

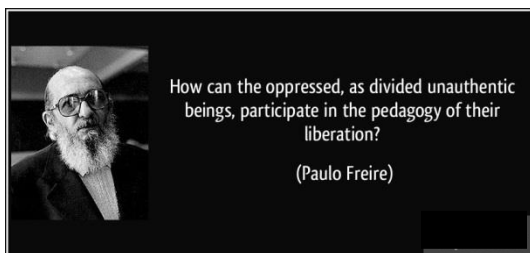


## Inauguration of Critical Pedagogy SIG

Wah Ching Centre of Research on Education in China at the Faculty of Education now launches a Special Interest Group (SIG) on Critical Pedagogy. The purpose of this SIG is to bring together faculty members and students in all disciplines who are concerned with equity, ideology, and social justice issues. It aims to create a space for interested individuals to learn and share critical ideas together.

### Short Background

Critical Pedagogy is a theory that interrogates the critical role of education in reinforcing and perpetuating the existing power structure and class domination through ideological control and knowledge construction. It promotes alternative education that aims at helping learners develop critical awareness and challenge the dominant social order and ideology. Essentially, Critical Pedagogy addresses questions related to social justice, critical thinking, democracy, emancipation, social change and activism, and power domination, among others.



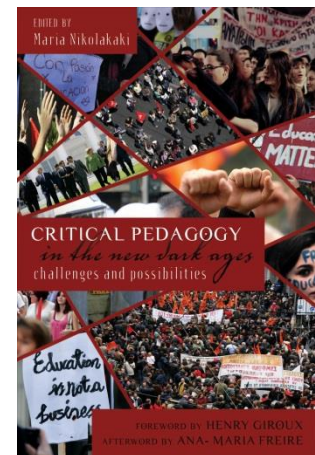
Historically, the idea of Critical Pedagogy begins with the neo-Marxist literature on Critical Theory developed by the Frankfurt School's prominent members such as Adorno, Marcuse, and Habermas. Famous

authors strongly associated with the tradition of Critical Pedagogies include Paulo Freire, Henry Giroux, Peter McLaren, Joe L. Kincheloe, Michael Apple, and others.

Today, challenged by neoliberal globalization, domination and oppression may take up new faces and be deeply imbedded in the intricate global economic and political power networks. Therefore, the Critical Pedagogy SIG will not narrow itself within the educational domain. Instead, to deepen the understanding of the challenges confronting education, the SIG endeavors to stimulate cross-disciplinary dialogues on a wide range of equity and social justice issues pertinent to Greater China and beyond.

### The aims of the SIG are:

- To provide a forum for learning and exchanging ideas about Critical Pedagogy;
- To promote interdisciplinary dialogues on equity and social justice concepts and issues; and
- To foster an intellectual community that supports research, teaching and learning grounded in the critical theories.



### SIG Inauguration:



Time: 3pm - 4:30pm, April 24, 2017

Venue: Runme Shaw Building Room 202

Activity: Understanding the boundaries of Critical Pedagogy

Reading to be discussed: McLaren, P. (2008). Critical Pedagogy: A look at the major concepts. In *The Critical Pedagogy Reader*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by A. Darder, M.P. Baltodano, and R.D. Torres. London and New York: Routledge.

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