

Preface

Assoc Prof Mohd Mukhlis Abu Bakar
Head, Asian Languages & Cultures Academic Group
National Institute of Education
Nanyang Technological University

Teaching is one of the most challenging and recognised career options. Performing the role of teaching are teachers who are responsible for introducing the curriculum in the classroom and their students' learning. Equally critical are teacher educators who must negotiate their roles as researchers, teachers, and supervisors at the same time model sound teaching practices for their student teachers. Together, teachers and teacher educators are vital to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of a nation.

There is no better synergy between teachers and teacher educators than in the field of research. As a process of knowledge building, research encourages personal growth and development in individuals and groups. *It enables the investigator to discover different ideas, viewpoints, theories, and facts.* And when the investigator is a teacher, the knowledge he/she gains and shares in the classroom is key to building an enlightened community and shaping the minds within that community.

This book demonstrates the collaborative effort of teacher educators and student teachers in research. It is a collection of research in Chinese Studies by student teachers supervised by their teacher educators as part of the Academic Exercise of an undergraduate programme. It is thus deliberately tilted towards subject matter knowledge than pedagogical knowledge, both crucial to good language teaching and student understanding.

Congratulations to both student researchers (who are full-fledge teachers by the time this book is published) and their teacher educator supervisors for this commendable effort. May the book inspire a generation of teachers strong in the conviction that research is something teachers can and should do.

10 July 2023