

## Obituary of Professor Xinzhi Wu (1928.6.2–2021.12.4)

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### OBITUARY



Xinzhi Wu in April 2012.

Professor Xinzhi Wu passed away on December 4, 2021, at the age of 93. Professor Wu started his anthropological career in the 1950s when he was an assistant professor in Dalian Medical College. In 1961, he got an assistant research professor position in the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP), Chinese Academy of Sciences. Since then, he worked at IVPP rising from assistant research professor to full professor. From 1985 to 1989, he served as the vice director of IVPP. In 1999, he was elected as academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Jointly with the late Professor Rukang Wu, he founded the journal *Acta Anthropologica Sinica* in 1982. He held the position of Editor-in-Chief until 2020.

Over the past sixty years, Professor Wu has been doing his research in paleoanthropology and several subbranches of biological anthropology. He spent most of his research time in studies of human evolution. In the 1970s–1980s,

Professor Wu led his team surveying and excavating in Shanxi Province and Hubei Province with hominin fossils discovered in the sites of Dingcun and Bailong Cave.

From early 1980 until his passing, he focused his studies on the question of modern human origins and the Dali cranium. In 1984, he joined Milford Wolpoff and Alan Thorne proposing the “Multiregional evolution” theory to explain modern human origins. Since then, he continued working on this topic and proposed “Continuity with hybridization” for human evolution in China. He conducted a series of studies in the field of modern human origins. In these studies, he further demonstrated his hypothesis of “Continuity with hybridization,” adding additional morphological features. In addition, he proposed that the hypothesis of Continuity with Hybridization is supported by the context of Paleolithic technique in China. In Africa and Europe, the Paleolithic technique developed in a sequence

from Mode 1 through Mode 5, while in China, Mode 1 technique persisted throughout the whole course of the Paleolithic period, with only a few sites showing other modes of Paleolithic technique. Therefore, the Paleolithic technique shows a continuous development accompanied by some cultural exchange with that of Europe. This development history is quite different from that in Africa and Europe.

The other major work Professor Wu did for the past forty years was the definitive study of the Dali cranium. The 260 ka archaic *Homo* cranium took up a lot of his time but a series of papers were published on the morphology, metrics, and evolutionary implications of this important fossil. In 2020, his monograph, *Middle Pleistocene Human Skull from Dali, China*, was finally published.



Wu Xinzhi at his IVPP office (1973).



F. Clark Howell and Wu Xinzhi at the Dingcun site (1975).



Wu Xinzhi and Milford Wolpoff in Beijing (1980).





*Wu Xinzhi and William W. Howells in 1980.*



*Eric Delson and Wu Xinzhi in the American Museum of Natural History (1980).*



*Wu Xinzhi working in British Museum of Natural History (1986).*



*Chris Stringer and Wu Xinzhi in the British Museum of Natural History (1986).*





*C. Loring Brace and Wu Xinzhi (1990).*



*Philip Tobias and Wu Xinzhi at the Great Wall (1994).*



*Mary Leakey and Wu Xinzhi (1995).*



*Wu Xinzhi and Yves Coppens at Zhoukoudian (1996).*

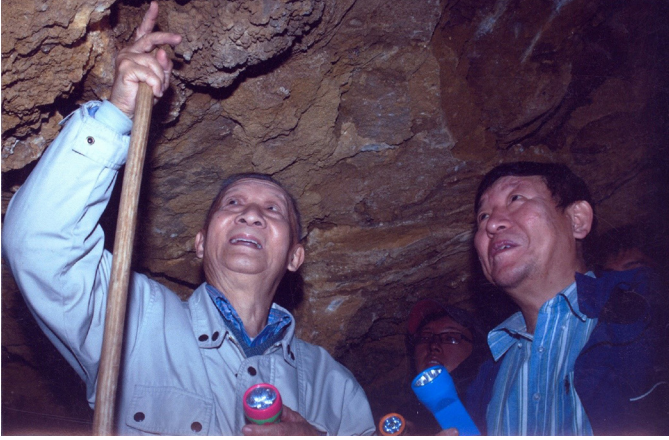


*Wu Xinzhi is studying Nanjing Homo erectus fossils (2000).*



*Wu Xinzhi and Philip Tobias (October, 2007).*





*Wu Xinzhi (left) was in Zhiren Cave (May 2011).*



*Wu Xinzhi was studying the Liujiang fossils (November 2012).*



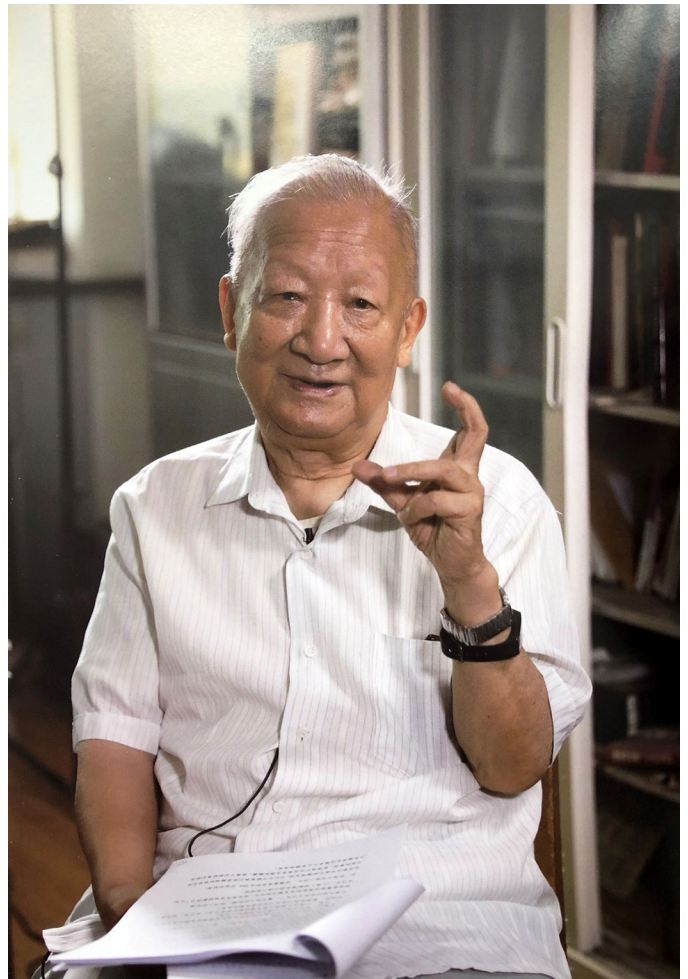
*Wu Xinzhi was studying the Xuchang human fossils (November 2014).*



*Wu Xinzhi (July 2017).*



*Wu Xinzhi (December 2017).*



*Wu Xinzhi (March 2019).*