COVID-19 Multilingual #Healthographics

#COVID-19 ISSUE, March-April, 2020

With the pandemic being a global crisis, measures have been enforced around the world. The pandemic has shown that facing this new coronavirus outbreak requires a multilateral effort from the global community.

In March-April, 2020 SMLC language programmes collaborated with the HKU Faculty of Medicine to create COVID-19 Multilingual Infographics.

A key line of defence against this pandemic is having access to accurate health and hygiene information for everyone. With this in mind, HKU Faculty of Medicine has collaborated with the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, HKU Faculty of Arts to translate and produce a series of #Healthographics, featuring tips on personal hygiene, social distancing and other safety measures.

The slides are available in nine different languages, including Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Thai. This collective effort aims to ensure accurate and useful health and hygiene information is provided to all.

Translated multilingual infographics can be downloaded at: www.med.hku.hk/covid-19/healthographics/translated

The Covid-19 outbreak presented the university community with a set of unprecedented challenges, forcing academics, teachers and student to adapt quickly to changes and rethink their practices.

To limit the spread of the virus, face-to-face teaching at the University was suspended in February 2020 and programmes switched to online teaching for the entire second semester 2020-21.

While the situation was challenging, many students and teachers reported very positive experiences with online interaction. It also fostered profound reflection and led to a series of initiatives and collaborations.

In this issue of the SMLC newsletter, we pay tribute to our staff and students by sharing stories about Covid-19 related activities held during these difficult times.

Sylvain HOLTERMANN
Translated multilingual infographics can be downloaded at: www.med.hku.hk/covid-19/healthographics/translated
Young Leaders Zoom to Japan

#COVID-19 ISSUE, Japanese Studies, 08 Jun 2020 (Mon); by Dr. Janet BORLAND

Every year since 2017, ten students from the Department of Japanese Studies have joined the Young Leaders Tour of Japan (YLTJ), a field trip designed to give students firsthand experience of recovery and reconstruction following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. When we began preparing for the 2020 YLTJ last October, no one could have imagined that our trip would be postponed and eventually cancelled due to a global pandemic. Our class quickly adapted the schedule and embraced new technologies to ensure that we could still have a meaningful learning experience. The highlight was a series of guest lectures on zoom, conducted in Japanese, on the theme of leadership and post-disaster recovery.

On 8 June, we were honored to have Mr Kosaku KAWAI, President and Managing Director of Mitsubishi Corporation Hong Kong, deliver a lecture. The following day, we zoomed to Sendai in Japan for a lecture with Mr. Ryoichi ITO, Director General, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), and Mr. Iwata TOSHIAKI, Manager, Tōhoku Tourism Promotion Office. Extended Q&A sessions following the lectures were a highlight. “We had a chance to directly ask questions about leadership and the earthquake,” wrote third year student Aka. “It was very inspiring to learn from real leaders!”

Lessons about Post-disaster Recovery

“Talking with Mr. ITO allowed me to understand more about the revitalization of the Tohoku region in terms of physical recovery and mental recovery. I also gained a clearer picture of what challenges they faced and how they integrated the latest technology with old wisdom to overcome problems, which is an essential skill that we as young leaders should have. Although we didn’t experience the devastating event ourselves, we should learn from the determination and effort of the Tohoku people in overcoming challenges and do our best to improve.”

– Marty, year 4
Lessons about Leadership

“One quality these leaders share is the emphasis on educating the next generation. It shows that a good leader always has a vision. Instead of focusing on the present, we need to plan for the future and think about what we can do for the next generation, to help them become mentally healthy, globally aware and environmentally conscious adults. Another common quality is generosity – instead of narrowing in on themselves, these leaders are always ready to give what they have, and through that, they have brought people together and pushed society forward. Lastly, they are all hard workers. Even when the challenges are great, they did not give up along the way and consider those problems as an opportunity to begin again. I can learn from all these qualities and instead of brooding over the cancellation of the field trip, I will try taking baby steps to see what I can do for the community amidst this global crisis.”

– Hedy, year 4

Lessons about Life

“It was my great pleasure to be selected as one of the young leaders. I was excited about everything in the course as it gave me an opportunity to step out of the classroom and experience experiential learning. I believe that the major difference between the Young Leaders Tour of Japan and other courses is that we are not just learning new knowledge, but also life lessons. It is really sad that eventually we could not travel to Japan in person and visit places to feel the great impact of the disaster and how Japanese people do their best to help each other and recover. Nevertheless, I am glad that I was given the chance to study the recovery and revitalization after the 2011 earthquake, to work together with other young leaders and to exchange ideas with leaders in Japan. Always think what we can do instead of doubting our abilities and giving up; and do not get defeated just by one failure, but keep trying as we never know what we can achieve until it happens. These are the most impressive things I learned from this course. I believe we will stay connected in the future as we all possess the idea to do our best for society and the world.”

