



The Dynamics of Teacher Professionalism in an Asian Context

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"Any study of the success of schools, must focus attention on the role and practices of their teachers. How should we understand the work of the teacher? One important dynamic is the notion of teacher professionalism.

Sociological discourse about professionalism and the state can go some way in helping us to understand the contemporary condition of teachers as professionals (Whitty 2002), but rather than asking whether the teaching profession lives up to some supposed ideal, of what professionals do, this paper accepts the notion that professionalism is an ever changing condition, a shifting phenomenon (Hanlon 1998) and an expression of what the community hold to be true at the time. The dynamics of teacher professionalism is an exploration of the characteristics of teaching as an occupation in present Hong Kong. The purpose of the paper is to provide insight into the work, role and perceptions of teachers and the expectations held of teachers in an Asian jurisdiction."