

“What are the minimum essential practical procedures our students should be competent in and how do we ensure they are trained?”

Francis K.L. Chan



“What are the minimum essential practical procedures our students should be competent in and how do we ensure they are trained?”

- Why do we need to we ask this question?
- Are our students overwhelmed with practical procedures?
- If our students are incompetent, will setting a “minimum” improve outcome?
- If the procedures are *essential*, should there be a *minimum*?
- If a student fails to meet the *minimum*, will there be a “*minimum*” of the minimum?
- What kind of message or philosophy are we trying to deliver to our students?

Our core curriculum: a bare bone
Aren't we offering the minimum already?



Our core curriculum: Still too much?



Is the
bone too
big or the
doggy too
small?



More questions...

- “minimum” + “essential” + “practical”:
isn't it common (clinical) sense?
- If we agree this is common sense, are we
undermining our students' intelligence?
- Or...

Our students not as tough as those folks in the old days??





To me...

- our students are as bright as (if not brighter than) we were.
- What has gone wrong?



Reading Club

HKUL

《港孩：父母教師的噩夢》 "Kong Kids: A Nightmare for Parents and Teachers"

Speaker : Ms Wong Ming Lok 黃明樂女士

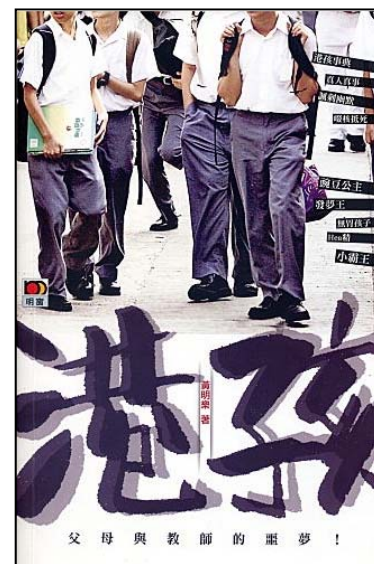
Moderator : Professor Lui Tai Lok 呂大樂教授 (Dept of Sociology, HKU)

Date : 4 February 2010 (Thursday)

Time : 7:15 pm - 9:00 pm

Venue : Special Collections, 1/F, Main Library, The University of Hong Kong

Language : Cantonese (Simultaneous Interpretation to English)



"Kong Kids: A Nightmare for Parents and Teachers"

《港孩：父母教師的噩夢》

Sub-headings that outline parents' wrongdoing:

Easy availability of information

Easy availability of opportunity (for example, to learn)

Help them to reduce stress

Help them to memorize less

Fail to allow them to be independent

Fail to exercise discipline...

**Does it
sound
familiar?**



Don't be paranoia!

- We have nothing to do with those spoiled students!
 - Some of our students may be spoiled, as a result of their parents and secondary school education, before they get into the university
 - **But... are we perpetuating the problem?**

Pendulum:

From one extreme to another?

Old curriculum

Floating organic
life form

New curriculum

Customer





Dear colleagues...

- our new curriculum is no doubt a major achievement, but...
- are we overdoing?
- are we hindering their maturation and independence?
- are we doing a bad thing with our good intention?

Beneath the Wheel 《車輪下》 1906

by Hermann Hesse (赫曼·赫塞)

“This novel expresses Hesse’s criticism of the German educational system of 100 years ago, but I could easily see a similar story set in the US of today.” Anonymous critique

The teachers sighed, "How could a brilliant student turn into a mess like this ?"

Pointing his hand to those teachers, the shoemaker at a corner told his friends, "*They* are the ones who made the mess."

