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**Specialties:** Guofang Wan holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the Pennsylvania State University. She received education in Teaching English as a Second Language, a M.A. in English Language and Literature from Shanghai International Studies University, and a M.A. from the University of Warwick, UK. Dr. Wan teaches courses in secondary education, curriculum and instruction and literacy development, and advises both undergraduate and graduate students. She was named the 2009 recipient of the Media Literacy Award by the National Council of Teachers of English, and received the 2010 Margaret Lindsey Distinguished Research in Teacher Education Award from The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE).

**Research Interests:**

Her major research interests include the education of diverse populations, media literacy education, literacy instruction, English as a Second Language, and teaching and learning in the 21st Century.

**Recent Publications:**

Wan, G. (2012). The Educational Development in China: Perspectives from the West. *New Horizon in Education*, 60 (2).

Wan, G. (January 27, 2011). A Needs Assessment: Reforming the U.S. School Curriculum. In G., Wan & D., Gut. (Eds). *Bringing Schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The Netherlands: Springer Science + Business Media B.V., Dordrecht

Wan, G. & Gut, D. ed. (January 27, 2011). *Bringing Schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The Netherlands: Springer Science + Business Media B.V., Dordrecht.

Dani, D., Wan, G. and Henning, J. (2010). A Case for Media Literacy in the Context of Socioscientific Issues, *New Horizons in Education*, Vol. 58, No. 3 (Special Issue), Hong Kong, China: Hong Kong Teachers' Association.

Wan, G., Eds. (2010). Media Literacy Education. *New Horizons in Education*, Vol. 58, No. 3 (Special Issue), December. Hong Kong, China: Hong Kong Teachers' Association

**Wan, G.** (2008). Research evidence: Narrowing the achievement gaps. In G. Wan (Ed.), *The education of diverse populations: A global perspective* (pp.7-28). The Netherlands: Springer Science and Business Media.

**Wan, G., & Jun, Y.** (2008). How China best educates its ethnic minority children: Strategies, experience and challenges. In G. Wan (Ed.), *The education of diverse populations: A global perspective* (pp.139-157). The Netherlands: Springer Science and Business Media.

**Wan, G., & Gut, D.** (2008). Media use by Chinese and U.S. secondary students: Implications for media literacy education. *Theory into Practice*, 47(3), 178-185.

**Wan, G., & Gut, D.** (2008). Roles of media and media literacy education: Lives of Chinese and American adolescents. *New Horizons in Education*, 56(2), 28-42.

### **Personal Statement (Approach to Doctoral Education/or Philosophy of Doctoral Education)**

My idea of education bears the influence of both Eastern and Western educational philosophers, such as Confucius, Piaget and Vygotsky, and the impact of my own values and beliefs of education.



Confucius



Piaget



Vygotsky

Recognizing the changing nature of teaching and learning and the powerful role that learners play in their construction of knowledge, I believe that teaching is as much about educating as it is about inspiring and motivating. The goal of my teaching is to help students become lifelong learners and reflective educators, capable of integrating and applying existing knowledge to any new situations. Jean Piaget (1896-1980) said, "The principle goal of education is to create men who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done - men who are creative, inventive and discoverers."

I encourage my students to think outside the box. There is no doubt that "Current educational theory is moving from the traditional recall of facts, principles, or correct procedures into the areas of creative thinking, problem solving, analysis and evaluation (Bates, 2000). These higher order thinking skills are very much needed in today's fast-paced internet society, where knowledge updates and changes every minute. Teaching students how to fish becomes much more important than giving them a fish dinner. Students are challenged to think as global citizens and world teachers to meet the need of the increasing diverse student populations and globalization.

I believe in the saying that “you harvest what you dare to dream.” I challenge, push and scaffold for my students to achieve their best in my class. I assure them that “You can do it. We can help!” – a Home Depot slogan. I believe in the virtue of diligence and conscientiousness, and try to instill a strong work ethic in my students.

Coming from a Confucian background, to me teaching is the highest form of learning, and should be the most prestigious and highest-regarded career by society. Educators shape the future of mankind since children are our future and their education depends on us.