

# FED Lunch Research Series

## Comparative Education: Who, What and Why?

Date & Time: 23 Sept 2015, 13:00 – 14:00 (Light lunch begins at 12:30pm)

Venue: Room G021, Faculty of Education (E33)

Language: English

Audience: UM Staff / Postgraduate Students

Enquiries & Registration: Mr. Brendan Lei (FED\_Event@umac.mo); Tel: 8822-4120

*\* Complementary light lunch will be provided.*

### Abstract

The use (and some argue abuse) of comparative education has become a prominent feature in policy-making and related processes, fuelled by the globalised nature of education characterised by increased technological, information and pedagogical transfer. Crossley and Jarvis (2000, p.261) have remarked both on “the exponential growth and widening of interest in international comparative research” , and on “increased recognition of the cultural dimension of education” in recent times. The formation of larger international economic entities, geo-political shifts, the relative ease of international transportation, the development of information technology and the interest in international studies of student performance, have (amongst other factors) resulted in comparative education research often being used by policy-makers eager to find innovative solutions from elsewhere for apparently intransigent domestic problems. This talk is concerned with questions such as “Who uses comparative education?” , “What is the scope of the field?” and “Why are comparisons undertaken?” to discuss different epistemologies, methodologies and experiences in undertaking such studies. In the process, we were able to construct an overview of the field of comparative education.

### Speaker



Professor Bob Adamson is Chair Professor of Curriculum Reform, Director of the UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre (Hong Kong), Head of the Department of International Education and Lifelong Learning, and Director of The Centre for Lifelong Learning Research and Development at The Hong Kong Institute of Education. Formerly, he was Director of the Comparative Education Research Centre at The University of Hong Kong, and President of the Comparative Education Society of Hong Kong. He has taught in schools, colleges and universities in France, Wales, England, mainland China, Australia and Hong Kong.

Professor Adamson is Editor of Multilingual Education Journal and a member of the editorial board of Teaching and Teacher Education. He publishes in the fields of English language teaching, teacher education, comparative education, curriculum studies and higher education. His books include *China's English: a history of English in Chinese education* (2004), *Curriculum, schooling and society in Hong Kong* (co-authored with Paul Morris, 2010), *Comparative education research: approaches and methods* (co-edited with Mark Bray and Mark Mason, 2008)—a work translated into six languages — and *The reorientation of higher education: challenging the East-West dichotomy* (co-edited with Jon Nixon and Feng Su, 2012).

