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# Blended Learning

Aligning Theory with Practices

9th International Conference, ICBL 2016  
Beijing, China, July 19–21, 2016  
Proceedings

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# Preface

Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Blended Learning (ICBL 2016), which was formerly known as International Conference on Hybrid Learning (ICHL). This year, ICBL 2016 was held at Peking University, Beijing, China, during July 19–21, 2016.

Undoubtedly, blended learning or hybrid learning has become one of the promising approaches to teaching and learning. It aims to integrate traditional learning with innovative means, such as e-learning and open online learning, in order to create a new learning environment to enhance learning effectiveness and enrich learning experience. Hybrid learning literally refers to the combination of traditional learning and nontraditional learning. Blended learning emphasizes not only the combination but also the integration of various modes of learning. This aligns with the latest practices in the field, and hence, our conference name changed accordingly.

ICBL 2016 provided a platform for knowledge exchange and experience sharing among the researchers and practitioners in all areas of blended learning. The theme of ICBL 2016 was “Blended Learning: Aligning Theory with Practices.” The focus was placed on how the theoretical ideas and concepts of blended learning can be adopted as good education practices to enhance learning effectiveness and enrich learning experience. The conference was included keynote addresses and parallel paper presentations.

This year, we received over 60 paper submissions. After a rigorous review process, 34 papers were selected for inclusion in this volume. The selected papers cover various areas in blended learning, including collaborative and interactive learning, open and flexible learning, content development, assessment and evaluation, pedagogical and psychological issues, and experience, strategies, and solutions of blended learning.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following parties who made the conference a success: (a) the conference Organizing Committee; (b) the international Program Committee; (c) the organizers and co-organizers; (d) the sponsors; (e) the publisher of the conference proceedings; and (f) all the conference participants.

We trust you will enjoy reading these papers.

July 2016

Simon K.S. Cheung  
Lam-for Kwok  
Junjie Shang  
Aihua Wang  
Reggie Kwan

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## Keynote Speakers

### **Li Chen**

*Beijing Normal University, China*

Professor Li Chen is a PhD supervisor. She is a Vice President of Beijing Normal University and the Executive Director of Beijing Institute for the Learning City at Beijing Normal University. She is the President of the Society of International Chinese in Educational Technology, and the President of China Association for ICT in Education for K12. Professor Chen is the leader of Master's and PhD programs on Distance Education at Beijing Normal University. Her research is mainly focusing on interaction principle in distance education and the policy research in lifelong learning. She has authored and published more than 10 books and 100 papers. Professor Chen is deeply engaged in policy consulting in distance education and lifelong learning.

### **Owen P. Hall Jr.**

*Pepperdine University, USA*

Professor Hall received his PhD from the University of Southern California. He holds the Julian Virtue Professorship and has more than 35 years of academic and industry experience in computer decision systems and technological forecasting. He authored numerous technical papers and several books on computer-based management decision systems. The founder of a high-technology sensor company, Professor Hall has also served on several government panels and corporate boards. Honoured as a Harriet and Charles Luckman Distinguished Teaching Fellow, he has been involved in developing the Graziadio School's entrepreneurial and e-learning programs. His current area of research includes the application of artificial intelligent tutors and integrated blended learning to management education. Professor Hall is a registered professional engineer, State of California and is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honour Society. He is the former Editor-in-Chief of the Graziadio Business Report. He was honoured with the Howard A. White and Sloan Teaching Excellence Awards.

### **Horace H.S. Ip**

*City University of Hong Kong, China*

Professor Ip is the Vice-President in Student Affairs and a Chair Professor of Computer Science at City University of Hong Kong. He has a BSc in Applied Physics and PhD in Image Processing from University College, London, United Kingdom. His research interests include multimedia content analysis and retrieval, and virtual reality for education. Professor Ip's research has won many awards including Prix Ars Electronica, and a Gold Medal of the Geneva Salon International Des Inventions. He has published over 300 papers in international journals and conference proceedings. Professor Ip is a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, a Fellow of the British Computer Society and a Fellow of the International Association for Pattern Recognition.

**Zhuzhu Wang**

*National Center for Educational Technology, Ministry of Education, China*

While leading the National Center for Educational Technology and the National Resource Center for Basic Education for the Ministry of Education (MoE), Professor Zhuzhu Wang is also an Adjunct Professor of East China Normal University and Peking University. Her research interests fall in areas of ICT in basic education and distance education in China. Professor Wang has led many national and MoE key projects, organized or participated in the planning and implementation of national major projects in distance education and ICT in education. She published numerous research papers and the book *Theory and Practice of Project Management in Distance Education*, introducing project management theories in distance education in China.

**Harrison Hao Yang**

*State University of New York at Oswego, USA*

Professor Harrison Yang received his Doctor of Education from Florida International University. In addition to his appointment at State University of New York at Oswego (SUNY Oswego), he is the Dean of the School of Educational Information Technology at Central China Normal University. Professor Yang's research specialties include assessment and e-folios, distance/flexible education, information literacy, information technology diffusion/integration, learning theories, issues and trends on vocational-technical education, and Web/learning communities. Professor Yang is the recipient of the SUNY Oswego President Award of Teaching Excellence (2006).

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