

A weekly series of education themed seminars on the Karori campus. Regularly held on **Wednesdays 4.30-5.30pm**. University staff, students, and community stakeholders are invited to attend and participate.



Dr Peter Gu is a senior lecturer at the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies. His main research interests include learner autonomy and learning strategies, vocabulary acquisition, and language testing and assessment.

Faculty of Education Seminar Series

Assessment reform in China: The place of English in the University Entrance Examination

Peter Gu

Many Chinese students are studying in New Zealand universities. Just like knowledge of NCEA is beneficial in knowing local undergraduate students, university lecturers in New Zealand will benefit from an understanding of the assessment system in China, especially the University Entrance Examination (UEE) and its current reform in order to better understand the Chinese students.

The University Entrance Examination is the make-or-break point in reform for basic education in China. After more than two decades of inefficient calls for “quality education” that aims for the whole-person development of every child to his/her best potential, there is a realisation that the high-stakes UEE has become a hurdle which has to be overcome. From the second half of 2013, a series of policy signals have been released, pointing to some very bold gestures in assessment reform, including the final removal of the test of English language in the UEE system. After about a year of anxious waiting, the “Implementation Guidelines on Deepening the Reform of the Examination and Recruitment System” was finally released, on 4 September, 2014.

This presentation will briefly introduce the overall assessment system, a history of the UEE in China since 1977, and the rationale for the current assessment reform. I will next focus on the most important details in the guidelines document. An analysis of the policy implications in relation to the role of English in the UEE will follow. I will finally engage in a discussion of policy implementation and practice pertaining to the English language in China’s basic education system.

Wednesday 25 March, 4.30pm
Karori Campus, GR 311