RESEARCH SEMINAR

Beyond the Banking Concept of Education: Confucius and Freire

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3.00 p.m., Monday 3 April 2017, Wheki 203

In this presentation, I discuss the responses of Confucius and Freire to the banking concept of education by examining their views on the aims of education, teaching and learning. I argue that both Confucius and Freire reject the banking concept of education as dehumanising and disempowering. I further explore their respective educational approaches such as Confucius’ enlightening method that serves to nurture exemplary persons (junzi), and Freire's 'problem-posing’ method that is targeted at the emergence of consciousness and critical intervention. By highlighting the similarities and differences between the educational thought of Confucius and Freire, this presentation hopes to generate discussions and contribute to the project of bridging ‘East’ and ‘West’.

Dr Charlene Tan is a Chinese Singaporean who has taught in a high school and other educational institutions in Singapore for close to two decades. Her teaching and research focus on the philosophical and cross-cultural dimensions of education, with a particular interest in Confucian education, education policy in China and Singapore, East-West dialogues and critical thinking. She has authored or co-authored 8 books and over 100 journal articles and book chapters, including the books Confucius (Bloomsbury) and Educational Policy Borrowing in China: Looking West or Looking East? (Routledge).

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