

Project Title: A Study of Provincial-level Implementation of Citizenship Education Policy in China

Research Team:

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Abstract:

This project will investigate the process by which Chinese provincial educational administrators plan the implementation of central government-formulated policy guidelines on citizenship education in a societal context of educational decentralization and flexible policy implementation. Through documentary analysis and interviews with provincial educational administrators this project will examine what central guidelines advise about citizenship education, how provincial-level implementation plans are formulated, the extent to which administrators perceive discretion in implementation, and to what extent there is variation in citizenship education implementation among different provinces. The research highlights and aims to provide a deeper understanding of the question of where the limits of educational decentralization lie when the question of national social and ideological cohesion is at issue.

Objectives: To answer the following questions:

Stage 1 (January to June 2006)

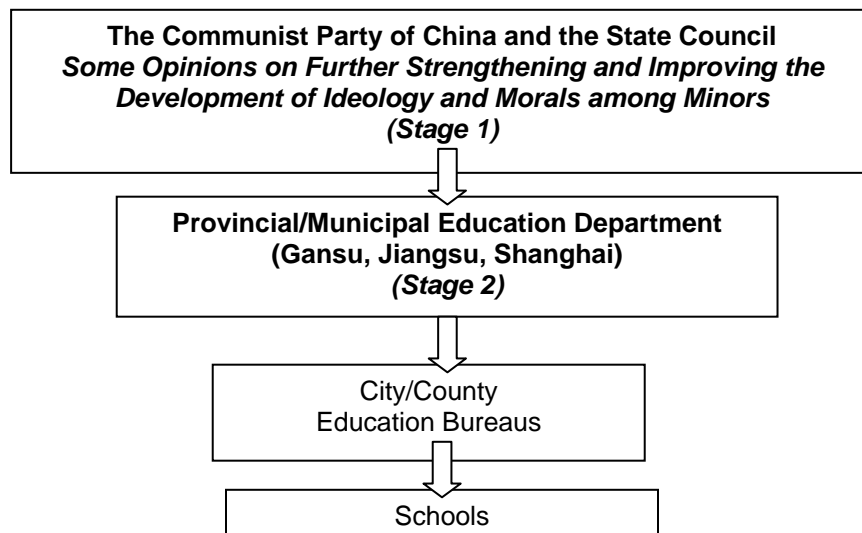
- What do central government policy guidelines advise about implementing citizenship education?

Stage 2 (July 2006 to December 2007)

- What is the process by which provincial-level administrators formulate plans to implement centrally-formulated citizenship education policy guidelines and what are the products of this process?
- In what ways is there diversity in the implementation process and product among provinces?

Project Duration: 1/1/2006 to 31/12/2007

Theoretical/Conceptual Framework: (preferably in Figures)



Research Methods & Activities:

- Documentary survey and analysis
- Interviews with Provincial Education Department administrators

Highlights of Major Findings:

At the Central policy level (Stage 1):

- Broadening of citizenship education discussions beyond patriotism
- Increasing attention to the individual
- Increasing attention to issues of legality, rights, interests, and civic consciousness

At the Provincial level of implementation (initial findings from Stage 2):

- Prescriptions for implementation
- Detailed directives and guidelines on implementation
- Descriptions of implementation

Research Outputs and Other Publications:

- Fairbrother, Gregory P., Guest Ed. and Trans. 2006. "Citizenship Education Policy since 1994." *Chinese Education and Society* 39 (2).
- Fairbrother, Gregory P. 2005. "Discursive Gestures in Chinese Citizenship Education Policy Implementation." Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society, Stanford, USA.
- Fairbrother, Gregory P. 2005. "Raising a New Generation of Patriots: Patriotism in the Eyes of Chinese Educators and Students." Working Paper No. 14, Department of Government and International Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University.
- Fairbrother, Gregory P. 2004. "Patriotic Education in a Chinese Middle School." Pp. 157-174 in W.O. Lee, David L. Grossman, Kerry J. Kennedy, and Gregory P. Fairbrother, Eds. *Citizenship Education in Asia and the Pacific: Concepts and Issues*. Hong Kong: Comparative Education Research Centre, the University of Hong Kong and Dordrecht, Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Fairbrother, Gregory P. 2004. "Citizenship Education in a Divided China, 1949-1995." *Asia Pacific Journal of Education* 24:29-42
- Fairbrother, Gregory P. 2003. *Toward Critical Patriotism: Student Resistance to Political Education in Hong Kong and China*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. 218 pp. (Reviewed in *The China Quarterly*, *China Journal*, *International Review of Education*, and *Contemporary Sociology*)
- Fairbrother, Gregory P. 2003. "The Effects of Political Education and Critical Thinking on Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese University Students' National Attitudes." *British Journal of Sociology of Education* 24:605-620.
- Fairbrother, Gregory P. 2003. "Perspectives on the Shaping of the Citizenship Education Curriculum in Greater China." *Curriculum Perspectives* 23:34-46.

The project will:

- Answer scholars' calls for more research into policy implementation issues at the provincial level and inter-provincial variation
- Expand on existing research into Chinese citizenship education
- Contribute to the body of knowledge and debate about central-local relations and policy implementation at the place where the ideological interests of the state meet with demands for autonomy of the locality.