What impact has No Child Left Behind and standardized testing had on American students’ ability to be competitive globally? Should US educational policymakers seek to emulate Asian educational systems by instituting rigorous math and science curricula along with an extended school day? Dr. Zhao asserts that these measures are inadequate to equip American students to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

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Dr. Yong Zhao  
Jones Distinguished Lecturer  
February 23, 2011

Yong Zhao is the Presidential Chair of Global Education and Online Learning at the University of Oregon, where he also serves as the Associate Dean for Global Education and Online Learning and the Director of the Center for Advanced Technology in Education (CATE). He is a fellow of the International Academy for Education.

Zhao was formerly the University Distinguished Professor at the College of Education, Michigan State University, where he was the founding director of the Center for Teaching and Technology and executive director of the Confucius Institute, as well as the US-China Center for Research on Educational Excellence.

His research interests include computer gaming and education, diffusion of innovations, teacher adoption of technology, computer-assisted language learning, and globalization and education.

Zhao has extensive international experiences. He has consulted with government and educational agencies and spoken on educational issues in many countries on six continents. His current work focuses on designing 21st Century Schools in the context of globalization and the digital revolution.

Zhao was born in China’s Sichuan Province. He received his B.A. in English Language Education from Sichuan Institute of Foreign Languages in Chongqing, China in 1986. After teaching English in China for six years, he came to Linfield College as a visiting scholar in 1992. He then began his graduate studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1993. He received his A.M. in Education in 1994 and Ph.D. in 1996. He was a member of the faculty at Michigan State University from 1996-2010. He joined the faculty at the University of Oregon in January of 2011.
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