

Visiting Speaker Series 2017-18 Term 1

Rethinking Post-Mao China's educational record - and its lessons for elsewhere

Edward VICKERS

Professor of Comparative Education, Department of Education,
Kyushu University

17 Nov 2017 (Friday)

12:30 – 2pm

Room 1118, 11/F,

Yasumoto International Academic Park

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Edward Vickers is Professor of Comparative Education at Kyushu University, Japan. He researches the history and politics of education in contemporary Chinese societies (the mainland PRC, Hong Kong and Taiwan), and historical memory and identity in East Asia. He began his career as a schoolteacher in Hong Kong, and later worked as a textbook author and editor for the People's Education Press in Beijing. His other books include *In Search of an Identity: the Politics of History as a School Subject in Hong Kong* (2003; 2005), and (with Paul Morris and Naoko Shimazu) *Imagining Japan in Post-war East Asia: identity politics, schooling and popular culture* (2013). He is currently working on a book on war heritage and remembrance in East and Southeast Asia



了不起的中国人

EDUCATION AND SOCIETY
IN POST-MAO CHINA

Pragmatism and ideology in
the quest for modernization

Edward Vickers and Zeng Xiaodong



ABOUT THE TALK

Recent years have witnessed mingled alarm and envy overseas at the supposed excellence of China's education system - epitomized by Shanghai's PISA success. But much public discussion of the context for that success, and of the nature of the education system that has produced it, remains worryingly superficial. Drawing on a new monograph, *Education and Society in Post-Mao China* (Routledge 2017), this talk re-examines the educational record of China during the four decades of 'Reform and Opening'. It argues that evaluation of this record depends very much on the evaluator's comparative perspective and ethical assumptions. Notwithstanding its impressive performance on many counts, education in Post-Mao China has played a key role in fostering radical social stratification - a role that is not accidental, but intrinsic to the system's design. At the same time, the role assigned to education in political socialization - aimed partly at legitimating the system's radical shift away from egalitarianism - carries potential threats for the country's stability.

Free Admission

The seminar is conducted in English

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