

Hans van Ess, grew up in Tübingen in Southern Germany. After studying Sinology, Turkic Studies and Philosophy at the University of Hamburg he from 1986-1988, spent two years at Fudan University in Shanghai before finishing a PhD on China's history of thought in 1992. From 1992-1995 van Ess worked as an area manager at the German Asia-Pacific Business Association in Hamburg and as assistant professor at the Institute for Sinology of the University of Heidelberg. In 1998 he took over a chair at the Institute for Sinology at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich. In 2015 he was elected president of the Max-Weber-Foundation – German Institutes in the Humanities abroad. His publications focus on Confucianism of the Han and Song periods and on the historiography of the Han dynasty. His research focuses on the history of China and Central Asia, its historiography and its history of thought.