May 23, 2018
4:00pm—5:30pm
College of Education
Room 312

Special Guest Speaker

Rebecca P. Ang

“Understanding child/adolescent aggression, and the need for multipronged school wide approaches for prevention and intervention”

Rebecca P. Ang is a Professor with the Psychological Studies Academic Group and Associate Dean of Education Research with the Office of Education Research, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She obtained her PhD in School Psychology from Texas A&M University. She is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist in the USA, and a Registered Psychologist in Singapore. Rebecca’s research, teaching and professional interests include developmental child psychopathology, and in particular antisocial and aggressive behavior, and related prevention and intervention work. She is also interested in children’s relationships with their parents and teachers, and the impact these relationships have on children’s adjustment and functioning.

Children and adolescents who display aggressive behavior often struggle with faulty cognitive and behavioral patterns, and find themselves trapped in cyclical patterns of emotional dysregulation, generating responses that are less than desirable. This presentation will provide an overview of these problems at the different stages of encoding, interpretation, response generation and decision making. Aggressive behavior in these children and adolescents often spiral in a downward trajectory towards delinquency and bullying across time. Through this presentation, we will also understand a range of risk factors that are typically associated with delinquency and bullying. These risk factors, including individual, family, school and peer factors, do not operate in isolation - they interact within and across multiple contexts. It is therefore important to consider programs and interventions that effectively address, prevent and remediate issues of child and adolescent aggression, which can be precursors to delinquency and bullying. Schoolwide prevention and intervention efforts should consider multipronged approaches inclusive of teaching children social problem solving skills, modifying beliefs supportive of aggression, supplementing skills training with parent training, helping children stay meaningfully connected to school, and strengthening teacher-student relationships.