OBJECTIVES

To disseminate educational ideals and report on faculty and student activities of FED;

To provide an easy and user-friendly platform for academic staff;

To promote a sharing culture and boost teacher education and professional development.

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Seminar on “The Current Special Education Policy in Macao”

Seminar on “The Current Special Education Policy in Macao” was held at E33-G021, Tin Ka Ping Lecture Hall, Faculty of Education, on Thursday 1 November 2018.

The speaker of the Seminar was Dr. Io Chan CHOI, Head of Special Education in Macao Education and Youth Affairs Bureau DSEJ). Dr. Io Chan CHOI graduated from the Hong Kong University of Education, Ph.D. in Education (Special Education). In the past years, Dr. Choi have shared issues in Macao’s special education policy, current situation and development, special education assessment and psychological assessment, in Zhuhai, Shenzhen, Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Macao. At the same time, as a member of the expert panel, she participated in the development of many special education-related assessment tools for the Macao model.

In the seminar on “The Current Special Education Policy in Macao”, Dr. Choi introduced the laws and regulations related to special education in Macao, as well as the classification and distribution of students with special education needs in Macao, such as integrating these students into inclusive classes, small classes special education (public), special education classes (public & private).

In addition, Dr. Choi also discussed the criteria for judging students with special education needs, as well as the support measures of Macao Education and Youth Affairs Bureau for students with special education needs.

It is worth noting that the small-class special education is a unique public school in Macao with 8 to 15 students per class, including primary and junior high school education. It has a special education program oriented to vocational and technical education for students with special education needs in Macao. Students provide services to help them adapt to and cope with the difficulties encountered in life, growth, and future development. It also ensures that students with special education needs will receive appropriate services and teaching arrangements, be optimistic and develop their potential.
Seminar on Teaching Practice and Job Application

“The Seminar on Teaching Practice and Job Application” organized by the Faculty of Education was held at E33-G021, Tin Ka Ping Lecture Hall, Faculty of Education, on Friday 9 November 2018.

This workshop invited Prof. Tien Ping HSIANG, Faculty of Education, UM, Ms. I Leng AO, Sacred Heart Canossian College, Mr. Ka U LAO, Sheng Kung Hui Choi Kou School Macau, as the speakers.

Mr. Lao and Ms. Ao also shared some considerations for primary school teachers from job hunting to entry, including methods of writing, modifying and delivering Chinese and English cover letters and job search resumes, the items that may be investigated and questioned during the teacher’s job interview, the preparations required in advance after the teacher starts teaching, such as preparing teaching equipment, microphones, computer equipment, etc., as well as the requirements of a primary school teacher’s grooming, dressing and other aspects.

In the “Seminar on Teaching Practice and Job Application”, Mr. Ka U LAO and Ms. I Leng AO introduced the professional characteristics of primary school teachers. Teachers themselves are educational factors and influential role models. Teachers directly influence students with their own knowledge, wisdom, and integrity. The teaching aids and teaching materials used by teachers must also be mastered by the teachers themselves. They must first become teachers’ own repertoire before it can be taught to students.

This workshop promoted the students’ understanding of the professional responsibilities of primary school teachers and provided effective guidance for the students’ job preparation.
Workshop on “Engaging Very Young Learners with Quality Story Reading and a Basket of Games”

Workshop on “Engaging Very Young Learners with Quality Story Reading and a Basket of Games” organized by the Faculty of Education was held at E33 – 1029 &1030, Faculty of Education, on Friday 9 November 2018.

This workshop invited Prof. Mei Lee NG, Assistant Professor & Associate Head (QA) of the Department of Early Childhood Education of The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK) as the speaker. Prof. Mei Lee NG had been an experienced English language teacher in secondary schools for 12 years before she joined the EdUHK in 2000. Upon accomplishing her two Master’s degrees on Teaching English as a Second Language and Early Childhood Education from the Institute of Education, London University, she shifted her focus of interest from secondary school students to preschoolers. Combining her two areas of expertise, Prof. Ng has developed her interest in researching preschoolers’ second language teaching and learning. She has taught at the university level, mainly in areas of second language learning of young learners. Her research interests also include early literacy and language development, home literacy and parental involvement.

