

Synergetic Culture of Learning: Researching the Academic Experience of CHC* Students Studying Abroad

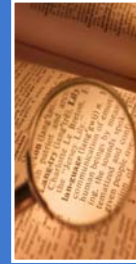
HKU Constituent Theme
Languages, Media & Communication:
Language in Education & Assessment Seminar Series

Speaker

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(Chair: Dr Linda Tsung, Faculty of Education, HKU)



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Abstract

Research into the learning experience of CHC students studying abroad has traditionally followed a comparative/contrastive approach. Thus, binary opposites such as Socratic vs Confucian cultures of learning are often the key vocabulary used in discussions and are criticised as an essentialist view to theorising culture. Recent debates on such notions as third space and third place could be seen as an academic response to this criticism. Inspired by the insight from these debates, an empirical project was carried out at Durham, UK, aiming to find out whether and, if yes, how the CHC students explore the intermediate zones to negotiate their identity and to ensure that learning is taking place. This talk presents the rationale, methodology and findings of this study.

*Confucian Heritage Culture (CHC) is often used to refer to common core values, beliefs and behaviours found to be shared by people from China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Dr Anwei Feng teaches and supervises education doctoral students at Durham University in the UK mainly in the areas of intercultural studies and bilingualism and bilingual education. He has published dozens of book chapters and articles in international journals in these areas and edited the book titled *Bilingual Education in China* (2007) and another one *Living and Studying Abroad: Research and Practice* (with M. Byram, 2006). Currently, he is leading two research projects: one on assessment of intercultural communicative competence and the other on Chinese minority nationality students studying English mostly as a third language.

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All are Welcome. Enquiries: 2859 2395