



FACULTY  
OF EDUCATION  
Charles University

**IRDE**

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Thursday  
**24th. October. 2019**  
14:30

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Room M209  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Myslíkova 7  
Prague 1

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Please RSVP before  
**24. 10. 2019**  
at  
jaroslava.simonova@pedf.cuni.cz

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**Gerald K. LeTendre**

*Penn State University, USA*

Prof. Gerald K. LeTendre is the Harry Lawrence Batschelet II Chair of Educational Administration, and co-editor of *The American Journal of Education*. He received his B.A. (magna cum laude) in sociology from Harvard University and M.A. (sociology) and Ph.D. (education) at Stanford University. Dr. LeTendre has published on a broad range of topics in comparative and international education, his books include *Improving Teacher Quality* (Teachers College Press), *Promoting and Sustaining a Quality Teacher Workforce* (Emerald), *The International Handbook of Teacher Quality and Policy* (Routledge).

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Institute for Research and  
Development of Education  
Myslíkova 7, 110 00 Praha 1  
T: +420 221 900 530  
pages.pedf.cuni.cz/uvrv-en

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**INVITATION**

**IRDE SEMINAR**

# Setting Teacher Education Policy in Nordic vs. East Asian Nations: Theoretical Case Study Sampling

Our team used case studies of eight countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Taiwan, S. Korea, Japan and Singapore) to examine how nations used policy or laws to affect their national teaching workforce in the period 2000-2015. We examined legislation or policies affecting teachers (e.g. merging teacher ed schools into academic universities, setting new teacher licensure etc.) as well as decisions to take part in transnational testing programs.

In this paper, we focus primarily on methodological issues -- can national case studies provide evidence that will allow us to evaluate the efficacy of various theories that try to account for global trends or changes in educational policy around the world? We specifically consider theories of global governance, governmentality, world culture theory and other theories of globalizations that posit the spread of testing regimes, neo-liberal ideology and other reform agendas (e.g. GERM).

We ask, "what is a nation a case of?" with regard to each theoretical framework. We provide a brief summary of the policies enacted and discuss how the variation among these cases suggest strong national trajectories and stronger regional effects that have been previously theorized.