

From the Editor

Greetings and welcome to Volume 7 (2014-15) of *Chinese Southern Diaspora Studies*.

We are very pleased to bring you in this issue an exciting range of articles and other resources relating to ethnic Chinese overseas. As you will note, the overall title for this issue is 'Non-Han Diasporic Communities beyond China'. This title relates to a selection of research articles deriving from a conference jointly organised by the ANU's Centre for the Study of the Chinese Southern Diaspora and Jinan University's School of International Studies/Academy of Overseas Chinese Studies over the two days 4-5 April 2014. This conference will address their identities, migration histories and contemporary status, as well as implications of their position both for China and for the countries where they have settled. The non-Han in China's diasporas number some millions of people yet they have received little scholarly attention. This conference will thus enrich our understanding of the Chinese diaspora and fundamentally challenge the common view that the Chinese diaspora is to be understood in terms of interaction between (Han) Chinese and non-Chinese cultures.

The focus of the conference was the cross-border peoples on all of China's borders and their diasporic communities, and discussions ranged over diverse issues extending from the state, to migration, to identity. We thank our fellow organiser, Professor Zhang Zhenjiang, for having detailed, in his Introduction to this issue, the questions debated during the conference as well as for providing his thoughts on a range of other related aspects, including the fraught issue of terminology. Given the geographical scope of our journal, we have selected only a small range of the papers relating to cross-border relations to the south to be presented in this issue of *Chinese Southern Diaspora Studies*.

It is with much regret that I must note that one of the key intellectual initiators of the conference – Professor Nicholas Tapp -- who contributed so much of his time and ideas as well as a paper to the conference, has since passed away in Shanghai. Many at ANU remember the contributions which Nick made to the College of Asia and the Pacific and, more broadly, to anthropology and Hmong studies. As a small token of our esteem, we are dedicating this issue of the journal to his memory.

A great pleasure it is to also include in our journal a number of further studies on the history of the Chinese in Australia, and I commend to you the three beautifully-illustrated essays illuminating the experiences of Chinese Australians over the last 150 years. I hope that these studies presage further investigations of the history of the Chinese in Australia.

Further contributions to this issue include reprints of key studies in the Chinese overseas as well as a review of a new guide book to contemporary Chinese society in Australia.

