

Online Research Seminar

Is “Ethnic Minority” a Wicked Term? Navigating Pluralistic Identities of Diverse Population Groups in Asia’s World City

ILP : 1 UNIT (SEW)

 **20 January 2025 (Monday)**

 **4:30pm to 5:30pm (HKT)**

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Jan Gube is Assistant Professor at the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Assistant Dean (International Engagement) of the Faculty of Education and Human Development at The Education University of Hong Kong. He also serves as Managing Editor of *Intercultural Education* and sits on editorial boards of *Cogent Education* and *Belonging*.

Jan's passion is supporting schools and civil society in leveraging cultural diversity to foster equitable and caring learning environments. His recent research has appeared in journals such as *Culture & Psychology*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Identities*, and *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Studies and Pedagogy*, *Culture & Society*. He has also published two co-edited books, including *Education, Ethnicity and Equity in the Multilingual Asian Context* (Springer, 2019) and *Identities, Practices and Education of Evolving Multicultural Families in Asia-Pacific* (Routledge, 2022).

Jan obtained a PhD from the University of Tasmania and later received the Outstanding Postgraduate Thesis Award by the International Education Association of Australia. In 2019, he received the International Travel Award from the International Relations Committee of American Educational Research Association. In 2022, he is also a co-recipient of Certificate of Merit of Caring Teacher Award Scheme in the Faculty of Education and Human Development, The Education University of Hong Kong.

Abstract:

“Ethnic minority” has emerged to be a controversial term to describe Hong Kong’s diverse populace. Concerns arounds this term often point to its risks in exacerbating oversimplified and stereotypical understanding of non-Chinese groups, which undermines the city’s diverse and rich cultural tapestry. In this seminar, I will discuss the notion of *category conundrum* to explain the challenges in escaping from labels that identify culturally “other” groups. I will then draw on my work to show how young people can simultaneously identify as Hong Kong-ers and embrace their cultural roots. Attending to the ascriptions to these hyphenated identities, I suggest, is integral to questioning our uninformed assumptions and stereotypes about people whom are culturally more distant from us. I will discuss some strategies for navigating pluralistic identities that foster intercultural understanding. I will close by posing some questions for analysts to consider some research avenues that probe the use of ethnic labels in Hong Kong’s public discourse.

Zoom link:

<https://lingnan.zoom.us/j/98924264658?pwd=faaJmbatZ0a6Uje5OKl8cLTIHaQaQg.1>

Meeting ID: 989 2426 4658

Passcode: 44082012

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