

## 〈 Classroom Capsule 〉 My Life and Work in Germany

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After my PhD studies, I have been working as a postdoctoral fellow in University of Hamburg in Germany. Life abroad is rather routine. I usually started my day on reading with a cup of cappuccino from a German Starbucks called Balzac. Most of the time our colleagues have lunch together in the German canteen, which is called Mensa, at around two o'clock. It's a good time for exchanging and sharing ideas, since I have more fellows in mathematics education than I have in Hong Kong. Every Thursday we have research colloquium and each of us will have a chance to present our work. All the others will give comments. I am always happy to hear them as I will know if my research work is in the right direction or not. Perhaps you are interested in the language that I used in my every day life and in the colloquium. Most of the time I speak German but sometimes I stick to the English terms, like PCK or MCK.



My research work is originated from an international study called TEDS-M. One of the main results in TEDS-M is that the Taiwanese student teachers outperformed all the other participating countries in PCK and MCK. Some factors suggested the outperformance. For example, student teachers in Taiwan have higher mathematics maturity than their counterparts at the time they entered university. They may also learn more mathematical contents in the university level. These reasons are rather superficial. So my work is to compare the mathematics curriculum in both university and school levels in Taiwan and Germany. One of the main goals in comparative education is to improve ourselves by studying the others. I hope my knowledge and experience can be used in Hong Kong one day.

Remark: Rachel's research interest is mathematics teaching and learning. She welcomes all kinds of discussions in Mathematics, Music, Movies, Books, Art & Paintings.

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