



Editorial preface to the Zeyuan Liu memorial issue

Yue Chen¹ · Jean-Charles Lamirel²

Received: 26 March 2021 / Accepted: 16 April 2021 / Published online: 16 May 2021
© Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, Hungary 2021

In the Chinese Science of Science academia, Professor Zeyuan Liu is not only an outstanding scholar, but also a banner of the Science of Science research established by Bernal, a model for treating research as life, and a power of a single spark which can start a prairie fire. The WISE Lab and Institute of Science of Science and S&T Management in Dalian University of Technology, founded by him, is itself closely connected with the international scientometrics community. It has continuously cultivated talents and thus rapidly emerged in the international scientometrics community, making it become a legend in the Chinese scientific academia. History has proved to us time and again what an outstanding leading researcher can mean to an academic organization, even to the whole discipline.

With considerable courage to innovate, Professor Liu continued to grope forward in the fields of multi-disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity; with open-mindedness and generosity, he led his life in a positive way; with a noble character, he cultivated academic posterity in a virtuous way. He had practiced the motto of “research is life” all his life. His charisma and demeanor as a scholar make us feel an unstoppable power, even by the end of life.

We hereby organize a memorial issue to introduce Professor Liu’s rich academic life experience through some perspectives, fruitful academic achievements and unique feathers (Liming Liang et al., Jiang Li et al.), outstanding academic organization construction and passionate talent cultivation (Yue Chen et al.), the profound and wide influence of his shining academic ideas on the Chinese scientometrics as well as on other domains like sustainable development studies (Jean-Charles Lamirel et al.), and some further research related with Professor Liu’s interests (Ronald Rousseau et al., Lin Zhang et al., Jian Du et al., Xianwen Wang et al.). In this comprehensive and vivid way, we attempt to display the figure of this highly prestigious Chinese scholar to the international scientometrics community, meanwhile to express our deepest regret in condolence of his unexpected departure.

We would like to pay our tribute to Professor Liu for his ordinary but great academic life with a poem of Schiller that he quite loved during his lifetime:

✉ Yue Chen
chenyue@dlut.edu.cn

¹ WISELAB, Dalian University of Technology, Dalian, China

² LORIA, Inria Nancy-Grand Est, Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, France

*Mußt ins Breite dich entfalten,
Soll sich dir die Welt gestalte;
In die Tiefe mußt du steigen,
Soll sich dir das Wesen zeigen
Nur Beharrung führt zum Ziel,
Nur die Fülle führt zur Klarheit,
Und im Abgrund wohnt die Wahrheit*

*Thou must spread thee wider, bigger,
Wouldst thou have the world take figure!
To the deep the man descendeth
Who existence comprehendeth
Leads persistence to the goal;
Leads abundance to precision;
Dwells in the abyss the Vision*

From “Spruch des Konfuzius” (Sayings Of Confucius) by Friedrich Schiller (1759–1805), English translation by George Macdonald (1824–1905).