

## EPL Research Seminar

### Inquiry learning in a special education setting: Managing the cognitive loads of intellectually disabled students

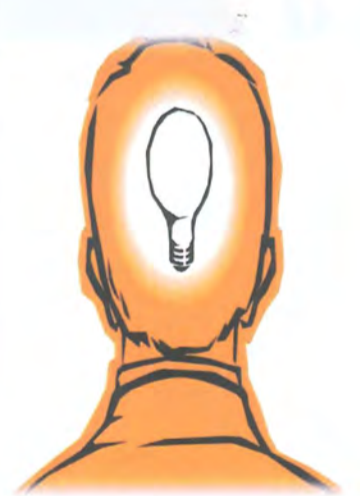
**Speaker:** Dr. Lee Tai Hoi Theodore  
**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2015 (Wednesday)  
**Time:** 12:30-13:30  
**Venue:** D4-G-02

#### Abstract

This seminar reports on a study that investigated the use of inquiry learning (IL) approach for intellectually disabled (ID) students. It drew on findings from the trial lessons of 6 classes of ID students in a project developing an adapted General Studies Curriculum for ID students at primary level. Data analysis focused on examining how IL was employed for intellectually disabled students. Evidences were collected from lesson plans, video-taped teaching periods and post lesson reflection of teachers to identify teaching strategies of applying IL for ID students. These strategies, which were classified into seven aspects of concern, were put under scrutiny from the perspective of Cognitive Load Theory to uncover the foundation and effect of these strategies on enabling IL opportunities for ID students. The study concluded that teachers should take an active role to ensure the appropriate IL process to cater the students' learning needs so as to develop their fundamental skills for inquiry.

#### Speaker

**Dr. Lee Tai Hoi Theodore** is a Lecturer of the Department of Education Policy and Leadership. Theodore used to be a secondary school teacher for 10 years before leaving for New Zealand to complete his higher degree in education. He obtained a Master of Educational Leadership (First Honours) and his PhD from the University of Waikato, New Zealand. He is interested in the research about the development of middle leadership and professional development of teachers. In the past few years, he also engaged in a series of projects related to the development of adapted General Studies Curriculum for ID students.



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