

RESEARCH GROUP FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP &amp; POLICY SEMINAR

# REASSESSING EAST ASIAN HIGHER EDUCATION: A FOCUS ON CULTURE

Presented by Prof Rui Yang, Associate Dean of Cross-Border/International Engagement  
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## ABSTRACT

In recent decades, East Asia has made some impressive progress in higher education. This progress becomes even more remarkable when compared with other non-Western regions. A Western-style modern higher education system has been well established throughout the region; tertiary enrolment is increasing. Research has rapidly grown as a third of all monies invested goes to Research & Development. Striving for world-class universities has been a designated key policy position. While the achievement has been widely acknowledged, assessment of its future development is open to question. To some, East Asian universities are leaping ahead to challenge Western dominance in higher education. To others, they will soon reach a 'glass ceiling.' Few have been able to theorise East Asia's development in higher education. Questions remain about the actual potential of East Asia's universities and whether they can truly break the Western hegemony. Based on my intimate knowledge of East Asian societies and longstanding professional observation, this presentation attempts to reassess the future development of East Asian higher education systems by tracing their cultural roots. The assessment plays into the wider debate over whether rising powers in East Asia will overtake Western dominance in academia.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Rui YANG is professor and associate dean of cross-border/international engagement in the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong. With nearly three decades as an academic in China, Australia and Hong Kong, he has an impressive track record on research at the interface of Chinese and Western traditions in education. He has established his reputation among scholars in English and Chinese national languages in the fields of comparative and international education and Chinese higher education. His international reputation is evidenced by his extensive list of publications, research projects, invited keynote lectures in international and regional conferences, leadership in professional associations and membership in editorial boards of scholarly journals. Bridging the theoretical thrust of comparative education and the applied nature of international education, his research interests include education policy sociology, comparative and cross-cultural studies in education, international higher education, educational development in Chinese societies, and international politics in educational research.

**25 NOVEMBER 2015**  
**11.00AM – 12.30PM**

BUILDING 6, ROOM C34

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