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When AI Meets Chinese Language Teaching: How Teachers Can Thrive in the New Era

Dr. Zhongqi Shi
Columbia University

3:30 - 5 p.m. EDT, Monday, November 3, 2025
3030 Brown Hall



Dr. Zhongqi Shi is a senior lecturer in Chinese at Columbia University, where he has taught for more than two decades and served as Associate Director of the Chinese Program. He has extensive experience in curriculum design, instructional innovation, and teaching Chinese for special purposes, and he directed Columbia's Business Chinese and Internship program in Shanghai from 2008 to 2016. Dr. Shi is the author of several widely used Chinese language textbooks in both the United States and China.

He served as President of the Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA) and currently chairs its AI for Chinese Special Task Force, leading national efforts to help teachers understand and integrate artificial intelligence into language education.

Abstract: Will AI replace teachers, or can it become their most powerful classroom assistant? The rapid rise of generative AI is transforming how students write, practice speaking, and prepare for real-world communication. In his recent teaching experiments, Dr. Shi explored how AI tools can support Chinese language learning—from AI-assisted essay feedback to speaking partners to mock job interview preparation—and discovered both unexpected opportunities and serious challenges. These classroom experiences reveal that the key question is not whether students will use AI, but how teachers can guide them to use it productively while maintaining academic integrity and genuine learning outcomes. This talk will share practical insights from classroom experiments and current research, exploring specific AI tools and teaching strategies that have proven effective. Attendees will gain practical strategies for incorporating AI into their own courses and develop a clearer understanding of how the teacher's role is evolving in this new landscape.