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In the first decade of the 21st century, from the Beijing Olympics to the Shanghai World Exposition, the Chinese dragon that Napoleon hoped would sleep forever has awakened from its slumber. If 2008 was for China a year of international athletics, and 2010 a year of business and economics, then 2009 was a year of the Humanities in China. Over 450 scholars from 16 countries gathered at the historic Friendship Hotel in Beijing to find a new direction for the Humanities. This collection of twelve essays on human rights, philosophy, education, theater, literature, medical humanities, consumer culture, and ethnic minorities in China, by authors from six countries represents the myriad of discourses that marked that meeting of minds. As a book it builds a bridge between China and the Humanities by taking its reader to the intersection of the human and the humane.

W. Kang Tchou | 朱卫康 of St. Catharine’s College, University of Cambridge was born with the name Welcome Tchou. In June 2009, he welcomed over three hundred Humanities scholars from over sixteen countries to Beijing, China. In editing this book he presents the most relevant and cutting-edge research from that meeting of minds. This book inspires readers to face and understand China as it is today.