– Kelly, year 3

We would like to thank our partner Mitsubishi Corporation Hong Kong for their generous and ongoing support of the Young Leaders Tour of Japan, and thank you to our guest lecturers for sharing their wisdom and inspiring HKU students.
COVID-19 Distance Education: The SINO2010 Experience

#COVID-19 ISSUE, China Studies; by Dr. Loretta KIM

Adjusting to the “new normal” of distance teaching-learning significantly altered what the class of SINO2010 (Regional Studies: Northeast) could achieve, as with all courses during the second semester of the 2019-20 academic year. We started the term with one meeting before the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday during which we discussed the option of interested students undertaking a fully funded trip during Reading Week to conduct fieldwork in Liaoning province. We began our mental preparation for this trip by watching and discussing a documentary about Northeast Chinese culture and brainstorming about keywords associated with Northeast China as a region. However, with borders shut and partner organizations immobilized by lockdown measures, cancelling the trip became the first and most significant element of the course to change.

Fortunately, two students in the course were based in Northeast China during the semester and shared their personal experiences growing up with native exposure to local languages and customs. One of these students took photographs of historical sites in her hometown so that classmates could see how the architectural styles represented in these places reflected various phases of political and social change from the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries.

Working together completely online meant that other originally planned in-class activities such as an extensive role play session were impossible to carry out, but students in SINO2010 found other ways to develop and maintain close and constructive relationships with each other. Many students reached out to their classmates about their mutual interests, introduced and recommended books and articles about sub-topics covered in class discussions, and gave meaningful feedback to each other about the progress of their final projects. Turning on cameras, tuning the audio, and waving to each other at the beginning and end of each weekly meeting became important rituals to affirm that the class was a supportive group working towards common goals. Pausing patiently when presentations were interrupted by the sounds of pets in the background and writing extra notes in the Chat function of Zoom to help class members who temporarily dropped out of discussions due to faulty Internet connections catch up with discussions also attest to the compassion, resilience, and adaptability of students and teachers in dealing with an imperative alternative to education as we knew it.
Arts JUPAS Virtual Information Sessions 2020

#COVID-19 ISSUE, 25 May 2020 (Mon) and 1-2 June 2020 (Mon-Tue)

The Area Studies and Language programmes of SMLC took part in the “JUPAS Virtual Information Sessions 2020” organized by the Admissions and Academic Liaison Section and the Faculty of Arts, HKU. A 5-minute talk highlighting the features of SMLC and live chat sessions by SMLC programmes were conducted via Zoom, which aimed at providing essential information of programmes to JUPAS students. There were over 100 participants joined the talk and the live chat sessions. Various interactive approaches such as using presentation slides, playing mini-games, and conducting Q&A sessions were adopted by our teachers in providing important information of the programmes to the audience.

Enseñar ELE en tiempos de crisis: experiencias de Hong Kong y China continental

Spanish Programme, 06 Jul 2020 (Mon)

In early July, Dr. Mercedes VÁZQUEZ held a webinar on “Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language in Times of Crisis: Experiences in Hong Kong and Mainland China” with Dr. XU Lei from the Faculty of Spanish and Portuguese Studies of the Beijing Foreign Studies University. The event was co-hosted with the Spanish-Chinese Research Network (RICE) and was attended by 166 participants from all over the world including Japan, Peru, Chile, India, the Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Mexico, Hong Kong and mainland China. Participants to the webinar overwhelmingly appreciated the opportunity to learn more from each other and expressed an interest in further collaboration.
From ‘Peaceful Revolution’ to German Reunification - How our Memory has changed in the last 30 Years

European Studies, 10 Jan 2020 (Fri)

The presentation by Dr Andreas KÖTZING, research fellow at the Hannah Arendt Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism in Dresden (Germany), explored the central role of film in the memorialisation of the events that led to the collapse of Communist East Germany in 1989.

Dr KÖTZING’s talk developed a thematic analysis of key cinematographic productions about Germany’s unification as a way to illustrate the transformation of the discourse of memory surrounding this dramatic historical moment. This narrative has periodically oscillated between joy and disillusionment, depending on the prevailing political and economic circumstances. Yet with the emergence of the AfD as a new political party in Germany, a new form of narrative has also gained ground. This narrative feeds on a sense of betrayal of the democratic ambitions of East Germans in 1989 and claims that Germany’s political and media establishment has become as aloof and self-referential as the Communist regime was prior to 1989. The propagation of this sentiment poses a challenge to German democracy, particularly in Eastern Germany, where traditional bonds to political parties are weaker than in the West. Dr KÖTZING’s talk was a very thought-provoking and nuanced diagnosis of the persisting differences in political culture that continue to exist three decades after the former East Germany ceased to exist.
Fieldtrip to Miyazaki

Japanese Studies, 05-12 Jan 2020;
by Ms. Ka Ling Prudence KWOK, Year 4 student

Before visiting the Miyazaki Prefecture, I had never thought of being able to travel in rural Japan – because I am not a Japanese speaker and I don’t know how to drive! During this one-week trip, we visited major attractions in the Prefecture, such as the Takachiho Gorge and the Devil’s Washboard. Other than that, we had a cultural exchange session with students from the University of Miyazaki and also a company visit at Asahi Kasei in Nobeoka.

