Evidence, Competence or Wisdom?
Good Teacher Education and the Education of the Teacher’s Eye

Speaker: Professor Gert Biesta
Brunel University London

Chair: Dr Susan Bridges

Abstract:
Trends in policy and research around teaching and teacher education either tend to focus on the development of a strong scientific evidence-base for teaching or on highlighting the need for teachers to acquire a specified set of competences needed to perform their job well. Along both lines there is an assumption that teachers need to be well-equipped, in other words, fully prepared for what they will encounter. This may make sense if it can be specified in advance what teachers will encounter but this is not what makes up the everyday reality of teaching. One solution is to try to change the reality teachers meet – for example by influencing how students ought to behave – so that evidence and competences can ‘work.’ This, however, begins to undermine the very point of education. The other is to prepare teachers for encounters with the unforeseen – where judgement, the ability to do what needs to be done when it is not known what needs to be done, is required. In my presentation, I will discuss the pros and cons of teaching through the lenses of evidence, competence and wisdom and will explore what these imply for teacher education. I will particularly focus on the way in which an approach to teacher education centred on educational wisdom requires an education of the teacher’s eye – to be able to see what does not yet exist and not to see what may get in the way of the grown-up future of young people.

Date: November 27, 2017 (Monday)
Time: 18:00 – 19:15
Venue: RM 205, Runme Shaw Building, HKU

About the speaker:
Gert Biesta is Professor of Education in the Department of Education of Brunel University London and Visiting Professor at NLA University College, Bergen, Norway. He holds the NIVOZ Professorship for Education at the University of Humanistic Studies, the Netherlands and is joint-coordinator of SIG 25 (Educational Theory) of the European Association for Research and Learning and Instruction. Professor Biesta is co-editor of two book-series with Routledge: New Directions in the Philosophy of Education (with Michael Peters and Liz Jackson) and Theorizing Education (with Julie Allan and Richard Edwards).

~ ALL ARE WELCOME ~