

The current state of Chinese language education in Australian schools and Chinese language teacher education programs in Australian higher education

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Speaker:

Prof. Jinghe HAN is a senior researcher, Higher Degree Research Supervisor and Associate Dean (International) at School of Education, Western Sydney University, Australia. She has been awarded a number of significant national and international grants, and has published extensively in the fields of pedagogy for English as a Medium of Instruction, internationalisation of higher degree research education, and Chinese as an additional language education. She is one of the highest performing doctoral supervisors at the Western Sydney University, and has successfully supervised 56 HDR students to completion in the past decade.

Abstract:

Chinese is one of the four Asian languages that Australian government has promoted in its K-12 curriculum. It was included in Australian national language plan – NALSSP (The National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program) two decades ago. The Government-initiated drive was to produce ‘Asia-literate’ graduates from Australia’s schools. The NALSSP’s ambitious target was that, by 2020, at least 12 per cent of Year twelve graduates would be able to communicate in Chinese or any one of the other three Asian languages with fluency, sufficient for engaging in trade and commerce in Asia and/or university study. In this talk, Prof. Han would like to report on the current state of its Chinese language education after 20 years’ progress, focusing on the development of Chinese language programs in schools, school learners’ retention and Chinese language teachers’ professional development. Prof. Han will particularly introduce one Chinese language teacher training program that Prof. Han has been running in the past 15 years, with the hope to provide some insight for the current and future teachers in the field.