The best part about this trip is the homestay experience where I have stayed in two households along with two Japanese-speaking students from HKU – Emily and Rebecca. As I am not familiar with Japanese cultures, I had some culture shocks which I had lots of questions in mind. But at the same time, I had the opportunity to discuss in-depth with my host families and schoolmates about the way of life in Japan and Hong Kong which is simply a valuable out-of-classroom learning experience for me.

Arabic Programme welcomes the returning students to study at Chi Wah Learning Commons

Arabic Programme, 22 May 2020 (Fri)

In May, the University gradually started to resume normal levels of services, and in-campus facilities have gradually reopened to students. Students remarkably returned to study at Chi Wah Learning Commons. Arabic Programme wanted to share these great moments with students via sharing traditional Arabic dates filled cookies with the compliments of Arabic Programme to show an important side of Arabic culture which is the Arabian hospitality.
## Other Seminars and Events

### Hong Kong Studies

**18 Jan 2020 (Sat)**

**塑造一個跨國品牌——十九世紀早期中外貿易與伍浩官的畫像**

By Dr. John WONG

### Japanese Studies

**04 Jun 2020 (Thu)**

**Music in Words with Nobuyuki Tsujii**

Moderated by Dr. Yoshiko NAKANO

"Music in Words with Nobuyuki Tsujii," a popular Japanese pianist, at HKU's Grand Hall. The video of his talk and concert is now available on YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsoprEw-iqk

### Hong Kong Studies

**21 Jan 2020 (Tue)**

**Historical/Sociological Perspectives on Civil Unrest in Hong Kong**

By Dr. John WONG

### Spanish

**21 May - 30 Jun 2020**

**On the Other Side of the World - Exploring South America**

By Ms. Alma Weija CHEN

### Japanese Studies

**26 Jun 2020 (Fri)**

**Online Workshop on "Why and How Do We Conduct "Written Communication"?**

By Ms. Atsuko MITO

"Written communication" is one of the four basic skills of communication. At the workshop, we looked at how we conduct our daily Japanese "written communication" and came up with important features of it by making contrasts with "oral communication", which provided some useful points for learning/teaching the language.

### American Studies

**10 Jun 2020 (Wed)**

**Asia Global Institute Webinar: “Latin America—Leadership Tests in the Pandemic”**

By Dr. Bárbara FERNANDEZ MELLEDA

### American Studies

**12 Aug 2020 (Wed)**

**How will Latin American countries cope with the global competition and cooperation between China and the United States?**

By Dr. Bárbara FERNANDEZ MELLEDA

### American Studies

**14 Jun 2020 (Sun)**

**Alborada Online Webinar: “Chile’s Social Uprising and Covid-19”**

By Dr. Bárbara FERNANDEZ MELLEDA
Publications

BORLAND, Janet
Earthquake Children: Building Resilience from the Ruins of Tokyo
Harvard University Press, 2020

LI, Ji
“Filing and Research of Paris Foreign Mission’s Archives of the Vicariate Apostolic of Manchuria.”

POCH, Daniel
Japan Forum, 2020

FERNÁNDEZ MELLEDA, Bárbara

NAKANO, Yoshiko
“Japan’s Postwar International Stewardesses: Embodying Modernity and Exoticism in the Air.”

STEINBERG, Monica
“Uncivil Obedience: Lowell Darling Follows the Law.”
TRAMBAIOLO, Daniel

WONG, Dixon H.W.
“It is not that all cultures have business, but that all business has culture.”

WONG, Dixon H.W. (with CHAU, Karin Ling-fung)
Tradition and Transformation in a Chinese Family Business

WONG, Dixon H.W. (with CHAU, Karin Ling-fung)
“Several Things that We Know About Creativity: History, Biography and Affordances in Entrepreneurship.”

WONG, John D.O. (With NG, Michael Hoi Kit) (Eds.)
香港動盪: 法與治的歷史文化解讀
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2020.

