

On How Xunzi's Disciples Composed the “Ruxiao” 儒效 (The Achievements of the *Ru*), “Dalüe” 大略 (The Grand Digest), and the “Zhongni” 仲尼 (On Confucius)¹

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There are thirty-two chapters in the extant *Xunzi*. Some *Xunzi* scholars hold that a number of passages have been authored by the disciples of Xunzi and not Xunzi himself. While such passages may not have come directly from Xunzi's mouth or hand, it is possible to see them as part of his followers' thought; there is also the possibility that they include Confucian thought antedating Xunzi. Through investigating the parallel passages among different *Xunzi* chapters, this article compares the important ones in detail and discusses their similarities and differences. It aspires to present evidence to explore how the relevant chapters explain, interpret, and expand Xunzi's thought, and explore possible misunderstandings in the annotations of *Xunzi* in later generations. In particular, this article sums up three major methods used by Xunzi's disciples in order to compile new chapters: (1) copying previous passages with explanations; (2) providing new interpretations and emendations of existing passages; and (3) merging different passages. By the same token, this article attempts to trace the methodology that was used by Xunzi's disciples to compose “Ruxiao” 儒效 (The achievements of the *ru*), “Dalüe” 大

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略 (The grand digest), and “Zhongni” 仲尼 (On Confucius). From the parallel passages, one can also conclude that certain chapters represent the core thoughts of Xunzi, namely the chapters that are often quoted by other passages.

Keywords: Xunzi, parallel passages, Xunzi’s disciples, “Ruxiao” 儒效 (The achievements of the *ru*), “Dalüe” 大略 (The grand digest), “Zhongni” 仲尼 (On Confucius)