Workshop

MEASUREMENTS OF BILINGUALISM

Dr Gigi Luk

Harvard Graduate School of Education, USA

26 June 2014 (Thursday), 18:00 – 19:30
Room 750, Meng Wah Complex, HKU
(Chair: Professor Brendan Weekes)

This workshop will engage faculty and graduate students in HKU to discuss channels to effectively measure complex and dynamic constructs associated with bilingualism. Many existing instruments measuring bilingual experience focus on individual experience with little reference made to the social contexts associated with bilingualism. This workshop will begin by a presentation on a few existing questionnaires assessing bilingualism. The analysis of the existing tools will focus on bilingual usage, proficiency and language acquisition history. After this analysis, workshop participants will be divided into groups to evaluate these existing questionnaires. The final section will involve synthesizing these evaluations and construct a questionnaire that is sensitive to the trilingual-biliterate contexts in Hong Kong.

About the speaker:
Gigi Luk is Assistant Professor of Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education. She received her PhD from York University in Toronto, Canada and completed her postdoctoral training at the Rotman Research Institute at the Baycrest Health Center. Her research focuses on understanding how speaking multiple languages influences language and cognition across the lifespan, from childhood to old age. Currently, she is working with schools to investigate whether information on home language usage provides more meaningful information for educators in addition to categories based on English language proficiency. Furthermore, Dr Luk is examining the reading difficulty in the context of multilingualism. Dr Luk uses behavioral assessments and neuroimaging techniques in her research. In 2013, Dr Luk was selected as the National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow.