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Professor Richard Rigby worked with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs until the end of 2001. He then joined the Office of National Assessments as Assistant Director-General, responsible for North and South Asia; until taking up his current position with the ANU China Institute in 2008.

While engaged in government work, Richard continued to pursue his academic interests with a series of translations, book reviews and articles on China-related topics. His personal interests in Chinese studies are primarily literary and historical, but his profession has ensured a thorough immersion in all aspects of contemporary China and other major Asian cultures.

Professor Richard Rigby graduated in History at the Australian National University in 1970 and went on to do his PhD - subsequently reworked and published by the ANU Press as *The May 30th Movement* - under Professor Wang Gungwu in the then Department of Far Eastern History (now the School of Culture, History & Language).