



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Conference on K-Education Revisited: Achievements and Challenges of Korean Education

August 15, 2023

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

Organizer:

Soo-yong Byun, Professor of Education, Demography, and Asian Studies, The Pennsylvania State University;
Visiting Professor, Department of Education, Ewha Womans University

During the past seven decades, South Korea has experienced the dramatic expansion of educational opportunities across all levels of education ranging from primary to tertiary education. In this process, South Korea has achieved relatively high levels of educational excellence and equality despite the lack of public funding. Moreover, South Korea's qualified human resources are thought to play a significant role in its economic development. In this regard, Korean education, namely *K-education*, has in recent years gained much attention from many educational researchers and policymakers around the world. In South Korea, however, K-education has been severely criticized, rather than being praised, for a highly competitive school setting and heavy reliance on private supplementary education (also known as shadow education), which are thought to undermine the development of creative manpower for the 4th industrial revolution. How can we reconcile these contrasting views on K-education?

To address this issue, this conference is designed to provide a unique opportunity to bring together prominent scholars to revisit the strengths and weaknesses of all levels of K-education more objectively from an international comparative perspective. More specifically, the conference will feature both theoretical and empirical studies addressing issues including but not limited to (1) roles of education in economic development, (2) roles of educational policy in educational excellence and (in)equality, (3) the roles of family, school, and shadow education in student learning and wellbeing, and (4) educational achievement gaps among children from diverse backgrounds (e.g., socioeconomic status, gender, and region). Topics will cover all levels of education ranging from early childhood education to adult education as well as various subfields of education including but not limited to teacher education, higher education, curriculum and instruction, educational psychology, educational technology, and human resource development. The papers to be presented at the conference will offer important insights into not only the secret of success of K-education but also the challenges that it faces. The conference organizer plans to publish an edited volume or a special journal issue with papers presented in the conference. Conference presenters are expected to be committed to the plan for publication with their submitted papers for the conference. The tentative time line is:

- o Extended abstract (about 1,000 words) due: March 1, 2023
- o Notification of accepted abstracts: by March 15, 2023
- o Full manuscript (for accepted abstracts only) due: July 30, 2023
- o Conference: August 15, 2023
- o Revised manuscript (for invited papers only) due: November 30, 2023

Please email your extended abstract and CV to Soo-yong Byun (szb14@psu.edu) by March 1, 2023. The submitted abstract should be based on original research: It has not been published before and is not under consideration for publication anywhere else.

For the invited participants to the conference, some of the travel expenses, including airfare (i.e. up to \$500 for domestic travel within US and up to \$1,000 for international travel), lodging (up to two nights), and meals will be covered. If you have additional questions, please contact Soo-yong Byun at the email address above.

This conference is funded by The Academy of Korean Studies (AKS-2023-C-006).