Nevertheless, some people said that email was a fake because so many people are on line cheating others."

I asked: "Can you forward that mail from Barack Obama to me?"

"Do you like Australia? Do you think that you are an Australian?"

"I have lived in Australia for sixty years and I like Australia. I am both an Australia and a Chinese I can't deny that. I equally love my home town because that's where I was born although I only lived there for sixteen years. You know that your grandparents and parents will always be part of you. That's why China

still is my hometown. When I die, my tomb will be in China at the place of my ancestors. Although my parents have died I will never forget the time when they were alive. To some extent, I haven't changed in these sixty years. Because for me, Australia still is foreign country. I think going to China is to go home, my home.

I recall the time many years ago at Portland, when cargo ships arrived, from the Chinese main land or Taiwan; the crew were very surprised to find that there were Chinese here. So they happily invited us on board and we also acted as a tour guide for the captain and crew to look around. In return, they invited us to eat on the ship. I like the work in Portland, although I was only there two years I could see many people from China.

My mind was in a whirl, the voice of Mr. Huang was gradually fading away, just like in the dream... "I once boarded the south Polar Chinese research ships in Fremantle, called the "Polar Stern" and "Snow Dragon". The captain and the crew invited us on board and we showed them around Perth. After that, we had a big meal on the ship. The steamed buns tasted so great that I will never forget. It is the flavor that only your hometown has! At that time, I would chat with anyone with a Chinese face on the street as if they were my relatives. Our experiences are so much alike. We are all members of the same Party.

After returning home from meeting Mr. Huang I asked the IT officer at my university to check the email from Barack Obama.

Guess What? It was real!