## **Translated English version**

Dr. Quanyu Huang: "Chinese are successful in examinations. Americans are successful in knowledge creation."



Photo: Tong Chen

Dr. Quanyu Huang visits the Netherlands

Dr. Quanyu Huang is an expert in Sino-US comparisons in the field of culture and education. He works at Miami University in Ohio as director of the Asian & Asian - American Studies program. He wrote several books on education, including several bestsellers in China. In his new bestseller "The hybrid tiger: Secrets of the extraordinary success of Asian - American kids," he uses his own experience as an immigrant from China, including the raising of his son. In an exclusive interview with Talent explains Dr. Huang about his book. by Jan te Nijenhuis

### Chinese families and Chinese education

How would you describe Chinese education?

Efficient / effective, powerful, mysterious, enigmatic and even frightening.

Chinese children win on the assembly line mathematics Olympiads, but Chinese never win Nobel Prizes.

Chinese education encourages children to be better exam makers while American education encourages children to seek new knowledge. That is an essential difference between Chinese and American schools. The purpose of Academic Olympiads, PISA and any other standardized test is to reaffirm what mankind knows. But Nobel Prizes encourage scientists to investigate and discover knowledge that is not yet known.

Chinese children learn a lot, but there are also not many micro skills? Absolutely.

Why China was a closed, self gone country?

A major cause is the geography of China. It is largely closed off from the rest of the world. In the northwest we have an endless desert. In the southwest we have the dangerously high Tibetan plateau, the roof of the world. Ten north lie the endless Mongolian steppes and in the northeast are volcanic mountains. And in the southeast is the sea. That did not invite to make contact with other cultures. In addition, there was a lot of fertile land and a high culture. They were satisfied with what they had. The Great Wall has long been a symbol of this inward turned mentality. If the land had been poor, were people probably went exploring. But China had not necessary.

# His children sacred to Chinese parents?

In many cases, yes. In my book I tell the story of an American broker a Chinese woman helped find a home near Central Park in New York. The woman said the huge amount of five million dollars no was a problem. Most important was the proximity to Columbia University. The broker asked the woman how old her daughter was. "Two years," was the reply. The broker realized he not even know what that night he went for his young children cook, let alone planning for their education the next twenty years had made. It is clear that Chinese parents want to give everything and do anything for the education of their children.

Chinese set making up dating from they are 18.

In comparisons with Americans, Chinese-American students generally wait at least four years longer before they have friends of the opposite sex. Chinese and

American parents have very different ideas about dating. For Chinese parents education is the first priority and everything, including the love is there for neighborhoods. They see education as war, and love should be postponed until the war is won.

In my book I tell a lot about how these principles have applied to my son Yan. I told him that everyone's time and energy are limited. If you during the creation of a mathematics exam thinking about writing a love letter you will know what the outcome is, you figure and the letter will all bad either are. It is wise to

focus first on your exam and then you write love letters. There are very few parents who do not wish for love and a happy family for their children. Chinese parents are not cruel, they are only concerned about making the most appropriate time for their children to start dating.

How do Chinese parents with pocket money?

Many American children start out with chores at home when they are very young. And often they get pocket money from their previous parents. Some parents see this as a way to keep their child learning that you have to work for a living. Other US parents teach children how to deal with money. However, as Chinese I still look at it differently. Children are part of the family, so why should they pay for

what is their duty? As a father in the garden cuts the grass he gets no extra money? In Chinese families cash is only as a reward for good school grades.

### American families and American education

In your book you tell a Chinese delegation Education experts American schools in 1979 visited. What were their conclusions?

Well, who lied not care! If you're only familiar with the rigorous and disciplined Chinese education appears to be a American classroom before or during a gym class monkey cage is played. The Chinese researchers were gechocqueerd the teachers talked a lot about building self-confidence rather than giving lesson about math. The knowledge and skills of American children ran years behind that of their Chinese peers. The report of the delegation they wrote that Chinese children are the most diligent were in the world. They predicted which forward by the Chinese education China huge jumps would make the field of science and technology. Within twenty years China would the United States far, far surpassed are.



Why is American education so different Chinese education?

If education is a tree, then culture is the ground where the in roots. Western culture is very different from the Chinese culture such as individualism versus collectivism, taking risks versus conservatism, religion versus no religion, versus original sin human nature, and so on. The various trees grow in very different soil and, therefore, they differ from each other.

American children often borrow money from their parents to study. Why is that so chocquerend for Chinese parents?

Chinese parents see family as a commitment for life and individual elements cannot part with it. An old Chinese poem says: "We are two figurines of clay: one is me, and the other is you. Then you break them and you mix the clay to create two new statues. I melts into you, and you merges with me. "Chinese parents sacrifice everything and do everything for the education of their children. Borrowing money to your children for an education is at odds with that.

### **Combining Chinese and American education**

What can Chinese education teach American parents and teachers?

Parents would learn academic skills their children can be just as intensive guidance as learning their sports skills. In other words, give more attention to the education of your children. Every morning when you wake up you should be sure that training one of your top priorities is something that you think about all day. American parents are heavily involved in extracurricular activities with their children, just think of the American soccer mom. But instead of you just to focus on sports you also similarly focus on their training. After bill is ultimately the education of your child at least as important as his extracurricular activities, and

you can make big difference by being involved. I'll give you a note that you are a big change in the attitude of your child'll see if you just one semester intensively with schooling interfere.

Furthermore, if American parents would encourage their children every day to learn two pages of mathematics, I can imagine that there will interesting things change. As for teachers, Dr. Liping Ma of Stanford University did a comparison study and found that only 9 out of 23 American teachers to lower school in a position were the sum  $14 \div \frac{1}{2}$  to solve. But all 72 Chinese teachers had no problem with it.

My point is, if American children are learning two pages of mathematics every day, then American teachers must learn ten pages of mathematics every day. Teachers need a solid foundation to build capable children and to be able to give a good lesson

What can Chinese parents and teachers learn from Americans?

Promoting creativity, independent thinking, critical thinking, social skills, exercise, self-confidence, and so on.







You can make your system Co-Core Synergy Education? Explain.

It is my understanding that the education of children from four different share includes: (1) education by the family, (2) education at school, (3) social education, and (4) self-education. I call this the "tripod theory ': the three legs of the tripod and a head, as well as the structure of the camera with a tripod. The picture shows that the three legs are formed by education by the family, school education and social education. Together they support the head, which is self-education. Everything is held together by teaching yourself, the starting point and purpose of education. Everything is there in the end to how an individual will

react - how each individual person chooses to accept certain conditions or reject it.

For a child growing up in China, the story is simple: education by the family, school education and Social education is all Chinese. But because Chinese-American children are raised in America, but still strongly influenced by their Chinese relatives, see The plot is as follows:

The three supporting legs of the tripod for Chinese-American children are (1) education by the Chinese family, (2) teaching at an American school, and (3) American social education.

## What is the synergy of these different Education influences?

A basic principle of education by the Chinese family is that education is more important than anything else. The central principle of education at an American school and American social teaching is contrary to stimulate creativity, independent thinking and self-confidence. The combination of these educational influences delivers something unique on. Co-core Synergy Education can encourage children to excel even more.

#### Literature:

Quanyu Huang (2013). The hybrid tiger: Secrets of the extraordinary success of Asian-American kids. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books.

