

PhD project on Confucianism/Confucian dynamism

Dr Chris Baumann and Associate Professor Fei Guo are seeking proposals for the following research project. Only polished proposals will be considered.

Proposed thesis title

Confucianism – driving and/or hindering force for competitiveness and economic progression in East Asia

Outline of the project

Confucianism has been hypothesised to be a hindering cultural element of economic progression prior to China's open door policy. At the same time, and in stark contrast, Confucianism has more recently been hypothesised to be a driving force of the economic miracles in East Asia, namely in the case of South Korea and also China. What really is the role of Confucianism in the formation of competitiveness and economic progression?

Hofstede, one of the leading scholars in International Business, has coined the term "Confucian Dynamism", suggesting that in fact Confucianism may be associated with economic progression.

A recent opinion piece by the Principal Supervisor for this project, Dr Chris Baumann, can be found here:

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2012/07/137_116083.html

The objectives of this project, as it stands now, are to:

- a) define and operationalize Confucianism (also in contrast to Confucian Dynamism),
- b) measure Confucianism/Confucian dynamism in East Asia (Korea, China, Japan),
- c) measure Confucianism/Confucian dynamism in a control country (e.g. USA, UK)
- d) reflect on the original hypothesis based on empirical results
- e) Forecast competitiveness and economic progression in East Asia and in the control group

This study is quantitative in nature which will require data collection in multiple countries. This also means that exploring funding options for a large scale data collection study will be part of the project. The applicant ideally has strong statistical/analytical skills.

Based on the nature of the project on Confucianism/Confucian dynamism, a candidate with a Confucian background (i.e. Korean, possibly Chinese) will be given preference.

Scholarship options

For Australian (or permanent resident) students, generous scholarship options are currently available. International students should contact the university's International Office to explore scholarship options.

Preferred start date

Late 2012 or early 2013

Required qualifications (languages, subjects covered in degree, English proficiency)

- Proficiency in English (at the academic level)
- Proficiency in Korean (in order to explore documents in native language)
- Strong academic background (i.e. high grades from highly ranked university)
- Strong background in statistics (including SPSS, Minitab, AMOS, PLS)
- Strong background/skills in researching the academic literature
- Strong interest in issues related to Confucianism/Confucian dynamism and competitiveness
- First minor publications (e.g. conference paper, journal paper) are preferred, but not required
- Positive outlook