出國報告(出國類別:學術研討會)

成長與全球緊縮:比較全球青年機會、企圖心與公民價值

服務機關:中正大學師資培育中心

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摘要

師資培育中心林永豐教授參與英國倫敦大學學院教育研究院舉辦之學術研討會,主題為「成長與全球緊縮:比較全球青年機會、企圖心與公民價值」。會議中宣讀論文「變遷青年之生涯機會:一個世代流動的觀點」,並與全球各國研究者廣泛互動,取得與世界級研究中心合作機會,聯合申請蔣經國國際學術交流基金會研究計畫(已進行先導性研究),未來可望能深化對此主題之瞭解,貢獻教育學術之發展。

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壹、 參與會議之目的

參與本次研討會之目的包括兩方面,首先是與世界頂尖研究中心建立合作關係,其次是深入探究當前世界各國青年成長過程所面的機會與挑戰。以下分別說明。

(一) 與世界頂尖研究中心建立合作關係

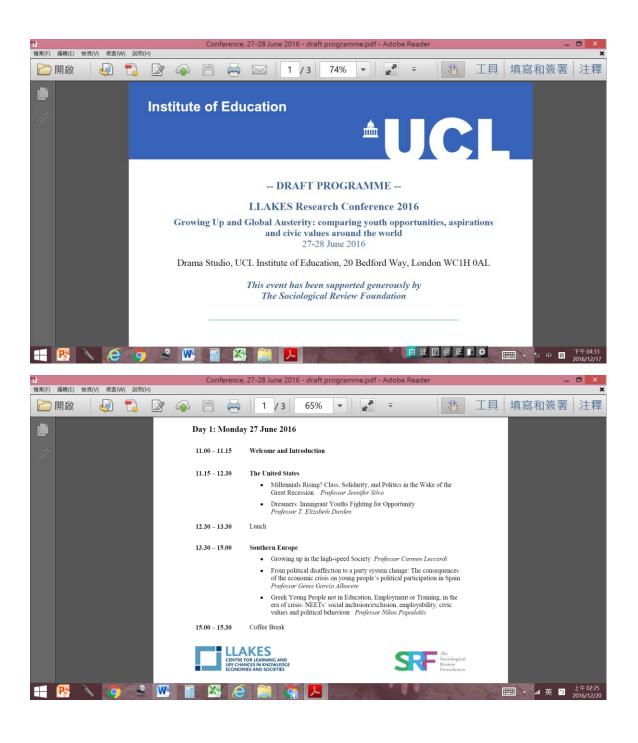
本次舉辦會議之單位為英國倫敦大學學院教育研究院(UCL Institute of Education),該學院為英國首屈一指的教育研究重鎮。在過去數年來本校教育學院教師與 Andy Green 教授素有往來, Green 教授目前是「知識經濟與社會學習與生命機會中心」(Centre of Learning and Life Chances in Knowledge Economies and Societies, LLAKES)(http://www.llakes.ac.uk/)的主任,接受英國經濟與社會研究委員會(Economic and Social Research Council, ESRC)補助,進行廣泛社會經濟議題研究,甚受全球學界重視,本次受邀參與學術研討會,利於建立跨國合作關係。

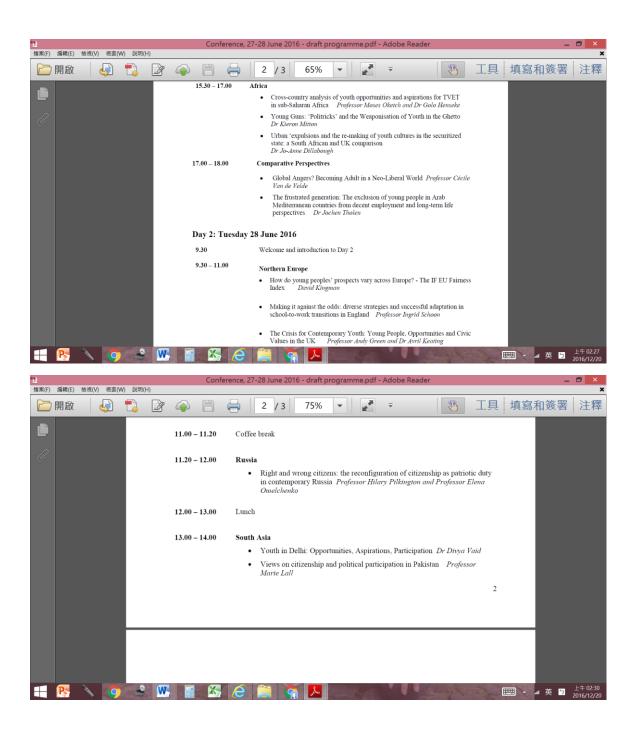
(二)探究世界各國青年面臨的機會與挑戰

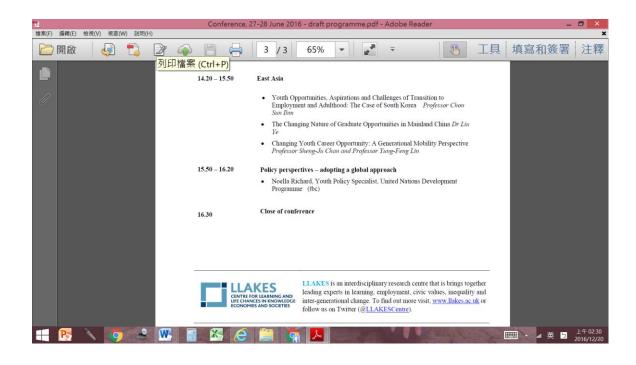
隨著全球化浪潮興起,各國內部也日益對立與分化。其中經常被探討與提及的主題之一,即是青年人所面臨的挑戰,包括教育成本遽增、勞動力市場緊縮,以及城市居住受限等。當前年輕人成長過程迥異於傳統的理論與情境,到底青年如何在新的社會經濟結構下,逐步開展人生與職業生涯,成為各方研究的焦點。參加本次會議,能夠在兩天的時間中,窺探本主題的全貌,並且提供臺灣之實徵證據,提供各國參考。

貳、 參與過程

本次參與人員尚包括教育學研究所詹盛如教授,但因家庭因素最終未能成行。林永豐教授單獨參與會議,並且負責報告兩人合作之論文,主題為「變遷青年之生涯機會:一個世代流動的觀點」(Changing Youth Career Opportunity: A Generational Mobility Perspective),符合本次會議的主軸。會議在6月27日與28日舉行,地點在倫敦大學學院教育研究院的 Drama Studio 舉辦,會議主題為Growing Up and Global Austerity: Comparing youth opportunities, aspirations and civic values around the world,本次會議也獲得「社會學評論基金會」(The Sociological Review Foundation)(https://www.thesociologicalreview.com/)的贊助。會議議程如下列所示:







事實上,這個會議主題源自該中心(LLAKES)的核心主軸之一:「當代青年人的危機:青年人、機會與公民價值」(The Crisis for Contemporary Youth: Young People, Opportunities and Civic Values)。本主題獲得世界各國的廣泛注意,從上面的議程可以發現,這是個全球性的議題,發表人橫跨各國代表,包括美國、南歐(西班牙、希臘)、非洲(次撒哈拉非洲、南非)、阿拉伯與地中海國家、北歐、英國、俄羅斯、南亞(德里、巴基斯坦)、東亞(韓國、中國、臺灣),總計將近20個國家。當中也包含聯合國開發計畫署的全球觀點(UNDP global perspective),這些安排是主辦單位精心佈局,達成先進與開發中國家、北方與南方,以及東方與西方國家平衡,塑造對話與多元視角,甚至切入聯合國整全的專業參照點。

在東亞國家中,韓國、中國與臺灣是這次會議的焦點所在,三個國家主題都精準的圍繞在青年/大學畢業生的機會或轉銜至成年生活的本質轉變,從貫時分析的角度(longitudinal perspective)探討不同時代是否有不同的發展機會,三篇文章透過量化與質性資料,分析差異的世代發展機會。林永豐教授的發表內容摘要請參考附件一。

參、 心得與建議:

(一)年輕人就業機會與發展日益:西方趨勢與東亞現象

隨著新自由主義與全球化的興起,世界紛紛採取開放的自由貿易政策,舉 凡人才、資金、貨品、理念、流行文化與價值,都可輕易的跨越國界,進入他國 疆界範疇。與此同時,因為勞力的全球重新分工、資本日益集中在跨國公司手中, 年輕人雖然具有更高的學歷與流動可能性,但仍存在某些陷阱。例如:臺灣的研 究發現,資方可能採取「壓低成本」(cost-down)的策略來聘用員工,或者是讓「職 銜名稱膨脹」(job title inflation),藉以籠絡大學畢業生,讓他們空有響亮抬頭,卻缺乏實質收入回饋,當然這些都須要進一步的研究,驗證假設的正確性。

(二) 參與世界級會議之經驗

世界級的研究中心的確有過人的視野與格局,在探討與規劃主題時,有全球的格局與洞察,同時在人選的挑選與參與,也有嶄新的智識涵養。參與這類型學術會議,除了能夠快速融入國際團隊中,也能有效協助參與者提升研究能量,對學者而言相當有助益,宜多多參加。