In the Workshop on “Engaging Very Young Learners with Quality Story Reading and a Basket of Games”, Prof. Ng pointed out that vocabulary development in the early age is found to be highly predictive of future literacy skills including word reading and reading comprehension (e.g. Outlette, 2006). Quality story reading provides a rich and meaningful context for young learners to understand the meanings of words. But how to engage learners further to interact effectively with the vocabulary in the story reading? Prof. Ng showed a basket of games that can be generated from the storybook reading activities and provide children multiple exposures to the target vocabulary to. Participants were led to have their hands on playing the games as well as reflecting on how the games induce an active engagement from the very young children.
Seminar on “What are the Secrets of Shanghai Mathematics Education: Learning from Shanghai-England Exchange Program of Primary Math Teaching?”

Seminar on “What are the Secrets of Shanghai Mathematics Education: Learning from Shanghai-England Exchange Program of Primary Math Teaching?” was held at E33-G021, Tin Ka Ping Lecture Hall, Faculty of Education, on Tuesday 13 November 2018.

The speakers of the seminar were Prof. Xingfeng HUANG and Prof. Xuhua SUN. Prof. Xingfeng HUANG, Associate Professor at Shanghai Normal University, is the author of “Real Shanghai Math”, a textbook used by 400 schools in England; editor of the book: “I taught math in England”; coordinator of Shanghai-England exchange program of Primary math teaching (8000 England schools joined). Prof. Xuhua SUN, Assistant Professor in Faculty of Education at University of Macau. She is a co-chair of the International Commission for Mathematical Instruction (ICMI) STUDY 23 primary Mathematics education on whole number and serves as a leading co-editor of special issues in ZDM - The International Journal on Mathematics Education (2019).

In the seminar “What are the Secrets of Shanghai Mathematics Education: Learning from Shanghai-England Exchange Program of Primary Math Teaching?”, Prof. Xingfeng HUANG mentioned the relevant situation of Shanghai primary school Mathematics, including the primary school Mathematics teaching materials, curriculum, teachers, teaching practice. He also introduced Shanghai-England exchange program of Primary math teaching. Almost all Shanghai primary schools use the same mathematics textbooks organized by Shanghai Normal University, using feedback systematically gathered from math teachers drafts. Prof. Huang believes that this is different from the current situation in Macao primary school mathematics. The Shanghai-England exchange program of Primary math teaching has served as a very good bridge for the training and exchange of teachers in the two places.

In the future, Shanghai will pay more attention to the balance between tradition and transformation, and the continuous reform to address deficiencies.

Prof. Sun introduced the teaching methods of variations in China on the theme of “Problems Variations” and talked about the current situation and differences in mathematics teaching in primary schools. Prof. Sun believes that Chinese mathematics education begins with relatively systematic training when students are very young, so Chinese students have a more solid mathematical foundation. In the exchange of Chinese and foreign mathematics teaching, Chinese mathematics textbooks are also very popular.

Academic Staff Activities

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2018 Series 5 (Number 3): Drawing Praxis: A Practice-led Research

Seminar on “Drawing Praxis: A Practice-led Research” was held at E33-2036, Faculty of Education, on Thursday 15 November 2018.

The speaker of the Seminar was Prof. Yuen Yi LO, the Faculty of Education, University of Macau. Prof. Yuen Yi LO was trained in the fields of communication design and fine arts in Hong Kong, Italy, and Britain. Her creative works focuses on practice of drawing and visual ethnography, taking on scripts and graphics and old objects, while her writing explores such themes as art and culture, feminism, and oral history. Her publications include “Love Messages Across the Centuries: 21 Letters to Parisian Artists”, “Drawing the Writing”, “A Room and a Journal of Nūshu, Women’s Script”. She has held solo shows and taken part in joint exhibitions extensively.

In this seminar, Prof. Lo shared her research projects: drawing praxis, oral history writing, nūshu (women’s script, a set of writing script practiced exclusively by women in a small region in China).

She said, “I would share how I have appropriated nūshu in my works, both writing and drawing practice. It aims to show practice-led research has been a significant tool of integrating (ordinary) women into historical scholarship and provide a means for transformation of the social meaning of history. I would also like to extend the notion of drawing, a form of communication, a cognitive instrument for cumulating knowledge and understanding. In other words, practice of drawing is a mindful process of innovation and imagination. While integrating with cultural resources such as human related objects, albeit ordinary, drawing practice connects our social life and the world.”
2018 Series 5 (Number 4):
Flipped Classroom – Concept and Action

Seminar on “Drawing Praxis: A Practice-led Research” was held at E33-2036, Faculty of Education, on Thursday 22 November 2018.

The speaker of the Seminar was Prof. Jeng-Jye HWANG. Prof. Jeng-Jye HWANG, Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin-Madison, is Lifetime Emeritus Professor at Graduate Institute of Education, Providence University. His research interests span most areas of curriculum and instruction. He has published a number of books and articles in these areas, including the reforms of national basic education curriculum, university curriculum innovation, theory and practice of curriculum design, curriculum change, artistic teaching, flipping classroom, cooperative learning, and so on. Besides, he has participated in reforms of curriculum and instruction in Taiwan for a long time putting theory into practice.

In the beginning, many teachers jumped in, but soon found themselves faced with challenges, then kept asking: Can instruction be effectively delivered at home, releasing class time for discussions, questions, practices, projects, and labs? Some argue that this teaching model will completely transform education, while others say it is simply an opportunity for boring lectures to be viewed in new locations.

In the seminar on “Flipped Classroom – Concept and Action”, Prof. Hwang discussed the pros and cons of this teaching model, explored the new abilities teachers have to learn, and proposed approaches to implementing a genuine flipped classroom.

The model of flipped classrooms has been a heated topic in recent years. This model flips the traditional approach of using class time for explaining concepts and homework for reinforcement.
Tea with Prof. Yonghua SONG, Interim Dean of FED

“Tea with Prof. Yonghua SONG, UM Rector and Interim Dean of FED”, organized by the Faculty of Education, was held in E33-1002, on Tuesday 27 November 2018. This is a tea time for connecting Prof. Yonghua SONG, Interim Dean of FED and the postgraduate students.

To strengthen communication with the postgraduate students of FED, Prof. Yonghua SONG, the Rector of the University of Macau, and Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, invited some postgraduate students of FED to have tea together. Prof. Song and students from different majors discussed related issues such as curriculum setting, local internship, and employment prospects.

In the curriculum setting, Prof. Song talked about the professionalism, while taking into account the extensiveness of the curriculum, so that students can broaden their academic horizons as much as possible and enhance their own learning ability. In terms of the internship, Prof. Song proposed that FED will continue to create more conditions for students to participate more in the practical teaching activities of Macao’s primary and secondary schools to enhance the ability of students to combine theory and practice.

In addition, Prof. Song also hopes that Ph.D students should have the ability to conduct independent research. They should not only have relevant knowledge of the discipline, but also have interdisciplinary knowledge and research methods. They should develop innovative spirit and use new research ideas to produce new results.

The tea meeting ended in a great group photo. Prof. Yonghua SONG, took photos with the graduate students who participated in the event. FED hopes that everyone can cherish the precious and wonderful learning time of the graduate study, and make progress to rise based on the accumulated strengths.
Workshop on “Teaching English as an International Language: Insights from In-service Teachers’ Teaching Principles and Practice”

This workshop invited Dr. Melissa H. YU as the speaker. Dr. Yu has extensive experience in researching English language education and training English language teachers. Her teaching experience encompasses different levels of students and a wide range of courses. In her early teaching career, Dr. Yu was an EFL teacher in Taiwanese secondary schools, whose excellent track record resulted in the honor of receiving several English language teaching excellence awards. With practical teaching experiences as well as a research background in TESOL and Global English, Dr. Yu’s research projects have considered English language education for international communication at secondary and tertiary levels and for professional purposes, discussing issues related to language policy, classroom assessment, learning materials, teachers’ beliefs, teaching methods and principles, and learning strategies and needs.

In the workshop on “Teaching English as an International Language: Insights from In-service Teachers’ Teaching Principles and Practice”, Dr. Yu discussed practical ideas of teaching and learning English for international communication and how to put these ideas into practice; explained the underlying principles of pedagogical choices and practice for international communication; provided an overview and summary of the implications for teaching English for international communication. Dr. Yu encouraged pre-service and in-service secondary school English teachers to consider their assumptions about how established English language education relates to communicative language use from a perspective of English as a lingua franca (ELF).
2018 Series 5 (Number 5): Cognitively Diagnostic Assessment and Cognitive Diagnosis Modeling: An Example from Start to Finish

Seminar on “Cognitively Diagnostic Assessment and Cognitive Diagnosis Modeling: An Example from Start to Finish” was held at E33-2034, Faculty of Education, on Wednesday 28 November 2018.

The speaker of the seminar was Prof. Jimmy DELA TORRE, the Faculty of Education of The University of Hong Kong. He is also Chair Professor, the Taichung University of Education, and an Honorary Professor at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid. He is one of the leading researchers in the field of cognitive diagnosis modeling, and his work has appeared in some of the leading measurement and methodological journals. He was a recipient of the White House’s Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers in 2009, and he is to become editor-in-chief of the Journal of Educational Measurement.

