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### Articles

#### Dennis Martin Balint

**Title**: Program-wide Supportive Language Learner Communities: Utilizing Communities of Practice and Sociocultural Perspectives in an ESL Curriculum

**Abstract**: This paper will describe a program-wide English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum in which extensive collaboration among the students has noticeable benefits toward a constructive approach to language learning. Through a coordinated program design, English language learners engage in various tasks which focus on working collaboratively to support each others’ language learning development. Reasons for incorporating tasks which promote constructive collaboration by students, including peer-feedback, are drawn from the theoretical concepts of Communities of Practice and Sociocultural theory. The successfully formed supportive communities of language learners in the English Language Program (ELP) in the School of Policy Studies at Kwansei Gakuin University will be described in terms of these concepts. While an explicit policy toward emphasizing collaborative language learning has not been established in the ELP, it is clear that some of the success of the program comes from such endeavors and it should be given further consideration.

#### Malcolm Fitz–Earle

**Title**: Development of Policy to Reduce Wildlife – Human Conflicts: Education and Non–lethal Approaches to Black Bear Management in Canada and Japan

**Abstract**: The history and development of wildlife management policy and practice in Japan and Canada are compared. In particular the aspect of policy that relates to the reduction of wildlife–human conflicts is explored, using black bears in both countries as a case study. The reduction of conflicts can be achieved through educational initiatives and non-lethal bear management. The progress of such strategies is evaluated for both countries.

#### Young Hoon Kwun

**Title**: Interrelationship between Cultural Values and Economic Development: with Special Regard to Korea

**Abstract**: In theorizing about developing economies, it has been said that late-comers enjoy comparative advantage in the so-called Age of Neo–Development, because they are able to copy not only a successful growth strategy but also a process of catching up with already advanced forerunners. However, in contrast to Korea’s achievement in macroeconomic terms in the last four decades, it has been unfortunately misled to the pariah capitalism. How can this parish capitalism be cured? The answer to this question is intimately related to how the Korean cultural values, socioeconomic institutions and economic polices are interrelated and how they interact. Hence, a new methodology of economic policy must be designed with the help of operationalism, confirmationism and above all both moral organicism- and social organicism-oriented institutionalism based on the Korean cultural value system. By applying this pluralistic methodology to institutional reforms and economic policy, the Korean economy will be able to achieve balanced economic and social development. Then, finally it will be able to enter the stage of the advanced economy.

#### On–Kwok Lai

**Title**: New Regionalism in the 21st Century Pacific–Asia: Synergy or Rivalry of Economic Power? Positioning Japan, ASEAN and the Greater Chinese Economies in their Global Context

**Abstract**: New regionalism is becoming a short-cut to economic liberalization in a globalizing world. In May 2004, the most dramatic phase of European integration, in terms of the enlargement of EU (15+10) capturing 25 member countries in Western, Central and Eastern European countries, has been mostly completed. On the other side of the Atlantic (or Pacific if we view from Asia perspective), it is the preparation of Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) that was launched at the Miami Summit in 1994. The FTAA is undoubtedly the most ambitious collective initiative in the history of the Western Hemisphere and has already generated important positive externalities for the development of countries in NAFTA and MERCOSUR countries, and the strengthening of the multilateral system. All these regional initiatives are paralleling the efforts (or the partial success) of the WTO framework building. In short, it is the likely formation of a tripartite system of regional blocs in the global capitalism.
The purpose of this study is to compare the levels of work satisfaction on six dimensions, measured by the Porter-Type Needs Satisfaction Questionnaire, and its relationship with overall satisfaction, and with intention to turnover, among three age groups of female care workers at nursing home settings. Based on prior research and theory, the female life cycle was grouped into three stages, young, middle, and old. The survey questionnaires were administered to a sample drawn from 2,350 workers in 51 geriatric care facilities located in Hyogo prefecture in 2001. For this study, 701 female nursing home care workers were chosen from the total sample. The final sample available for the analysis was 550. Tested were differences in the three age groups in the six dimensions of job satisfaction, kinds of predictors for total job satisfaction, and predictors of intention to leave the job. The findings confirmed results of some prior studies, showing a significant positive relationship between age and overall job satisfaction and of the six dimensions of job satisfaction. Especially, the middle-aged group showed a different pattern from the two other age groups. Application of the findings was discussed, especially for training needs in nursing homes that account for life cycle stage differences for women.

We look at a key list of recent economic regulatory and convergence issues connected with the dynamics of the telecommunications industry as part of an integrative telecommunications policy for the European Union (EU) with particular reference to Germany as the economically leading country of the EU.

The purpose of this study was two-fold. The first was to examine job awareness among care managers and how they evaluate themselves according to the theoretical knowledge and practical skills demanded of them. Secondly we looked at care managers from different backgrounds in terms of qualifications, such as nursing or care workers to see if there was a difference in job awareness and their focus regarding theoretical knowledge and practical skills. This research was based on answers to questionnaires sent 404 care managers who had been trained in Tohoku region. The content and analysis of the questionnaires was the same as that used by Watanabe (2002).

As a result of the survey three points became clear. The first was that care managers were aware of need for a high level of technical skill but that the level of understanding on the part of the client was low. Secondly, there were very clear areas of expertise in which care managers were either very confident or, on the other hand, not confident at all. Thirdly, nurses evaluated themselves more highly according to theoretical knowledge and practical skills than care workers did. However, in the areas of interview, client strengths and client self-determination there were no differences.
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