Education, Equity and Identity: The Next Big Challenge for a Changing World

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17:45 – 19:15
T7, Meng Wah Complex, HKU

Abstract:
For twenty years, equity efforts in education concentrated on narrowing measurable achievement gaps in a small number of high priority curriculum areas. The assumption underpinning this approach was that there was one way to be excellent or proficient, and that people falling behind needed identification and then intervention to enable them to catch up.

Now, inclusion and identity are the new equity. If young people cannot see themselves, their cultures, languages and identities in the school, if they feel their identities are ignored or actively disvalued in the school’s curriculum, pedagogies, and assessment instruments, then they will be less likely to succeed. Instead of fitting children to the curriculum, the curriculum must increasingly engage with the child. But it’s not enough just to celebrate diverse identities. Identities must be acknowledged but also connected with each other and sometimes also challenged. This lecture addresses why identity and inclusion are important at this moment, how schools can and do engage with them in their pursuit of greater equity, and what challenges and dilemmas remain.

About the Speaker:
Professor Andy Hargreaves is President of the International Congress of School Effectiveness and Improvement, Founding Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Professional Capital and Community, and Adviser in Education to the Premier of Ontario and the First Minister of Scotland. His Outstanding Writing Awards include the 2015 Gravemeyer Award in Education for Professional Capital (with Michael Fullan), as well as awards from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the American Educational Research Association, the American Libraries Association and the International Leadership Association. He has been honored with the 2016 Horace Mann Award in the US and the Robert Owen Award in Scotland for services to public education. He has been ranked by Education Week in the top 10 scholars with most influence on US education policy debate. In 2015, Boston College gave him its Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

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