This presentation is based on a National Science Foundation grant project, aiming to develop a cognitively diagnostic assessment (CDA) to better assess middle school students’ ability to reason proportionally using a cognitive diagnosis modeling (CDM) framework.

In this seminar, Prof. Jimmy DELA TORRE introduced CDM and highlighted how CDM as a framework differs from traditional psychometric frameworks. He focused on the different phases involved in developing the proportional reasoning CDA, compared the results of traditional and CDM analyses of the proportional reasoning data, and concluded with a discussion of the challenges and opportunities in CDM.
Seminar on “The Image of the Child in the Reggio Emilia Early Childhood Educational Approach”

Seminar on “The Image of the Child in the Reggio Emilia Early Childhood Educational Approach” was held at E33-1004, Faculty of Education, on Friday 7 December 2018.

The speaker of this Seminar was Prof. Lixin REN. Prof. Lixin REN is an associate professor in the Department of Preschool Education at the Faculty of Education, East China Normal University. Prof. Ren’s research interest is about family factors that influence early childhood development, especially the family factors related to the development of children’s social emotions. Her current research project focuses on the daily routine and extracurricular activities of preschool children in China, trying to better understand the ecological situation of China’s early childhood development. In addition, during her Ph.D. studies with Prof. Caroline EDWARDS, author of The Children’s One Hundred Languages, Prof. Ren also studied Reggio’s early childhood education philosophy.

Reggio Emilia is in the northeast of Italy, a city famous for its early childhood education concept. One of the most influential educational ideas is the children’s view into children’s minds. In this seminar, Prof. Ren introduced the depiction of children’s image in Reggio’s educational philosophy with vivid pictures and recorded videos of children’s learning process, and how the Reggio’s educators practice the concept of children they believe in every day of their daily teaching activities. Prof. Ren believes that how to combine Reggio’s educational philosophy more closely with our preschool education status and draw it into China’s preschool education practice is an important topic that needs us to inspire thinking at this stage.
Nurturing First-class Talents: A Seminar on Education of Modern Residential College System and First-class High School

“Nurturing First-class Talents: A Seminar on Education of Modern Residential College System and First-class High School”, organized by the Faculty of Education was held in Multi-Function Room of UM Guest House (N1), University of Macau, on Sunday 9 December 2018.

Prof. Yisu ZHOU of the Faculty of Education chaired the seminar. Firstly, Prof. Yonghua SONG, the Rector of the University of Macau, and Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, was invited to deliver a keynote speech. Prof. Song talked about the development strategy of top universities from the perspectives of strategic planning and international comparison of top universities in the UK and the USA. He put forward the “4s development strategy” for the internationalization of higher education, referring to strategic, substantial, sustainable, and service-oriented development strategy. In his speech, Prof. Song emphasized that the formulation of an internationalization strategy requires local and global unification, the achievement of international strategic goals must be harmonized with self-development and world contribution, the internationalization strategy and the overall school strategy must be unified, and the internationalization strategy must be systematically integrated and focused.

After Prof. Song’s keynote speech, the seminar discussed the issues of “Modern College Culture and the Cultivation of First-class Talents” and “First-rate Secondary Education and its Connection with Top-ranking University Education”. Dr. Yun-Tung LAU, the Dean of Chao Kuang Piu College, the University of Macau, Dr. Xiaoqiang ZHANG, Renmin University of China, Dr. Kam Fai KOU, the Principal of Pui Ching Middle School, and Ms. Xuemei WANG, the assistant to the Principal of Chengdu NO.7 High School, were invited as co-speakers.
Dr. Yun-Tung LAU, the Dean of Chao Kuang Piu College, the University of Macau

Dr. Xiaoqiang ZHANG, Renmin University of China

Prof. Yonghua SONG, the Rector of the University of Macau, and Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof. Chun Wai CHENG, the Associate Dean (Teaching) of the Faculty of Education, the University of Macau, Prof. Weifang MIN, Peking University, Prof. Wanhua MA, Peking University, Prof. Lixin XIA, Central China Normal University, Prof. Chongqing KANG, Tsinghua University, Prof. Qiang FU, Zhejiang University, Prof. Xueping WU, Zhejiang University, Mr. Songshou DONG, the Secretary General of Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy, Mr. Shuanggu ZHANG, the Vice Director of Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy, Mr. Pengcheng ZHOU, the Principal of No.1 Middle School Affiliated to Central China Normal University, Mr. Jian TIAN, the Principal of Chengdu Shishi High School, were invited to discuss the issues, including cross-disciplinary impacts, promotion of student personality development, critical thinking development, and the integration of secondary and university.

