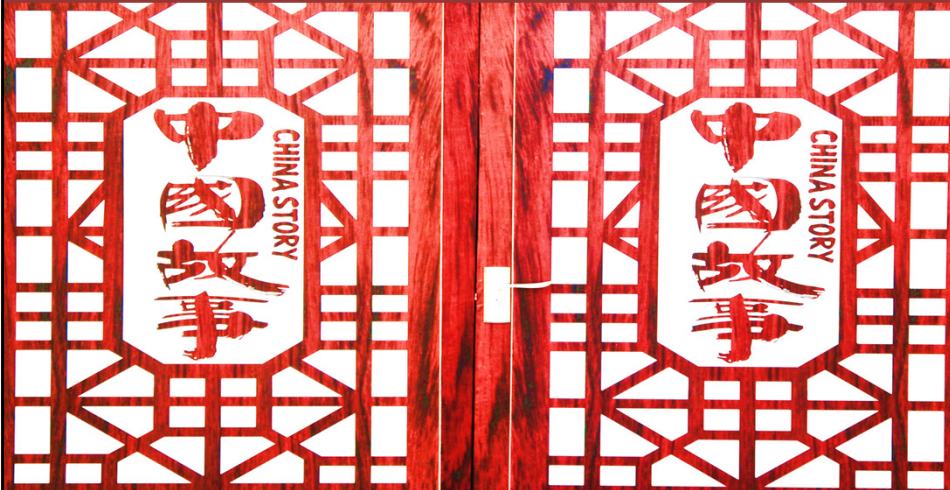




Building a Knowledge Base from the Inside



QIAN Haiyan

Asia Leadership Roundtable 2015

Emerging Asia as new 'reference societies'?

- **Asian Century** - 'Europe was the past, the US is the present and a China-dominated Asia the future of the global economy' (Financial Times, 22 September 2003).
- **PISA-shock** – 'Looking East' (Stellan & Lingard, 2013).
- **New 'reference societies'** (Schriewer and Martinez, 2004) – **Policy learning and borrowing.**





An Inadequate Knowledge Base

- The English-language publications about school principalship in China published between 1998 and 2013 (Walker & Qian, forthcoming).

Type	1998-2002	2003-2007	2008 - 2013	Total
Journal	6	11	22	39
Book chapters	3	3	12	18
Total	9	14	33	57

Can the 57 papers provide adequate indigenous understandings about principalship in China?

The Structure

- Who are knowledge actors?
- What comprises of knowledge?
- How is knowledge produced and disseminated?



Pitfalls

- Binary/dichotomized lens
- Insufficient complexities and nuances
- Conformity of research conventions

Puzzles

- Cost vs. benefit
- Culture-common vs. culture-specific
- Looking outwards vs. looking inwards

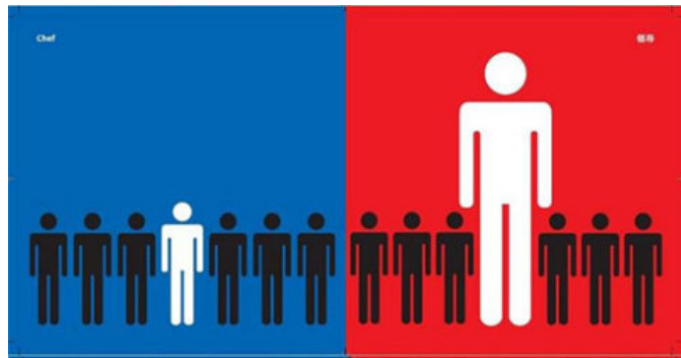
Promises

- Expanding actors
- Diverse forms of knowledge
- Multiple platforms to get Asia heard



The Pitfalls

- Viewed from a binary/dichotomized lens



The Pitfalls

- Insufficient complexities and nuances

The concepts we use to define and understand the patterns of power and influence – such as ‘centralized’ and ‘decentralized’, ‘autonomy’, ‘top-down, bottom-up’, and even ‘steering from a distance’ – are **increasingly under-powered and imprecise heuristic tools** (Tan & Dimmock, 2014).





The Pitfalls

- Conformity of research conventions



The Puzzles

- **Cost vs. benefit**
- Writing and publishing in English is preferred and rewarded.
- There is higher recognition of quality of English papers.
- The benefit may not match the cost.





The Puzzles

- Culture-common vs. culture-specific



長相學教
 孔子
 二千九百
 年
 十一月
 二十
 日
 畫

Teach LEARN

The Puzzles

- Looking outward vs. looking inwards

24 November 2014, 6:13am AEDT

'Chalk and talk' teaching might be the best way after all

AUTHOR
 Kevin Donnelly
 Senior Research Fellow - School of Education at Australian Catholic University

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
 Dr Kevin Donnelly was recently commissioned by the Commonwealth Government to review the Australian national curriculum.

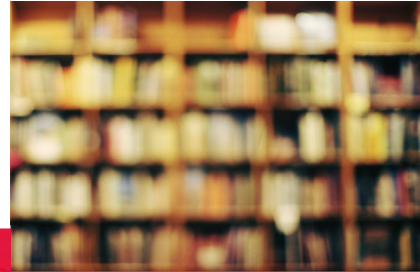
New age ways of teaching where the children guide their learning rather than the teacher are perhaps not as effective. [View full article](#)

ACU



The Promises

- Expanding actors
- Increasing international interest
- More returning overseas-trained researchers



Strong Performers and Successful Reformers in Education
LESSONS FROM PISA FOR THE UNITED STATES

Education in the Asia-Pacific Region: Status, Education and Prospects, 2015
Charlotte Tan

Learning from Shanghai
Lessons on Achieving Educational Success

SURPASSING SHANGHAI
An Agenda for American Education Built on the World's Leading Systems
EDITOR
MARC S. TUCKER
FOREWORD
LINDA DARLING-HAMMOND

The Promises

- Diverse forms of knowledge



Chenshan School



The Promises

- **Multiple platforms to get Asia heard**

- Are our voices heard?
- Are our voices worth listening?
- Are we reaching deeper understandings?
- What will be the next step?



What we can do

- **Lessons drawn from Chinese orchestra**





What we can do together

- The 'global eye' and the 'national eye' are interdependent and complementary