(三)後續合作機會

由於本次東亞地區發表主題集中,議題相仿,彼此產生共鳴與興趣,會後約定一起根據 LLAKES 的研究架構,初步擬定以華人地區為範圍,團隊也已經進行先導性研究(問卷如附件三),隨後向蔣經國國際學術交流基金會(http://www.cckf.org/zh)投遞申請研究,主題為「大學畢業生生涯變遷的本質:台灣、香港與中國大陸之比較研究」(Changing Nature of Graduate Opportunities in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Mainland China),預計明年6月公布申請結果。

(四)投稿

本次發表論文「變遷青年之生涯機會:一個世代流動的觀點」(Changing Youth Career Opportunity: A Generational Mobility Perspective)獲得正面的肯定,在方法論上採用邏輯斯回歸分析,能看出跨世代的相對機會,對於社會流動也有所啟示。預計明年3年完成稿件撰寫後,投稿至相關的期刊,進一步深入此議題。

附件一 發表內容摘要:

Changing Youth Career Opportunities: A Generational Mobility Perspective

Due to the changing social, demographic, economic and educational structures, young generations across the global are facing difficulties in the areas of education, labour market, and even housing. In East Asia, with the greater widening access to higher education, there has been a major concern with respect to growing unemployment rate, unstable job career and income inequality among university graduates. Youth has to fight for the changing opportunity structures so as to move onto the stable career and upward to traditional middle class. Receiving higher education tends to be regarded as having better chance being in a professional position. However, the greater global and regional division of labor and economic reconfiguration has plagued the prospects of youth career opportunity over the past years. It is against this wider context that this study using Taiwan as a case will examine whether different generations of youth have faced various career opportunity structures. This article aims to explore the relative odds of youth with associate and higher degrees being mobilized to professional and semi-professional positions through longitudinal analysis. We will use logistic regression as statistical technique to calculate the different odds of various age cohorts (benchmarked with generation of 1970-1974). The timeframe is between 1994 and 2014 with five year as interval. The results can shed lights on whether earlier generations enjoy better chance at upward occupational mobility or not. If the findings are positive (i.e. earlier generations do have higher chance at upward mobility), this might partially explain why youth has shown their distrust and dissatisfaction on current political structure and wants to bring greater social justice back to Taiwan in general. Moreover, these findings also can bring some implications to other East Asian countries where similar trends are taking place.

Keywords: global youth, career mobility, changing opportunity structure, generational mobility

附件二:會議宣傳海報



Preliminary Result of Pilot Study in Taiwan

I. Research design and methods

This pilot study aims to collect young people's perceptions and attitudes towards some major issues such as housing, career development, immigrant/foreign worker, intergenerational opportunity structure and life etc. The total sampled youth are 181 and ranges from year 22 to 32 (born between 1984 and 1994) with diverse backgrounds. Our pilot survey includes 14 basic questions and other 35 main questions, please see following figures for details. We adopted an online survey platform (in Chinese) posting the information to invite qualified youth to fill in the survey. All well-filled respondents can receive a Taiwanese 100 dollar voucher as reward.

II. Descriptive analysis on the constituent respondents

There are 14 basic questions for respondents. Table 1 and Table 2 focus on the conditions of living arrangement. Up to 46% of respondents reported they stay with their parents right now while 14% still live in the student halls due to pursuing degrees. As to the ownership of property they stay, 40% in Table 2 suggested the house is owned outright while 32% stay in privately rented accommodation. Among investigated youth, 51% is working and 33% is in education (see Table 3). For those who are working, up to 85% is in full-time job while 88% in education is doing a course at university. In terms of the year of birth in Table 5, we see a rather equal distribution ranging from 4% in 1988 to 15% in 1994. Moreover, only 3% of all respondents have children.

Table 8 asks whether investigated youth are confident to find a new job which is as good as the current one. Only 42% replied positively while 34% reported 'don't know' suggesting they are not so optimistic with respect to job prospect in general. Table 9, 10 and 11 interrogate the qualifications and education that respondents and their parents retain. Overall, very high proportion of the respondent (96%), at least, have bachelor degree or higher. On the contrary, their parents retain rather diverse qualifications ranging from senior high school, associate degree, bachelor and even postgraduate degree. Youth generation exceed their parents with respect to receiving more education.

When it comes to parents' occupations, Table 12 and Table 13 suggest a quite complicated composition. Researchers will be able re-categorize them by level of skills and education so as to examine their impacts upon younger generations. Finally,

respondents are asked how many books they have in Table 14 and Table 15. Surprising, youth owned more books when they grew up than they have right now. Only 59% reported they have more 51 books in their home while, 67% replied that their parents or guardians have the same number of books when they grew up.

