



# Equal Access and the Right to Education: Where the Medium is the Means and the End

## Speakers Include:

**Fernand de Varennes**, Visiting Scholar, Peking University Faculty of Law, Research Professor, International Observatory on Language Rights, Université de Moncton, Canada. Dr. de Varennes is one of the world's leading legal experts on language rights and was awarded the 2004 Linguapax Award in acknowledgement of his work in the field of linguistic diversity and multilingual education.

**Lam Woon-kwong**, Chairperson, Hong Kong Equal Opportunities Commission

**David Pimentel**, Associate Professor, Florida Coastal School of Law

**Mable Chan**, Education Bureau, HKSAR Government

**Fermi Wong**, Hong Kong UNISON

**Puja Kapai**, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong

**Kelley Loper**, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong

**Friday, 9 December 2011, 2:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Theatre 7, Meng Wah Complex**

**The University of Hong Kong**

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This seminar will consider international legal standards which require equality of opportunity in education for minority and immigrant students and their relevance to the Hong Kong context. Speakers will reflect on the current situation facing ethnic minority students in the Hong Kong education system with a focus on Chinese language learning, debates about the need for a “Chinese as a second language” curriculum, the impact of designated schools which cater to the needs of minority students, and the possible relevance of the Race Discrimination Ordinance. Speakers will discuss reports that the Hong Kong education system is failing ethnic minority students in these areas as well as possible legal and policy responses which can best ensure equal access to education and language learning opportunities.

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Please email Flora Leung at [fkleung@hku.hk](mailto:fkleung@hku.hk) to reserve a place.