Dr. Kam Fai KOU, the Principal of Pui Ching Middle School

Ms. Xuemei WANG, the assistant to the Principal of Chengdu NO.7 High School

Prof. Chun Wai CHENG, the Associate Dean (Teaching) of FED
Dr. Xiaojing ZHANG, Renmin University of China, Prof. Qiang FU, Zhejiang University, Prof. Lixin XIA, Central China Normal University, Prof. Yonghua SONG, the Rector of the University of Macau, and Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof. Weifang MIN, Peking University, Prof. Chongqing KANG, Tsinghua University, Dr. Yun-Tung LAU, the Dean of Chao Kuang Piu College, the University of Macau, and Mr. Songshou DONG, the Secretary General of Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy

Prof. Chun Wai CHENG, the Associate Dean (Teaching) of FED, Mr. Jian TIAN, the Principal of Chengdu Shishi High School, Ms. Xuefei WANG, the assistant to the Principal of Chengdu No.7 High School, Prof. Xueqin WU, Zhejiang University, Dr. Kam Fai KOU, the Principal of Pui Ching Middle School, and Mr. Pengcheng ZHOU, the Principal of No.1 Middle School Affiliated to Central China Normal University

Prof. Yonghua SONG, the Rector of the University of Macau, and Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, and Mr. Jian TIAN, the Principal of Chengdu Shishi High School

Event Highlight

All the participants took a group photo together
A half-day retreat was held on Thursday, 11 December 2018 at Studio City, Macau. FED academic staff were divided into groups to facilitate the exchange of ideas. There were collecting opinions, group discussions, group presentations, plenary discussions, and summarizing reports. They focused on three topics: First, the feedback on teaching; second, the feedback on research; and third, the feedback on training and service. After each topic was discussed, team representatives were asked to report summarizing the key points, which was followed by plenary discussions.

The half-day retreat is a platform for learning and promoting excellent teaching, research, and service. Through this retreat, the academic staff promoted effective communication and active cooperation. The Faculty of Education attaches great importance to timely communication and efficient service in teaching practice, student feedback, and resource sharing. The mission of the Faculty of Education is to continuously strengthen and improve education and teaching, and to provide teachers and students with the high-quality platform for practical teaching through as many channels as possible.

Prof. Yonghua SONG, the Rector of the University of Macau, and Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof. Lionel M. Ni, the Vice Rector (Academic Affairs) of the University of Macau, were invited to lead the discussions and give some guidance. Prof. Chun Wai CHENG, the Associate Dean (Teaching) of FED, chaired the group presentations, plenary discussions and reports.
Prof. Yonghua SONG, the Rector of the University of Macau, and Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, and Prof. Tat Ming SZE, the Faculty of Education, University of Macau

Prof. Yonghua SONG, the Rector of the University of Macau, and Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, and Prof. Juan ZHANG, Programme Coordinator of Bachelor of Education Programme (Pre-Primary Education) - Curriculum, the Faculty of Education, University of Macau

Prof. Yonghua SONG, the Rector of the University of Macau, and Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, and Prof. Sou Kuan VONG, the Faculty of Education, University of Macau

Event Highlight

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Event Highlight
Seminar on “Comprehensive Approaches to Examine Validity Evidences and Measurement Invariance in Educational and Psychology Assessment” was held at E32-G020, Faculty of Law, on Thursday 13 December 2018.

The speaker of the Seminar was Prof. Do Hong KIM, Educational Research at Augusta University, University Systems of Georgia. Prof. Do Hong KIM earned her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of South Carolina, with an emphasis on quantitative methods and measurement theory. Her research interests include the application of psychometric and quantitative methods to issues in educational and psychological assessment. She has over 15 years of experience in educational research, measurement, and evaluation; published in many reputable journals, and received grants from various foundations including National Science Foundation.

Validity is an important psychometric issue in educational and psychology assessment. Messick’s (1995) unitary validity framework emphasizes the meaning and interpretation of the score and implications for unbiased and fair use of the instrument. Measurement invariance refers to the condition in which “respondents from different groups, but with the same true score, will have the same observed score.”

This presentation Prof. Kim demonstrated a variety of approaches for studies on validity and measurement invariance across groups. Some approaches deal with construct invariance at the item level whereas others rely on data at the subtest (content strand) level. Each approach answers a different type of question. Prof. Kim also explored the challenges of developing high-quality assessments that are fair, and culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate and present examples of published research findings including the study with Prof. Chunlian JIANG.