III. Preliminary results for the main questions

1. Perceptions towards having their own house: A serious problem

In general, young people were not so positive in terms of having their own houses. Only 54% of respondents confidently believe that they will be able to buy their houses in the long run (see table 1). At the same time, Table 2 shows that up to 42% young people worried that they might not be able to have their own house forever. This percentage is quit high. This is further confirmed by the statistic in Table 3 that around 37% worried of living in a rental house for the whole life. Moreover, among the investigated people, 61.3% expressed that they are not interesting in purchasing new house at the moment, suggesting that most of young generations have to buy their houses latter of the life.

2. Attitudes towards immigrants as neighbor and colleague: **Friendly but having problem with language barrier**

As the relevant tables has suggested, investigated young persons were welcome immigrants and believed that they can work or live together peacefully. However, the only concern is language barrier with foreigners. The majority of investigated persons (79% at Table 6) think that everyone in this island-state has equal right no matter where he/she was born here or not. However, for those who not born here, over 70% young people at Table 7 thought that they should learn Chinese. As to the attitudes towards neighbors (see Tables from 8 to 11), the overall information is consistent. Those interviewed youth were open-minded and friendly with those who from different ethnic group, religions, immigrants/workers or speaking various languages. Adopting the similar stance (see Tables from 12 to 15), they didn't think that colleagues come from different races, religious beliefs or immigrant/foreign workers would bother them (more 75% respondents). The only exception is colleagues speaking different languages. More than 40% respondent felt bothered if their colleague uses different language.

3. Attitudes towards immigrants to country: <u>Moderately support but with some</u> <u>concerns</u>

Asked whether immigrants would increase crime rate, more than one in five interviewees at Table 16 agreed this tendency while 70% didn't think this is correct. Though more than 50% agreed immigrants can contribute to the economic growth in Taiwan, about 22% don't think they are helpful and 13% simply replied 'don't know'. Moreover, 44.4% of young people agreed the immigrant to take jobs from Taiwanese people (see Table 18). In addition, 65% of respondents agreed immigrant can bring in new ideas and cultures improving Taiwan.

4. Perceptions of life and intergenerational opportunity: **Optimistic but with less opportunity structures than parent's generations**

The majorities of young persons investigated (at Table 20 and 21) were satisfied with their current life (75%) and agreed their life full of opportunity (81%). Among these respondents, 65% agreed that their jobs will be better than parents while up to 16% were not certain about the development (see Table 22). Similarly, Table 23 also demonstrates that 64% disagreed that they can't lead a better life than their parents. Though with positive attitude towards long-term prospect in life, quit high proportions of young people interviewed (67% at Table 24) agreed that 'my generation will have less opportunity than my parent's generation'. Taking a similar position, Table 25 has demonstrated up to 47% youth didn't think 'it is easier now for people like me to get on and improve things for themselves than it was for my parents'. This information suggests that young generations perceived much less opportunity structure than previous generations in current societies.

5. Perceptions of successful life: Balanced and instrumental approach

In this session, young respondents were asked to explore how important they think it is for getting ahead in life in relation to different factors. These various factors include a wealthy family, well-educated parents, receiving good education, having ambition, hard work, knowing the right people, race, religion and gender. The pilot result from Table 26 to Table 34 are varied by factors: a wealth family (77% agreed), well-educated parents (58%), receiving good education (93%), having ambition (95%), hard work (94%), knowing the right people (99%), race (around 23%), religion (less than 10%) and gender (around 25%). These variations highlight a fact that youth are firmly believe in personal-related factors and conditions followed by family backgrounds and a little bit race and gender issues. Moreover, their consideration are balanced but emphasize on some instrumental factor such as 'a wealth family' and 'knowing the right people' etc.

6. How to explain poverty: **Social injustice**

Respondents were asked to explain why there are people in this country who live in poverty. The answers to this phenomenon are as follows: because of injustice in our society (44%), it's an inevitable part of modern progress (27%), and because of laziness or lack of willpower (21%). Obviously, many young people believed social injustice play a major role.

7. The total scenarios: An ambivalent generation

These investigated youth have perceived a shrinking opportunity structures compared to their parents' generations. Though quite optimistic about their jobs and future, they were seriously concerned with the possibility of having their own house in the long time. At the same time, they were friendly to immigrants and foreign workers and thought these new residents can contribute to this island-state economically and socially. But they were still worried about these immigrants taking jobs from nationals. In responding to the 'unjust society', Taiwanese youth rather have firm belief in better personal enhancement such as good education, ambition, hard work and knowing right people so as to succeed in their life and career.