

Participant Information Sheet

**Study title: A Comparative Analysis of Critical Thinking Courses in Western and Chinese Universities:
Identifying Potential Enhancements for Chinese Higher Education**

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Introduction

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. You can contact me by email if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take some time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this.

What is this study about?

I am interested in the factors that currently influence the teaching and assessment of critical thinking in Western universities. I am sending this survey to a selection of Western university teachers in Australia, Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom to better understand how they teach critical thinking courses, including the assessments they use. The findings of this research will then be contrasted with publicly available data on critical thinking courses offered in Chinese universities. Findings will be contrasted with an analysis of descriptions of Chinese universities' critical thinking courses. The research's purpose is to suggest potential improvements for critical thinking education in China, inspired by Western practices. This study has implications for educators, policymakers, and academics in both Western and Chinese contexts, informing future educational strategies and policies.

What are you asking me to do?

The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. Questions focus on teaching critical thinking, choices around course content and methods of teaching, who it is taught to, and what pedagogical techniques work well and not.

Participation is voluntary and optional. You will be asked to evidence clear agreement of consent to participate at the beginning of the survey using a tick box. You can choose to skip any questions you do not wish to answer. If you choose to exit the survey before submitting your complete responses I will **not** use the data you have provided to that point.

Confidentiality

Responses to this survey are anonymous. However, the researcher has a duty of care to report to the relevant authorities possible harm/danger to participant or others.

Data storage

During the study time period (until August 2024) the resulting data will be stored electronically in a password-protected location on a secure server accessible only to the researcher.

Data will be used by the research team for writing journal articles, conference papers and a PhD thesis. Deidentified data will be kept for 10 years after publication and may be re-used by other researchers. Requests for access to this data will be evaluated based on reasonable request to bona fide researchers, these researchers will need to meet GDPR requirements. After 10 years the data will be destroyed.

You can ask for a copy of the results of this study by contacting me after August 2024.

This project has been considered and approved by the College Research Ethics Committee.

If you would like details of any subsequent publications, outputs, or written summary of results, you can contact the researcher and supervisors of this research via email after December 2024:

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To pursue any complaint about the conduct of the research: contact the College of Social Sciences Ethics Lead socsci-ethics-lead@glasgow.ac.uk

Additional support

If answering any of these questions causes you distress, you can access the following services free of charge:

Canada: Mental Health Support (24/7) <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/mental-health-services/mental-health-get-help.html>

Australia: Lifeline (24/7) <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

US: Samaritans (24/7) <https://samaritanshope.org/our-services/24-7-helpline/>

UK: Samaritans (24/7) <https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/helplines-and-crisis-contacts>