

# Chinese Students, Teachers and Scholars Abroad: Myths and Realities

Helsinki, 23-24 May 2013



Address: Unioninkatu 38 F, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor,  
Helsinki (**Map:** <http://tinyurl.com/cpcqpj8>)

# About the Conference

The academic and student mobility and migration of Chinese nationals have increased steadily over the last decades. Chinese students, teachers and scholars are now “familiar faces” in international higher education, especially in Australia, Europe and North America. According to the Chinese Ministry of Education, more than 100,000 Chinese have studied abroad annually since 2002, and the figure is still expected to rise in the near future.

This conference is interested in the myths and realities that seem to surround the Chinese in international academic mobility and migration.

In international education for instance, Gu and Schweisfurth (2006: 75) argue that “The phrase ‘the Chinese learner’ invites us to see this group as homogeneous, and their needs and responses as determined by their cultural background. However other aspects of the process: the backgrounds and goals of the learners, their specific motivation for learning, the setting for the interaction and the nature of the relationship between teachers and learners, are also influential”.

In a similar vein applied linguist Kumaravadivelu (2008: 54) makes an important point about ‘Asian’ students that seems to apply to Chinese students too: “the language teaching profession has shown a remarkable readiness to forge a causal connection between the classroom behavior of Asian students and their cultural beliefs even though research findings are ambiguous and even contradictory”. Another interesting aspect of e.g. Chinese students’ mobility reported in research, is the impression that they cling to their own group without being ‘assimilated’.

Very few studies or research projects have looked into Chinese teachers and scholars working abroad.

This interdisciplinary conference will review certain myths and realities related to Chinese mobility and migration in international higher education, with an emphasis on institutional, staff and students perspectives. Researchers in the fields of (amongst others) education and pedagogy, sociology, linguistics, (social) psychology, cultural studies but also economics and management are invited to submit a proposal. We would like to stimulate discussions on the following issues (amongst others):

1. Demographics of Chinese students, teachers and scholars abroad: who are they (social class, gender, linguistic and cultural background...)? Where do they study/work and what do they do? For students: What happens at the end of their studies abroad? Do they (really) differ from local and other

international students?

2. How do we talk about Chinese students and scholars abroad? In the media? In research? In institutions of higher education? Have discourses on Chinese students and scholars changed over the last decades? How do they themselves talk about their experiences abroad?

3. Chinese nationals and intercultural communication in education and daily life. Critical approaches to adaptation will be preferred (intercultural competences, identity),

4. Working with Chinese colleagues, teaching/supervising Chinese students abroad: is it really different from local or other international colleagues/students? If yes, how?

5. Language practices: what languages do they learn and use? With whom?

6. Short-term/long-term effects of mobility/migration on the scholars, teachers and students, but also China and the locality.

Conference chairs

Fred Dervin, Education for Diversities (E4D), Department of Teacher Education, University of Helsinki

Anja Lahtinen, Confucius Institute, University of Helsinki

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## Thursday 23.5.2013

10.00-11.00	Registration	
11.00-11.30 Room: F 211	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Lars-Folke Landgrén, Director, Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki, Finland</p> <p>Deng Liming, First Secretary (Education), Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Finland</p> <p>Fred Dervin, Department of Teacher Education, University of Helsinki</p> <p>Anja Lahtinen, Confucius Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland</p>	
11.30-12.30 Room: F 211	<p><i>Practices of making Chinese learnable for English language speakers:</i></p> <p><i>Teaching/researching/learning language education through local/global sociolinguistic activities</i></p> <p><b>Michael Singh</b> Centre for Educational research, University of Western Sydney</p>	
12.30-13.45	Lunch break (Unicafé Metsätalo, Fabianinkatu 39)	
	<b>Session 1A (room: F 211)</b>	<b>Session 1B (room: F 205)</b>
13.45-14.15	<p>The cram school versus liberal education: a tacit ideological struggle</p> <p><b>Jonathan Benney</b></p>	<p>Ti - yong (体用) and the changing learner identity of Chinese students</p> <p><b>Sirkku Latomaa</b></p>
14.15-14.45	<p>Gendering Chinese student migration</p> <p><b>Anni Kajanus</b></p>	<p>The myth of return revisited in the risk society ---- the case of Chinese students in France</p> <p><b>Yong LI</b></p>

