



The Practical: An East-West Curriculum Dialogue

The first international conference on “the practical” curriculum

Between 1969 and 1983, Joseph Schwab (1909-1988), a professor of curriculum at University of Chicago published four papers on what he termed ‘the practical’. He argued that curriculum study in America was moribund and accordingly called for a paradigm shift in curriculum studies from the theoretical to the practical. To some extent we can say that from the period when those “the practical” papers were published, in North America and in other places in the world, there arose a practical movement in which university curriculum professors began to turn their concerns to the complexity of curriculum practice.

In Mainland China, since mid-1990s when Schwab’s ideas and many other related aspects of practical curriculum ideas like curriculum action research, narrative inquiry etc. were introduced, some Chinese university scholars have begun to rethink their previously adopted speculative approaches to curriculum studies and turned their eyes from the pure text explanation to the real school life of teachers, students and school principals. With the promotion of the Chinese national curriculum reform since 2001, many schools have started to establish a school-based curriculum and teaching research system.

In order to create a new space for a cross-cultural dialogue in which international scholars can share each other’s understanding of the meaning of being practical and each other’s doing of the practical, the *First International Curriculum Conference on the Practical* will be held on June 12-14, 2009, at Capital Normal University (CNU) in Beijing, P. R. China. Please:

The conference will invite Chicago School Practical Curriculum representatives and its descendents to give keynote addresses on Schwab’s concept of the Practical and its contributions to curriculum studies. They are Professor **Michael Connelly**, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada, Professor **Ian Westbury**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Professor **Cheryl J. Craig** University of Houston, USA; Professor **Miriam Ben-Peretz**, University of Haifa, Israel; Also, Chinese distinguished scholars Professor **Ye Lan** and Professor **Ding Gang**, East China Normal University, Professor **Chen Xiangming**, Peking University, Professor **John Lee** from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, will give their keynote addresses on their doing and understanding of “the Practical” in China.

Join us in Beijing!

Conference Topics

1. Schwab's "the practical" and its contributions to curriculum studies.
2. teachers as curriculum planners
3. school-based curriculum development and school-based curriculum implementation
4. curriculum deliberation
5. collaborative research between university professors and school teachers
(action research, narrative inquiry, case study etc.)

Conference Sections

1. Keynote address
2. Plenary individual presentation (speakers are mainly selected from their submissions by the reviewing committee)
3. Multiple paper session
4. Workshop or symposium

Important Dates

Conference date:	June 12 th to 14 th , 2009.
Deadline for proposals:	January 10 th , 2009.
Notification of acceptance:	February 15 th , 2009.
Deadline for full papers:	April 10 th , 2009.

Call for Proposals

All participants who wish to give a presentation at any conference section (except the specially invited keynote addresses) should submit a proposal of no more than 300 words before the deadline. Please via email or mail your proposal to:

Professor Yuzhen Xu
Chair, Conference Committee
College of Education
Capital Normal University
105 Xi San Huan Bei Lu
Haidian District, Beijing, 100037
P.R. China

sbcd2003@263.net jichujy@mail.cnu.edu.cn

**** the keynote speech papers, those selected individual papers for the plenary presentation sessions and some of the multiple presentation papers by the conference reviewing committee will be collected as a conference corpus first then be published as a book after further reviewing.**

Proposal Form

Name:

Email Address:

Institutional Affiliation:

Street Address:

City, State (Province, Country):

Telephone:

Fax:

Title:

Type of presentation: Plenary individual presentation workshop or symposium

Multiple paper session

Description: Please compose no more than 300 words describing your proposed paper, including a short bibliography. If a group wishes to give a symposium, the proposal should be 300 words including a plus 100 word summaries of each paper. If a workshop is proposed, the proposal should at least include a description of the title, the purpose, the significance and the proposed activities of the workshop.

Registration

Registration Fee: US\$ 300 for international participants, including workshop fees, meals during the conference dates. Half price for graduate students.

Form of payment: We only accept on-site cash payment

Contact information

Conference Blog: In order to let participants informed of the updated information about the conference and to create a space for any dialogue on the conference theme before/during or after the conference dates. Please visit our conference blog (<http://blog.sina.com.cn/kcxyth>) to see the most updated information and give your comments and suggestions about the conference.

Conference office: Room No. 149, College of Education, Capital Normal University, 105 Xi San Huan Bei Lu, Beijing, 100037, P. R. China

Tel: 86-10-68902556

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Hotels and accommodations

Please visit our conference blog: <http://blog.sina.com.cn/kcxyth>