

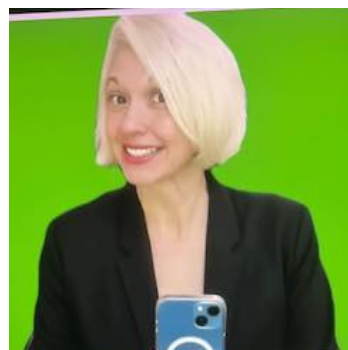


COMPARATIVE EDUCATION SOCIETY OF HONG KONG (CESHK)
香港比較教育學會

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members,

Looking back, it was nearly one year ago that we held our [2024 Annual Conference](#) at The University of Hong Kong (HKU). Since then, our Executive Committee has been hard at work planning our next big event. As I wrote in my last letter in February, we decided to change the timing for our next Conference. A few factors have gone into making this change. First, we know that this November may not be ideal for some colleagues planning to attend the Comparative Education Society of Asia Conference, which is held every other year in different parts of Asia. In addition, in reviewing our [Constitution](#), we recalled our past tradition to hold our events in January or February, which are nice months in Hong Kong. Thus, **our next Conference will be held February 7-8, 2026**. It will be a joint Conference of CESHK and the Education University of Hong Kong's Master of Arts in Global Studies in Education. The call for papers is [online](#) now.



Our Conference theme this year is 'Conflict and comparison: How and why do we disagree?' Debates, disagreements, and differences in view are nothing new in comparative education. In one sense, they reflect a healthy field, where diversity can be valued and yield new insights. Yet how we can productively manage conflict interpersonally within the field is worth further reflection. Can we agree to disagree—or are some differences not just irreconcilable, but intolerable? New debates related to disciplinary, cultural, political, and geographical divides encourage us to reflect deeply upon whether we share a set of values, about diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice; about civility in dialog and intellectual argumentation; and about peer review and tolerance of different views, methodologies, and approaches.

While not all submissions need to focus on this theme, this year's Conference will be selective in identifying well-prepared submissions that speak to the theme and other vital issues in the field of comparative and global studies in education. This is another way we are changing our Conference this year: Instead of offering a broad programme, we are seeking deep engagement. We hope through developing a collaborative approach and attunement of all to common themes, participants can find their engagement enlightening and constructive.

This collaborative, dialogical deepening approach is also reflected in the way our Keynotes will be conducted this year. Instead of asking our Keynotes to address whatever they like, we have hand-selected Keynotes based on their research focus. **Professor Duck-Joo Kwak** (Seoul National University) and **Professor Daniel Bell** (University of Hong Kong) are philosophers by training who have considered virtues and values related to communication, cultural difference, and knowledge production across global locations throughout their world-spanning careers. **Professor Karen Pashby** (Manchester Metropolitan University) has expertise in global citizenship education also shaped by work across multiple continents. **Professor Jack Lee** (University of Glasgow) confronts identity and diversity in comparative education in his work.

Moreover, the focus on deep engagement will be reflected in the style of Keynotes. Instead of inviting each scholar to speak individually, the four Keynotes will speak in two sessions in a dialogical manner. Rather than throwing all sorts of disconnected ideas up in the air, our Keynotes are tasked with developing their thoughts together. Our Keynotes will in this sense model some of the ideas at the heart of the Conference, as they engage in constructive dialog.

This year's Conference will again be held at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Education. However, as previously mentioned, we will partner as organizers with our colleagues at the Education University of Hong Kong Department of Education Policy and Leadership, reflecting our long-term inter-institutional collaborative relationship.

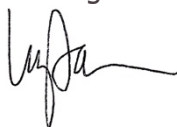
Taking stock of what worked and what did not work last year, we are anticipating a smaller Conference and programme this year. Logistically, it is difficult to provide catering to more than 100 people in our campus venues. This year, attendees will enjoy a high-quality sit-down Chinese lunch at our Senior Common Room Ming Pavillion as well as a fully catered drinks and canapes Reception at Café 1951, with beautiful views of western Hong Kong Island and the harbour. While our registration and membership fees remain on the low side, they have been raised slightly this year (HKD 1,000 for regular members and HKD 700 for students and others) to align with increased costs. This year, in addition to paper and panel sessions, we will offer a limited number of poster sessions. Students from local universities who want to attend sessions will be able to gain free registration for the purpose of connecting with Conference presenters. In addition, there will be a small pre-conference programme for select attendees to workshop and prepare their papers on the Conference theme for journal publication.

A special thanks to the people working behind the scenes to make our Conference a success. This includes our Executive Committee: Vice-President Nutsa Kobakhidze, Secretary Gordon Tsui, Treasurer David Sorrell, and co-opted members Jeremy Rappleye and Jing Liu. Euan Auld, Paul Campbell, Tina Gao, Yingda Guo, Hugo Horta, Jisun Jung, Chi Ming Lam, Yvette Leung, Emily Mang, Renxiang Tian, and Ewan Wright are also on our Planning Committee.

While CESHK remains an open and friendly Society, we hope that this year's programme inspires rigorous scholarship in the field for colleagues at varied levels of academic development. Through a focused, high-quality programme, we aim to provide opportunities for new scholars and students to learn and join in. In addition, we are working to enhance our registration and payment systems so that things are easier this year for everyone.

Finally, we would love to encourage you to get involved. At our Conference Annual General Meeting, we will hold an election for all four Executive Committee roles. As per our [Constitution](#), after the election, the new Committee members elect amongst themselves, for two-year terms, the roles of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. While it is great for people to take on a sustained role, for example by serving as Vice-President and then as President, the Society also benefits from new colleagues taking on leadership. So if you are interested in learning more, feel free to contact us and get involved. Maybe you don't feel ready to become Treasurer next year, but we can always use more support. We can also co-opt new members, who then move on to more formal roles in the future.

Thanks again for your support of CESHK. See you in February!



Liz Jackson President
Comparative Education Society of Hong Kong