



The University of Sydney

RESEARCHING CHINA: POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS FROM CHINA DISCUSS THEIR CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO EDUCATION AND SOCIETY IN CHINA

Forum of the China Education Centre

24 October 2007

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Introduction: | DR ROSITA HOLENBERGH
Chair of the China Education Centre |
| Presentation 1 | JIANXIN LIU
'Remediating Chinese lifestyle in blogs' |
| Presentation 2 | XINGKUI ZHANG
'The construction of masculinity in a rural Chinese community' |
| Presentation 3 | ON KEI LEE
'Benevolence in the Hong Kong English Extensive Reading Scheme reading materials' |
| Presentation 4 | JING JIN
'Innovation in China's non-governmental universities' |
| Presentation 5 | QIAOPING LI
'Undergraduate teaching assessment – External quality assurance in higher education in China' |
| Conclusion | ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANTHONY WELCH
Faculty of Education and Social Work |

Remediating Chinese lifestyles on blogs

JIANXIN LIU

PhD candidate
Faculty of Education and Social Work
The University of Sydney
jliu2780@usyd.edu.au

Abstract

This presentation is to introduce my Ph. D research project on Chinese lifestyles on blogs in Mainland China, with information about the background, the research design, and the significance. In the background part, I will introduce why I choose this research topic discussing the interconnectedness between lifestyle, Chinese society, blogs, and the Chinese blogosphere. So far as the research design is concerned, I will put forth a multimodal discourse framework which I am developing for the project. The discourse-analytic approaches and data will be briefly addressed. The presentation will be concluded by briefing the significance of the project as well as some of the preconceived outcomes drawn from preliminary data analysis and theoretical perspectives.

About the presenter

Jianxin Liu is a second year Ph. D student in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at Sydney University. He started doing his project in March, 2006 under the supervision of Dr. Brian Paltridge and Dr. Angela Thomas. He received a Master of Education in TESOL in 2005 from Sydney University in the offshore MED TESOL program at Fudan University in China. His master's dissertation is about minority language students and college English writing in China. Before starting his study here, Jianxin worked for the North Nationalities University in China, where he was the director of the university's college English centre.

The formation and transformation of masculinities in a Chinese community

ZHANG XINGKUI

PhD Candidate
Faculty of Education & Social Work
The University of Sydney
xzha4213@usyd.edu.au

Abstract

China has been undergoing drastic social change in the last half century. Recent rapid economic development has brought wealth and prosperity to the Chinese people, but the fruits of reform and opening are unevenly distributed, with the urban-rural gap widening in recent years. The proposed study will focus on one aspect of the Chinese society: gender issues in rural China. Unlike previous research which addresses questions about women, this study intends to make visible issues regarding men and masculinities. It is hoped that a better understanding of the formation and transformation of masculinities in rural China may provide useful insight for further inquiry into the importance of gender in issues such as equality, justice and social harmony.

About the Presenter

Xingkui Zhang received his BA and Master's diploma in English as a Foreign Language and applied linguistics at Zhejiang University. He was an associate professor of applied linguistics at Zhejiang University before he started his PhD candidacy at The University Sydney in September 2006. His supervisors are

Professor Raewyn Connell and Associate Professor Anthony Welch. His research topic for his PhD thesis is Chinese masculinities. He received a Master of Education in TESOL in 2005 from Sydney University in the offshore MEd TESOL program at Fudan University in China. His Master's degree dissertation is an analysis of official Chinese newspaper editorials on China's entry to the WTO using critical discourse analysis and appraisal theory.

Benevolence in the Hong Kong English Extensive Reading Scheme reading materials

ON KEI LEE

Abstract

The Hong Kong Extensive Reading Scheme is a reading program that encourages secondary school students to read many English books matching their interests and linguistic competences. General reading skills were suggested on the teaching of Hong Kong extensive reading (in documentation from the Education Department, Hong Kong, in 1999); however, critical reading skills were not addressed. This research attempts to demonstrate the need for critical literacy pedagogy in the teaching of extensive reading. It studies the reading scheme from a critical perspective by viewing text as a representation of the world. The research investigates the ideological values constructed in the extensive reading scheme reading materials. Benevolence is one of the key values found in the reading materials. It is related to the Hong Kong Chinese culture and the set of values and attitudes proposed in the Hong Kong curriculum.

About the presenter

I completed my bachelor degree in Hong Kong at Lingnan University. In 2002, I came to Australia to study an MA degree in Applied Linguistics at the University of Sydney. After I finished my MA degree, I studied an EdD degree at the Faculty of Education and Social Work.

Non-governmental higher education in contemporary China

JING JIN

PhD candidate
Faculty of Education and Social Work
The University of Sydney
jjin3114@usyd.edu.au

Abstract

This presentation is to introduce the background of my PhD research project on innovation pathway of non-governmental higher education (NGHE) in Mainland China. It will introduce China's non-governmental higher education institutions from four aspects: definition, classification, present status, predicament, and way out. It points to lack of support and recognition of NGHE in China and its struggle for survival and development.

About the presenter

Jing Jin is a first year Ph. D student in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at Sydney University. She started doing her project in March, 2007 under the supervision of Dr. George Odhiambo and Dr. Kevin Laws. She received a Master of Business Administration degree in 2003 from Sun Yat-Sen University in China. The topic of her Master's dissertation is "A Study of the Innovation Ability of Enterprises in the Pearl River Economic Region in China". Before starting her study here, Jing Jin worked for Clifford School, a non-governmental K-12 bilingual school in China.

Undergraduate Teaching Assessment—External Quality Assurance of Higher Education in China

QIAOPING LI

Visiting scholar
Faculty of Education and Social Work
The University of Sydney
q.li@edfac.usyd.edu.au

Abstract

This presentation is to introduce the context, present situation and future development of higher education assessment in China by focusing on the undergraduate teaching assessment.

From 1994 to 1999, three different categories of higher education assessment were developed successively to assess the quality of undergraduate teaching in regular higher educational institutions, namely Qualification Assessment, Excellence Assessment and Random Sampling Assessment. In 2002, the above three categories of higher education assessment were incorporated into one—Assessment of Bachelor's Degree Program, with undergraduate teaching assessment as the focus of this program. More than 600 regular higher education institutions are to be appraised from 2002 to 2008.

On the one hand, assessment of undergraduate teaching in China has promoted the development of higher educational institutions; on the other hand, problems existing in the system of higher education assessment have also been exposed. How to develop a scientific and feasible system of external and internal assessment to better ensure the quality of higher education in China has become an issue for administrative departments and higher educational institutions themselves.

About the presenter

Qiaoping Li is a visiting scholar in the Faculty of Education and Social Work from Sept. 2007 to Sept. 2008. She is also an English teacher at the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing and a PhD candidate at the School of Education of Beijing Normal University, majoring in comparative education (quality assurance of higher education as her specific research field).