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Prof. Xiu Cravens serves as the associate dean for international affairs at Peabody College of Education and Human Development, Vanderbilt University. She is also the co-director of Vanderbilt's U.S.-China Centre for Education and Culture. She has led Vanderbilt's institutional efforts in working with universities and institutions worldwide, particularly in the Asia-Pacific Region, in research, faculty and student exchange, and professional development for teachers and school administrators.

Prof. Cravens is an associate professor of the practice in education policy at Peabody's Department of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations. She teaches courses on topics of international K-12 education policy, education in the Asia Pacific, instructional leadership, teacher development, and research design and data analysis at the Department of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations. Her research interests focus on the analysis of educational reform policies that are particularly related to the organizational and cultural contexts of schools in the United States and other countries in the world. Her academic work has been devoted mainly to two areas: understanding the role of instructional leadership in a changing policy environment, and addressing the conceptual and methodological challenges of cross-cultural comparison and generalization in international education policy research. Recently, she led two grant-funded research studies on



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developing teacher capacity through distributed instructional leadership and collaborative inquiry in Shanghai and Tennessee. She has also participated in studies on charter school effects with the National Center on School Choice, the development and validation of the Vanderbilt Assessment of Leadership in Education® (the VAL-ED), and the cross-cultural validity and reliability of the VAL-ED in Chinese urban schools. She has authored or co-authored research articles that appear in academic journals such as the *Comparative Education Review*, *Educational Administration Quarterly*, *Journal of Educational Administration*, *the Elementary School Journal*, *Leadership and Policy in Schools*, and *American Journal of Education*.

Prof. Cravens grew up in Nanjing, China. She earned her B.A. in literature and linguistics from Peking University, her M.S. in communications from the University of Tennessee, and her Ph.D. in education policy from Vanderbilt University.

<http://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/bio/xiu-cravens>



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