WONG, John D.O.
“Fidelity and Sacrifice: The Gender Discourse of Traders in Pre- and Post-Opium War Canton.”
In the Media

American Studies

Dr. Bárbara FERNANDEZ MELLEDA
Scholar Dialogue on Covid-19 and Latin America
Intellisia Institute. Observatorio de América Latina, Vol. 18
Jun 2020

East Studies Division

武漢肺炎疫情 拉近中日關係
中央廣播電臺 (Radio Taiwan International)
03 Mar 2020

Why have democracy leaders in Hong Kong been arrested?
Al Jazeera
19 Apr 2020

FOCUS: Sino-U.S. strains over Hong Kong may ignite tensions in East Asia
Kyodo News
28 May 2020

FOCUS: Japan caught in dilemma over Hong Kong in ties with mainland China
Kyodo News
30 Jun 2020

European Studies

Dr. Roland VOGT
Myös Euroopan maiden kahdenvälinen kauppa suurvaltojen kanssa vaikeutuu, kun Kiina ja Yhdysvallat vihoittelevat
Kauppalehti
10 Aug 2020

Hong Kong Studies

Dr. John D.O. WONG
Hong Kong’s last craft masters and the artists trying to keep their skills alive
SCMP; Post Magazine
19 Apr 2020

Japanese Studies

Dr. Yoshiko NAKANO
日港関係知多D
Newsletter of the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong
Mar 2020

China Studies

Dr. Ji LI
Christianity in China: Recollections on the Field by Prominent Scholars
China Christianity Studies Group and Whitworth University
Jul 2020

East Studies Division

Coronavirus brings rivals Japan and China together
The Strait Times
20 Feb 2020

山川異域防疫同心 中日齟齬多年意外融冰
中央通訊社 (Central News Agency)
20 Feb 2020
Staff Achievements

Dr. Janet BORLAND  
(Japanese Studies)

Dr. Janet BORLAND was awarded the Hong Kong Academy of the Humanities First Book Prize for 2020 for her book, *Earthquake Children: Building Resilience from the Ruins of Tokyo* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2020).  

Janet was awarded a prestigious Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship for 2020-21 and will spend one year at the University of Tokyo.

Dr. Ji LI  
(China Studies)

Dr. Ji LI got her third GRF/ECS project funded. It's titled “Christianity on the Move: Routes and Religious Mobility in Late Imperial and Modern China, 1750s to 1950s”.

Dr. Valerie MARTINEZ  
(French Programme)

The project that Dr. Valerie MARTINEZ coordinates, the ILLSA Project (https://www.illsaproject.com/) is one of the finalists selected to go through to the final round of judging for the 2020 International e-Learning Excellence Awards.

The competition had 47 initial submissions and 39 competitors were invited to submit full case histories. After the evaluation of these case histories by a panel of judges, 15 are being invited to present in the next round. As a finalist, the ILLSA project will be included in a published book of the finalists’ case histories.

Background:

The European Conference on e-Learning was established 19 years ago. It has been held in France, Portugal, England, The Netherlands, Greece and Portugal to mention only a few of the countries who have hosted it. ECEL is generally attended by participants from more than 40 countries and attracts an interesting combination of academic scholars, practitioners and individuals who are engaged in various aspects of e-Learning. Among other journals, the Electronic Journal of e-Learning publishes a special edition of the best papers presented at this conference.

ECEL 2020 is being hosted by University of Applied Sciences HTW Berlin, Germany. This conference will also host the 6th e-Learning Excellence Awards.

Dr. Daniel POCH  
(Japanese Studies)

Dr. Daniel POCH won the Faculty Research Award for Junior Tenure-track Professoriate Staff (for cumulative research activity over 3-year period).
Staff News

New Staff

Mr. Pablo TORRADO SOLO DE ZALDIVAR
Assistant Lecturer
(Spanish Programme)

Dr. Chi Hang WONG
Lecturer
(China Studies and Global Creative Industries)

Departing Staff

Mr. Álvaro ACOSTA CORTE
Assistant Lecturer
(Spanish Programme)

Dr. Maria DE LUNA
Assistant Lecturer
(Spanish Programme)

Dr. Timothy GODDARD
Assistant Professor
(Japanese Studies)

Ms. Eulji LEE
Assistant Lecturer
(Korean Studies)

Dr. Victor TEO
Assistant Professor
(Japanese Studies)

Staff taking up new positions

Dr. Monica STEINBERG
Programme Director
(American Studies)

Student Achievement

Eric Senkit SUEN (Japanese Studies and China Studies) who spend a year at Kyoto U from April 2019 — March 2020, published a 2700-word essay on the Covid-19 and its impact on Hong Kong on the website of Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) at Kyoto University: https://covid-19chronicles.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/post-042-html/

CONTACT

For more details on all of the above events, please visit https://smlc.hku.hk/news/

If there is any information you would like to see featured in future issues of the e-newsletter or if you have any comments or suggestions related to the current issue, please don’t hesitate to contact the Outreach and Development committee

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