14.45-15.15	<p>“Chinese from China”: Personal Trajectories of PRC Undergraduate Students in Malaysia</p> <p><i>Lim Sep Neo &amp; Regis Machart</i></p>	<p>The Cross-cultural adaption of Chinese students in Germany: A matter of cultural specific learning styles</p> <p><i>Xun Luo</i></p>
15.15-15.45	Break	
	<b>Session 2 A (room: F 211)</b>	<b>Session 2 B (room: F 205)</b>
15.45-16.15	<p>Being Chinese or being different: Chinese undergraduates use of discourses of Chineseness</p> <p><i>Gillian Skyrme</i></p>	<p>Are Chinese students likely to exhibit a surface approach to learning as compared with other international students in Finland?</p> <p><i>Yusuke Sakurai, Anna Parpala, Kirsi Pyhältö &amp; Sari Lindblom-Ylänne</i></p>
16.15-16.45	<p>Representing the Chinese student in literature: The case of <i>A Chinese-English Dictionary</i></p> <p><i>Fred Dervin &amp; Minghui Gao</i></p>	<p>Online Tandem Exchanges of Chinese and English between the University students in Ireland and China</p> <p><i>Wei Tan</i></p>
18.00-20.00	<p><b>Rector’s Reception</b>  Host: Ulla-Maija Forsberg, 1st Vice Rector  Teachers' magazine room (<i>opettajien lehtisali</i>)  Unioninkatu 34, first floor</p>	

## Friday 24.5.2013

9.30-10.30 Room: F 211	<b>Yuzhuo Cai</b> , University of Tampere, Finland <i>Enhancing employability of overseas Chinese students--the case of Chinese students in Finland</i>	
10.30-11.00	Coffee break	
	<b>Session 3 A (room: F 211)</b>	<b>Session 3 B (room: F 205)</b>
11.00-11.30	Learning French in France: interviewing Chinese students abroad  <i>Sophie Bailly &amp; Jinjing Wang</i>	Chinese-born Foreign Language Teacher's Conceptions of Foreign Language teaching  <i>Mike Packevicz</i>
11.30-12.00	Negotiating Chinese Teachers' Identity: A case study of TCFL teachers for students in Denmark  <i>Chun Zhang</i>	Change in teaching beliefs when teaching abroad? ---- Confucius Institute Chinese teachers' teaching experiences in the US  <i>Lihong Wang</i>
12.00-12.30	M-learning in teaching Chinese as a second language  <i>Fan Ling</i>	Which language? Which culture? Which curriculum? Mandarin Chinese teachers' perceptions of their professional self in British Schools  <i>Xuan Wang</i>
12.30-13.45	Lunch break (Unicafé Metsätalo, Fabianinkatu 39)	

	<b>Session 4A (room: F 211)</b>	<b>Session 4B (room: F 205)</b>
14.00-14.30	Chinese students and scholars in West Europe over time: changing perceptions of them by the local and Chinese Protestant Christian communities  <b>Huang, Y.Q</b>	Privilege, Prejudice, Predicament: the 'PRC scholars' as 'foreign talents' in Singapore  <b>Peidong Yang</b>
14.30-15.00	Teachers' Beliefs on Culture Teaching: A Case Study of Three Native Chinese Teachers in Denmark  <b>Li Wang, Annie Aarup Jensen &amp; Xiangyun Du</b>	Mobility and Interculturality: Taiwanese Students in Malaysia as an Example  <b>Regis Machart, Lim, Sep Neo, Chin, Sin Zi, Yeow, E-Lynn</b>
15.00-15.30	West Meets East: Negotiating Effective Cross-Cultural Teaching and Learning in Global EMBA Programs in China  <b>Jiang X.</b>	The cosmopolitan going home: career plans and values of Chinese students in Japan  <b>Herby Lai</b>
15.30-15.45	Short break	
15.45-16.45 Room: F 211	Authenticity revisited: The teaching and learning of Chinese in the era of globalization <b>Zhu Hua</b> , Birbeck University, UK	
16.45	Closing remarks	

## Scientific Committee

Tiina Airaksinen, University of Helsinki, Finland  
Julie Byrd Clark, Western University, Canada and University of Helsinki, Finland  
Vincenzo Cicchelli, University Paris Descartes, France  
Fachun Du, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of Ethnology & Anthropology, China  
Shibao Guo, University of Calgary, Canada  
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Mirja Talib, University of Helsinki, Finland (E4D)  
Tsai Yau, Fooyin University Kaohsiung, Taiwan  
Anthony Welch, University of Sydney, Australia  
Dong Wang, University of Turku, Finland