

## Gifted Children

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# Big Country, Little Creativity - Creativity Research: A Rising Star in China

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Creativity has been a well researched topic in the western world, but that has not been the case in China. There have been two major stages in the history of creativity research in China. The first stage (1970's to mid-1990's) primarily focused on studying the relationship between intelligence and creativity. One of the conclusions is that there is a positive correlation between intelligence and creativity. High-level intelligence is necessary for creativity, and vice versa (Dong, 1993). In contrast to the first stage, the second stage (mid-1990s to present) concentrates more on investigating the nature of creativity, such as cognitive and neurocognitive mechanisms of creativity (Niu, 2006). Many studies indicate that creative personality and environmental factors (e.g., parents' educational level, educational quality) also have an important impact on creativity beyond intelligence (Hu, W.P., Lin, C.D., & Shen, J.L., 2003; Nie & Zheng, 2005). But researchers have yet to parse how creative personality, intelligence, and environmental factors interact and influence creativity. A new trend in creativity research in China is cross-cultural comparison, hoping to find whether (and why) there are significant differences between Chinese students and other western countries' (e.g., the U.S., Germany,

England) students' creativity. According to Hu, Lin, and Shen (2003), by and large, the creativity level of British adolescents was significantly higher than that of Chinese adolescents. However, no follow-up research has been done to uncover the reason for this phenomenon.

In February 2006, the *Outline of the Nation's Mid- and Long term Plan of Science and Technology Development (2006-2020)* issued by the State Council of China, re-emphasized that creativity is the long-lasting impetus of a nation's development, and required schools "to bring education into full play in the fostering of creative minds." However, there is still no empirically supported research that proscribes how creativity can best be nurtured in schools. Currently, the Creative Education and Creative Person project is being funded by the Ministry of Education of China. This project aims to answer the above question and contribute to the cultivation of Chinese students' creativity. In sum, much work has yet to be done regarding creativity research in China, but it is drawing more and more attention as it is becoming a rising star in both academic and applied fields in China. ♦

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## Upcoming Conference

### WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED and TALENTED CHILDREN 2007 WORLD CONFERENCE - IMPORTANT DATES

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Also see article by Alison Rowan on page 14 of this issue.