

Marden Professional Development Program: Enhancing Social Competence for Supporting Effective Learning in Schools

*Presented by the Department of Educational Psychology
Counselling and Learning Needs*



Enhancing social competence through teacher and counselor training

Speaker: Associate Professor Anita Mak

Learners from culturally diverse backgrounds, such as international and new migrant students, can benefit academically and emotionally from developing competence in interpersonal interactions in an unfamiliar educational environment. This seminar draws on the speaker's work on providing theory-driven Sociocultural Competency Train-the-Trainer Courses to teachers and counselors, to enable them to use a structured approach incorporating practical strategies and tools to provide students with micro skills training in key social competencies. Program evaluation conducted in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, shows that trained teachers and counselors were successful in applying the training to increase the social interaction skills and cross-cultural social confidence of not only international and migrant students, but also local-born students and shy learners.

Anita Mak is Associate Professor of Applied Psychology at the University of Canberra, Australia. She has published extensively on cultural competence, students' psychosocial adjustment, and acculturation of migrants and international students. She has designed and delivered professional training courses on diversity education and culturally responsive professional practice. She is a co-developer of the award winning EXCELL (Excellence in Cultural Experiential Learning and Leadership) Program, which has been introduced into over 80 educational institutions in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Europe.

<p>Date: Tuesday 10 June Time: 16:30-18:00 Venue: D1-LP-08 Hong Kong Institute of Education</p>

Reservations and enquiries: To register, please contact Fiona Lam via email (fional@ied.edu.hk) with details of participant's name and organization. For further information, please visit our web site (<http://www2.ied.edu.hk/fpece/fics/>)

2008 Marden Program:

27 May (Tue) 16:30-18:00	Richard Rose – <i>Enhancing social competence of learners by using learning mentors</i>	10 June (Tue) 16:30-18:00	Anita Mak – <i>Enhancing social competence through teacher and counselor training</i>
23 September (Tue) 16:30-18:00	Claire Egan – <i>Enhancing social competence of learners with ASD</i>	28 October (Tue) 16:30-18:00	Shane Phillipson – <i>Enhancing social competence of high ability learners</i>