

Early Career Research Profiles

This profile series on young members of INHIGEO is to create a space where early career scholars can present their studies and research interests within the history of the geological sciences to the whole membership and anyone who receives the newsletter, in order to highlight their field of expertise. It is hoped this will lead to contacts and collaborations for the future through our extensive network. Our profile this month is on an early career researcher from China.

Name: Liu Chao

Studies:

2017: PhD, History of Science, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.

2012: Master's degree, History of Science and Technology, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing, China.

2009: Bachelor's degree, Geography, Shaanxi Normal University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China.



Position:

Currently: Lecturer, Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Inner Mongolia Normal University, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China (Since January 2022).

2018-2021: Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of the History of Science, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.

Title of Ph.D: *Influence of Learning from the Soviet Union on Chinese Higher Geographical Education*

At the beginning of People's Republic of China (PRC), the theoretical foundation of geography was weak, and the geographical education was the weakest part in the national higher education. At that time, as the world's first socialist country, the Soviet Union attached great importance to geographical research and education, with particular emphasis on higher geographical education. The construction of PRC drew on the experience of the Soviet Union, incorporating the geography education of colleges and universities into the national plan, and made new plans and adjustments to the national geographical education resource.

So, what influence did learning from the Soviet Union have on higher geographical education in the PRC? This dissertation studies its impact on specialty settings (Dept. of Geology & Geography, PKU), curriculum systems, and Russian article translations. Conclusions: 1) It wasn't a simple "copy." 2) Geography was established as a science. 3) Soviet experts boosted education & teacher training.

Research interests: She is interested in the history of earth sciences, the history of geology in modern China, and the history of Chinese earth sciences education in the 20th century. In particular her research is currently focused on the history of women in geology in China.

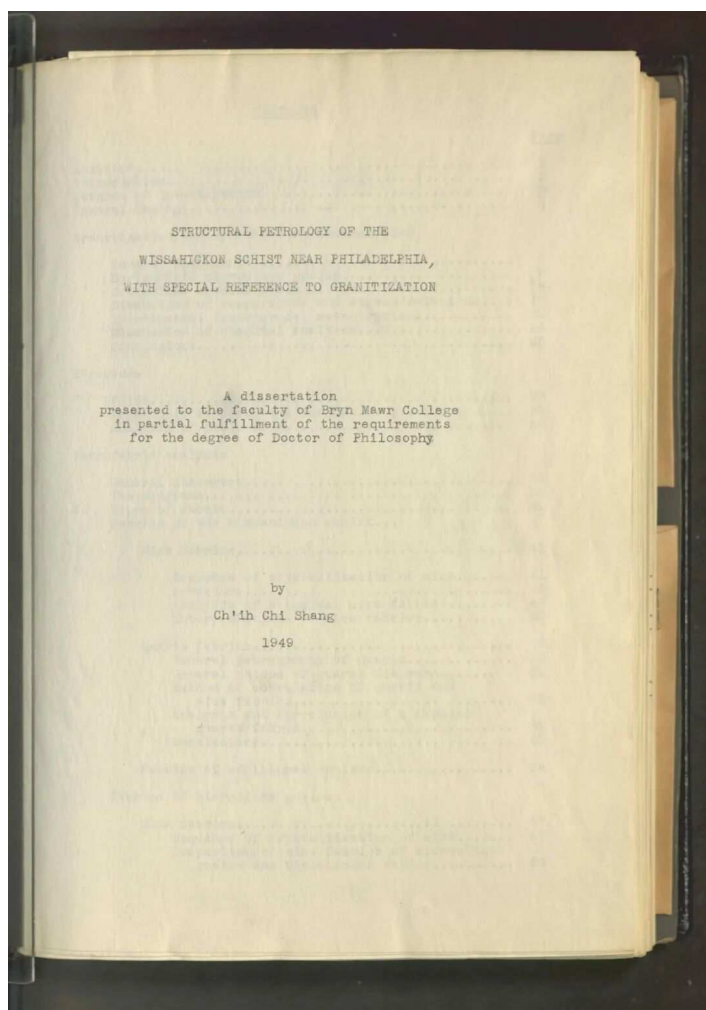


Fig. Cover of Dr. Chi Jishang's Doctoral Dissertation (Ma and Jiao 2024)

Ma, X.G. and Jiao, S.Q. 2024. I found Academician Chi Jishang' s 1949 doctoral dissertation. [我找到了池际尚院士1949年的博士毕业论文] [online] Available at: <https://voice.cug.edu.cn/info/1032/25255.htm> (Accessed 3 November 2025).

Publications

Chao Liu. 2017. The model of the Soviet Union: The setting up of geography disciplines in Peking University during the early days of New China. *Studies in the History of Natural Sciences*, 36(4): 535-547. (In Chinese)

Chao Liu. From Sacrifice to 'Half the Sky': The Trailblazing Path of Chinese Female Geologists. *Geological Society of London Special Publication*. Accepted.

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