

**Workshop**  
**One Country, Two Educations: Comparative Analysis of Education in China**  
**June 27, 2018**

**Purpose:**

This workshop aims to explore the contemporary education reform and practices in China with comparative education outlook.

**Presentation 1**

Reforming the reform: Does Hong Kong Liberal Studies curriculum make a difference?

The 2009 Hong Kong New Senior Secondary Liberal Studies (NSS LS) curriculum reform has been on the front line of criticism with some saying it encourages political discontent. Currently, the Hong Kong Education Bureau Task Force on Review of School Curriculum is mulling over a major overhaul of the NSS LS curriculum that might include making this compulsory subject an elective or replacing its current assessment mechanism. The Hong Kong education sector, including academics and practitioners, is calling for caution on the implications of this counter-reform and questioning reasons behind the government's attempt to change the system. In light of the current controversies, the presenter will release results of a University Grant Committee-funded study and discuss tangible effects of the 2009 Hong Kong NSS LS curriculum. The data of this large scale research on NSS LS influences on sustainability consciousness and environmental/global awareness of student graduates included over 5000 student surveys, 30 teacher interviews, and over 900 student reflections.

The finding make it possible to argue that in regards to students' sustainability consciousness, Hong Kong government's sizable long-term investment in NSS LS has rendered tangible and significant effects on the local society. The recently proposed counter-reform in NSS LS curriculum policies could therefore result in a loss of a decade-long efforts and investments.

**About the presenter**

Dr. Tamara Savelyeva joined the Department of International Education and Lifelong Learning as an Assistant Professor in 2014. She received her MPS from Cornell University in 2003, and her PhD in Education from Virginia Tech University in 2008. Dr. Savelyeva conducts educational projects and research in the area of sustainability

education, curricular reform, and international higher education in Eurasia, the Americas, and the Asia-Pacific region. Together with the participants of the Rio+20 higher education meeting in Brazil, she contributed the educational framework for the 2012 Earth Summit. Dr. Savelyeva serves on the editorial board of the *International Journal for Sustainability in Higher Education* and has over 30 publications on the topics of sustainability education and curricular reforms in different countries.

## **Presentation 2**

Understanding small-scale schools in rural China: A case study in Hubei Province

Building a balanced development of public education in both rural and urban China has been a core policy of the central government for decades. However, there is still a significant gap regarding infrastructure investment and human resources development of public education between rural and urban China. With the ambitious national strategy to achieve a universal poverty free society by 2020, the government has been taking the rapid development of public education as a means to reach the national target. And there are many measures which have been utilized to strengthen the development of rural schools. The presenter will reveal progress, efforts, and challenges shaping the development of rural schools by analyzing a recent survey in a small-scale rural school in Hubei Province of China. The presenter will conclude the presentation by highlighting extensive efforts are further necessary to widen the policy context to help redress the mismatch between current education policies, the current education system, and social and cultural context.

## **About the presenter**

Dr. Jing Liu is a JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Education. Before joining the University of Tokyo, Dr. Liu received his Doctoral Degree in International Development from the Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University, Japan in 2013, where he subsequently served as an Assistant Professor from 2013 to 2017. His research areas include sociology of education, international and comparative education, and education policy studies. He began his studies on education in 2007, and since then has accumulated considerable experience in researching educational development in China, East, and South-East Asia. His current research project examines education reform to promote resource sharing and school-to-school collaboration in urban China. In the past

five years, Dr. Liu has published in leading international journals and chapters of book series. His latest book, titled *Inequality in Public School Admission in Urban China: Discourses, Practices and New Solutions* has been published by Springer in May 2018.