



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Education

DIÁLOGOS VIRTUALES

A COE Lecture/Discussion Series on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & the Global in Education

Thursday, February 4, 2021, 12 p.m.

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Ubuntu and Tinogona

Dr. Li-Rong (Lilly) Cheng

Ubuntu is an African proverb which means I am because you are. It means the collective empathy that human beings must have to survive. It reminds us of the essence of our humanity: the Ubuntu is the humanness that makes us human beings. The ubuntu idea can have a ripple effect of sustainable education that allows every child to get an education. Tinogona means achievable. Quality education is Tinogona if we can put our heads together and our hearts together to make this a reality.



About the Speaker

Dr. Li-Rong Lilly Cheng is the Director of the Chinese Cultural Center at San Diego State University. She served as Professor in the School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and Executive Director of Chinese Studies Institute at SDSU. Professor Cheng served as a member of the board of trustees of the Campanile Foundation of SDSU. She is the past chair of the Multicultural Issues Board for the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) and the chair of the Education Committee for the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatics (IALP). She is a Fellow of ASHA and received the Honors of ASHA. She served as the past president of IALP.

Professor Cheng was the past President of the Phi Beta Delta Chapter at SDSU. She has received many awards from SDSU and professional organizations. She was selected as the outstanding alumnus of Michigan State University. She is also a Fellow of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). Dr. Cheng is the recipient of the 1997 ASHA Award for special contributions to Multicultural Affairs and the recipient of the 2002 Diversity Award from the California Speech & Hearing Association. She is on the editorial board of several major professional journals. She has numerous professional publications and has lectured all over the world. In 2007, she received the best research article award from the Council of Exceptional Children. She has taught Chinese to individuals across the life span in a multitude of settings. In 2010, she received the Humanitarian Award from the Asian Heritage Foundation. She received the 2012 Monty's Award from SDSU. She received the 2013 Diversity Award from CAPCSD. She served as consultant for Sesame Street and Tiffany and Company.

She served as the Chair of the International Affair Board of the City of San Diego for ten years and the Chair of the Asian Pacific Historical Thematic District for the City of San Diego. She also served for the State of California as the Chair of the Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology and a member of the California Health Foundation.

Dr. Cheng has published numerous articles and books on cross-cultural communication, language learning and language teaching focusing on the development of an optimal language learning environment (OLLE). She is a frequent keynote speaker on the topic of cultural diversity, East meets West, language learning and language teaching, and language disorders. Professor Cheng has traveled globally and in the last decade she has lectured in multiple universities in China. She holds professorships in Beijing University, Beijing Normal University, Guangzhou University, Zhongshan University, Chongqing University and other institutes of higher education.

For more than three decades, Dr. Cheng has organized delegations and tours to China and Asia. She also led student summer programs in China. She is a faculty member of the International Program (IP) which holds summer programs mostly in Europe. Her passion is researching, teaching and learning. In 2020, she returned to the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and is now serving as the Chair of the Board of Directors.