

Teaching About Climate Change For Environmental Citizenship – Are We Up To Task?

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Chair: **Dr Winston Chow**
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Abstract

What type of education contributes to the development of environmentally literate citizens who can take strategic action on climate change issues? While Singapore has embraced the findings of climate scientists and pledged action at the state level, the question remains if schools are preparing Singapore's youth adequately for environmental citizenship by developing the knowledge, competences and values to take strategic and informed action on climate change.

In this presentation, I draw from the fields of environmental education and citizenship education to advance a framework for climate change education (CCE) in order to analyze the affordances and limitations of the CCE curriculum in Singapore. Using textual analyses of CCE-related documents and materials, as well as interviews with school teachers, I suggest that an apolitical curriculum focused largely on the provision of scientific knowledge is inadequate in developing students' awareness of the social, economic and political complexities of climate change, and in preparing youths to act as knowledgeable and empowered environmental citizens. I also discuss the limitations of teaching about climate change within traditional school subjects such as geography and science, and underscore the importance of clarifying and interrogating the basic assumptions and values that underpin school CCE curricula.



About the Speaker

Dr. Tricia Seow is a Lecturer with the Humanities and Social Studies Education Academic Group, National Institute of Education, Singapore, where she is the Curriculum Studies co-ordinator for Geography education. Her research interests include teachers' and students' knowledge and attitudes towards climate change, geography teachers' subject knowledge and professional identities, and the efficacy of field-based inquiry teaching in geography. She is the Honorary-General Secretary for the Southeast Asia Geography Association, a Core Team Member of the Geography Subject Chapter in Singapore, and a member of the International Geography Olympiad Fieldwork Task Force. She has 18 years' experience in the field of geography education, and has conducted workshops and courses for teachers in Singapore, Brunei and Pakistan.

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