



香港教育大學

The Education University
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International Summer School 2016 - Students' Learning Outcome



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Graduate
School

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Preface

A common education model, in which students play a passive role in learning, has been in place in higher education institutions for a long time. Students have been fed with learning experiences designed by educators, which cannot always suit students' needs best. A concept "Students as Change Agents"¹ has been developed to turn the situation around. Under this concept, students change from passive learners to active leaders and can therefore shape their own learning experience and bring about change themselves.

As one of the projects under "Student Network Groups as Change Agents", the "International Postgraduate Student Summer School in Education, Social Sciences, Liberal Arts and Humanities 2016—an International Learning and Engagement Platform for Students and by Students" aims to adopt the concept "Students as Change Agents" and engage students in proactive learning and teaching experience by forming Student Network Groups.

Through organizing and participating in the Summer School, under the guidance of the Advisory Committee,

¹Dunne, E. & Zandstra, R. (2011). In Brown, T. & Nurser, T. (Eds.), *Students as Change Agents : New Ways of Engaging with Learning and Teaching in Higher Education*. York: ESCalate.



postgraduate students from different parts of the world, who comprise the Organizing Committee, experienced a new way of learning while bringing about and observing positive changes in themselves. To pass on their precious experience to the newcomers of student-led projects, we kept a record of their learning outcomes.

The benefits of this project are strongly felt by both students and teachers. We would like to thank every partner institution and participant who helped to make it happen. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the University Grants Committee for their support in the form of Teaching Development Grant to the Summer School. Without their support, the event could not have been a great success and students would have had no opportunity to benefit from the experience.

We believe that student-led projects will be a great driver of quality higher education. We look forward to motivating more students to be active “change agents” in the future.

Prof LO Sing Kai
Project Leader
Dean of Graduate School

Introduction

Over 350 scholars and postgraduate students from 14 countries / regions gathered at The Education University of Hong Kong in July for the five-day “International Summer School 2016 in Education, Social Sciences, Liberal Arts, and Humanities—an International Learning and Engagement Platform for Students and by Students”.

The event featured various research activities including three workshops: (1) Academic Writing Workshop by Prof. Mary Curran; (2) Research Training Workshop by Prof. Lawrence Lam; and (3) Academic Publishing Workshop by Taylor & Francis Asia Pacific.

As an event for and by students, the Summer School was organized by postgraduate students from our University and partner universities. From inviting workshop tutors to arranging logistics, the students overcame obstacles one after another.

In this publication, our members and participants of the Summer School share what they have achieved with the public. The sharing can definitely lend some fresh insights into a more effective education model.

Organizing Committee
International Summer School 2016



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List of Organizing Committee Members

Local Members:

CAO Yuan, PhD student
The Education University of Hong Kong
Chairperson

Rachel KWAN, PhD student
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Theme and Cultural Functions Coordinator

Olga SAZHINA, PhD student
The Education University of Hong Kong
Communications Officer

WANG Bo, EdD student
The Education University of Hong Kong
Technical Supports Coordinator

ZENG Guohong, Joanna, MPhil student
The Education University of Hong Kong
Secretary

International Members:

LIU Xing, PhD student, Hiroshima University, Japan

Takashi OMURA, PhD student, Nagoya University, Japan

Yu OSAKA, PhD student, Hiroshima University, Japan

SAM Ka Lam, Sam, PhD student, National Institute of
Education, Singapore

Kanokwan TOUMSIRI, PhD student, Leuphana Universität
Lüneburg, Germany

Naoyuki YAMADA, PhD student, Hiroshima University, Japan



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Leading Summer School 2016— A Rewarding Challenge

CAO Yuan
The Education University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

As chairperson of the Committee of Summer School 2016, I have seen how from August 2015 the whole team prepared the event. Over one year, all the committee members devoted themselves to ensure that the event went smoothly and finally we got our success.

Now it is time to reflect on the progress we have made over the past year. As an overall comment, I have been very impressed by the productivity of our Organizing Committee (OC) and all the passion of all its members. The International Postgraduate Student Summer School in Education, Social Sciences, Liberal Arts and Humanities 2016 is an international learning and engagement platform for students and by students that aims to build up a student network and provide a learning opportunity for postgraduate students to plan, develop, and organize the event. This Summer School provides a platform for postgraduate students to learn, interact, and exchange with other students their ideas, experiences, and difficulties encountered. During the preparation

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period, we were able to receive expert training in essential transferable skills from international scholars.

There are three main ways to build up our student network. Firstly the recruitment email sent to the EdUHK postgraduate students. Those who were interested in becoming the Organizing Committee members formed the initial team. And when these students attended international conferences or study programs, they spread this information to the overseas students. This way, we recruited the overseas postgraduates as our committee members. And the third way involved the students who attended the summer school last year and had the intention to become OC member this year.

After the committee was established, we started to operate our summer school by applying our research skills to the operation of the event. One research question was set up: How to operate Summer School? Applying the theory, Students as Change Agents, our OC members started to do the work. We collected the ideas of postgraduate students and their issues and concerns and sorted out three main themes which covered the different areas and met the requirements of students from different background. In order to choose and invite the proper

and qualified lecturers for the workshops, we sought advice from our Advisory Committee. And at the same time, invitations to the Summer School were opened to postgraduate students around the world.

As there were over 300 students from all over the world who applied to attend the Summer School this year, we tried to use the online application system for students to register for the Summer School. Through the online system, we were able to handle huge amounts of the student information, the Summer School schedule and the workshop management much more effectively and efficiently. This really decreased the errors which are possible with a manual system and increased the speed of information processing.

During the period of the Summer School, the postgraduate students did not only learn practical academic knowledge such as academic writing skills; the effective ways to publish the journal successfully and the quantitative research methods, but also made connections with new students and peers which could be their network for later study life. The network is strengthened! And this is one of the purposes of the Summer School.



As a chairperson of Organizing Committee, I am responsible for overseeing and coordinating the whole summer school. My tasks included but were not limited to the following:

- Call for participation as Organizing Committee member and allocate work to the members;
- Ensure the Organizing Committee functions properly;
- Make the project timeline and ensure each goal is achieved on time;
- Conduct OC members meetings; and
- Prepare the essential Summer School proposal and reports.

Surely, I met some challenges during the process of preparation and tried to find the way to solve them. For example, we held the Organizing Committee meetings every two month over the past year. As the members were from different geographical regions, such as Japan, Russia, America, Singapore, it was hard for us to hold the meeting

face on face. Thanks to advanced technology, we were able to use Skype as the application for us to handle the meeting. Through Skype, members can exchange digital documents such as images, text, video, and may transmit both text and video messages. It also allowed the creation of video conference calls. Through Skype meetings, we could communicate smoothly and conveniently.

And another situation we met was the time problem. In order to ensure that we kept to the time line we had made, we established concurrent working groups to deal with tasks. Every member was responsible for at least one aspect of our work and he/she had to report on the progress of the work in the OC meetings.

As the number of applications we received was more than we expected, we started to recruit student volunteers to receive the delegates and help to do other jobs such as a hostel registration desk and information desk service; technology support and logistics support. Through this way, our Organizing Committee had more helpers to support our work, and guarantee that the whole event process went well. For the volunteers, it meant that they could have greater opportunity to experience and participate in this event.



From the experience of being the chairperson, I have learnt a lot beyond being a PhD student. First, I needed to make all members feel valued: each of them should be seen as an important person on this committee who cannot be replaced by others. This can motivate their mind to do the job well. I also needed to listen to others. Everyone should be able to share their opinions and comments during a meeting and actually, for the most part these opinions are really useful to the process of promoting the event. As chairperson, I also allowed the members to take on responsibilities. But, to do the work well needs cooperation rather than just working alone: everyone should be in charge of their work, and the entire committee will support them if they need any help.

Apart from all this, as chairperson I needed to control my emotion when faced with situations beyond expectation and I needed to have the ability to manage the relationships well, including the relationship between the Organizing Committee and the Advisory Committee; the Organizing Committee and student volunteers; the Organizing Committee and delegates and so on. Having a harmonious relationship kept the event progress smooth. As we began preparing this summer school in August 2015, the need for planning for the future is essential and

necessary. We made the whole year time line and tried to keep the pace of each stage.

I really appreciate this opportunity as to be the chairperson of Organizing Committee of Summer School 2016 and tried my best to do the work well. This experience will be the treasure in my whole life.



The Gains from Being an OC Member: An Exceptional Experience Over and Beyond Formal Learning

Rachel KWAN

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

When I was approached by my PhD supervisor who is a member of the Advisory Committee of the International Summer School and Research Conference to participate in the event as a member of the Organizing Committee, I immediately asked what I will gain if I agree to serve. I would be very keen to take part if this will provide an opportunity for me to learn new things that I do not normally encounter as part of my PhD training. My supervisor advised me to approach the Chair of the Advisory Committee directly. After talking to him on the phone for less than 10 minutes, I was convinced. I am particularly pleased as it turned out that my expectation was totally fulfilled. Below I will articulate more on what and how my expectations have been met.

My role in the Organizing Committee was assisting with the arrangement of pre- and post-conference workshops. I was told that this was to be a 3-in-1 event: in this particular context it would be more ideal for the workshops to be

part of the Summer School, which means it would be useful for the content of the workshops to match the content of the Summer School. As soon as I knew about this, I contacted those Committee members who were in charge of the Summer School to find out what have been scheduled. I also talked to fellow students about what they saw as the major challenges faced during their study, including the taught course component and the thesis. Arguably more important, I approached different members of the Advisory Committee and sought their advice on the main difficulties their students were facing during the course of their studies. I never imagined I would talk to so many people at different levels about these challenges and difficulties during my own PhD study. This, itself, was a rich experience for me in terms of communication that is unique in that it is neither purely academic nor purely social.

The Committee finally decided to organize three workshops: one on research methods, one on English writing and the other on academic publishing. I did not have much involvement in terms of inviting the international speakers, as my own networks are still more at the student-level than at professor-level. Nevertheless, for the same reason, some members of the Organizing



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Committee pointed out that in the future when we attend international conferences, we should make use of those opportunities to talk to experienced and senior researchers, using that as a means to build our own networks at different levels. Again, this is something I “learnt”, and that surely is not something I could have learnt from my PhD study. I treasure it very much.

Towards the end of the Summer School, I was helping the Chair of the Advisory Committee by serving as secretary / note-taking helper when he was interviewed by delegates from outside Hong Kong. Many of the delegates praised how well-organized our Summer School was and invited the Chair to be a member of their Advisory Committee when they organize their own event in their own university. I heard the Chair recommend that they also invite members of this Organizing Committee to join as members because they have worked very diligently and intelligently. I began to realize that this was another way of extending the academic network in a social manner. Again, this was something I could not have learned from my formal PhD training.

All in all, with the examples given above (and numerous other examples I could give), I wish to demonstrate that

participating in this Summer School was an excellent way to enrich my non-formal learning and a definite complement to my formal research training. I hope this reflection will encourage other students to seriously consider participating in the International Summer School next time (next year?) as a member of the Organizing Committee.



Organizing Summer School 2016—

My Tears and Joys

Olga SAZHINA

The Education University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Olga Sazhina, 1st year PhD student from Russia, an Organizing Committee (OC) and Student Network Group (SNG) member, during the Summer School 2016, was mainly responsible for organizing the talk from some of the main publishers in Asia-Pacific Region. Her other duties during the event were: airport pick up (picking up guests from Lomonosov Moscow State /University) and lunch reception on the second day of the Summer School 2016 (leading the keynote speakers to the lunch, maintaining order, assisting participants).

Olga found the opportunity to be a member of the Student Network Group very useful and inspiring. She thinks that research life as well as postgraduate study experience is not fulfilling without organizing and participating in events such as these, because they provide out of book experience. During the meeting brainstorm, she and her group members came up with the idea of inviting some famous publishers in the academic area to give a talk to the Summer School. Because being published during

postgraduate life is a reasonable expectation and fruitful thing, Olga and her group members with the help of the Advisory Committee decided to invite editors from Taylor and Francis, Springer and SAGE. In addition, they proposed some topics for the talk, which were: “Tips on successful journal publication for postgraduate students” and “How to respond to journal reviewer’s comments”. Moreover, the publishers were asked for distribution of free copies of book catalogues, previous journals in Education, Social Sciences, Liberal Arts and Humanities (especially with EdUHK staff publication / research), and to provide souvenirs or discounted vouchers for online book purchasing.

The preparation for the event was a sweet and sour experience for Olga. She faced some difficulties finding one publisher because of outdated contact details, and when the invitation letter was finally resent after few attempts to a new contact, no official reply (from SAGE) was received. Another publisher (Springer Asia Limited) was not able to participate, as the budget for annual activities has been formed before the beginning of calendar new year (2016) and they were unable to participate as speakers. Nevertheless, Olga concentrated more on Taylor & Francis Asia Pacific who agreed to give



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a talk during the event and distribute the materials (300 pc, post-in notes) as souvenirs. She confirmed a talk with a topic “Publishing in Academic Journals—Tips to Help you Succeed”.

She reported that the opportunity to be a part of SNG and take on responsibilities as an OC member brought her some new skills and competences. She said, “I have had the experience of organizing and developing an international summer school along with peers from EdUHK, as well as with overseas partners, and I had never done this before. I have upgraded my skills in team-building and of course I have improved my negotiating and communication skills. What is more, I have learnt from the process of interaction among international students and found new friends. It gave me a good chance to exchange ideas about my research among the participants of our event, and also share the experiences and difficulties with colleagues while accomplishing my work”.

Invaluable Experience: What I Learnt from Summer School 2016

WANG Bo

The Education University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

I'm very lucky that I was able to attend the Student Network Group project and serve as a member of the Organizing Committee for the Summer School. It was an unusual experience and precious to me. Planning, developing and organizing an academic event provided an opportunity for me to learn much that I never knew. Furthermore, I now know many excellent domestic and overseas peers who have given me a chance to exchange my ideas, as well as my study. This process has broken my fixed thinking patterns and enlightened me to think of solutions to problems from different angles. On the other hand, I gained new perspectives in terms of my study by attending the speeches given by the international scholars. In this report, I will introduce my role and responsibility on the project, the difficulties and solutions encountered during the project and what I learnt from this experience.



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My role and responsibility

On this project, I was responsible for technical support which was divided into two aspects: for participants and for the Organizing Committee. As most of participants came from abroad and mainland China, the most convenient way of information exchange and registration was via the internet. Therefore, my first task was to design the website and link the online registration form to our website. In this process, I put the button of registration form on the obvious position after consulting with other Organizing Committee members because we thought this design would give a clear perspective to participants. After participants clicked the button, they could turn to the registration form.

At the outset, we had to choose from three preliminary screen systems for the registration form. The inclusion criteria included: i. easy-to-use for participants; ii. satisfactory function; and iii. available budget for this section. Therefore, I used each demo given by the companies, consulted with the developers by email to resolve problems encountered during the test process, as well as getting the price of each version and corresponding functions. Finally, we chose "Openconf

conference registration system" as a cost-effective and efficient registration form. I also reported all information about the various registration systems to our Organizing Committee and Advisory Committee, and sought advice from them. This system played an important role in the subsequent work: for example, it was convenient for our committee to categorize the participants to different groups according to their options; it enabled us to get general information about numbers of participants in each workshop session; and it also helped our committee to generate the program run-down and saved manpower, material and resource time for the Organizing Committee.

My second task was responsible for the smooth operation of Organizing Committee meetings by ensuring timely and effective communication between all Organizing Committee members. Since our committee members come from different countries, several restricted conditions impacted the procedure of the meeting, such as, the time difference or software faults. Specifically, at the outset, we planned to communicate through email, and have a briefing meeting monthly through the video chat application "Skype". However, as the work progressed, there was an increasing need to discuss work detail. To increase the frequency of meeting was impossible since



time difference usually led to absences of members at meetings. Meantime, although I tested the software each time before a meeting, there was still instability in the process of communication because of network faults at the endpoint of overseas members. Ultimately, we divided all members into sub-groups according to different tasks. And I created different groups through applications used by mobile phones, such as the “WeChat”, “WhatsApp” and “Line”.

The difficulties and the solutions

Before I participated in this project, I had never thought about how to successfully conduct an academic event. In my mind, it seemed that to conduct a conference may not be easy but at least it was not difficult. However, when I personally organized an activity, I found that a lot of details should be considered and that each of them is important to the results of whole event. I encountered some difficulties, such as, not designing a satisfactory registration form and sometimes I could not ensure a successful briefing meeting among Organizing Committee members.

First, in the process of designing the registration form, we

planned to collect the general information of participants through their registration. It aimed to be a convenient way of gathering data needed in subsequent work such as categorizing different participants, arranging classrooms based on the preference dates chosen by participants and allocating accommodation for participants. Therefore, a lot of setting were closely related to the following work. However, through lack of experience, I could not create a satisfactory form. For the solution of this problem, I took more time to discuss with other members what information should be provided by participants for our activity, as well as referring to the registration forms of other conferences and consulting with our members on the setting of registration forms. Ultimately, the first version was finished, and, as this was the first time we had used this registration form, a lot of functions could be explored and consideration was needed to whether or not participants would be comfortable when filling this form. Therefore, I invited our Organizing Committee members and Advisory Committee members to test our first version registration system and give me feedback. Before the final version was launched, it was modified many times according to the advice given by our Committee members and the Advisory Committee members.



Another difficulty concerned communication among our Organizing Committee members. At the outset, we expected all members to communicate efficiently face to face so we planned using internet social software such as “Skype” to perform timely communication. However, committee members usually could not get together since time differences and unstable internet social software usually meant spending too much time. Therefore, after consultation between our Organizing Committee members, we were divided into different sub-groups based on our personal tasks. It was beneficial to the communication at appropriate times. Several social communication software systems were used based on the different use habits of people in different countries: for example, we used the software “Line” to contact people in Japan, “Whatsapp” for people in Hong Kong, and “Wechat” for the people in Mainland China. In addition, the meetings were scheduled to be held less often so as to solve the communication problem. I debugged the device for a smooth meeting before each briefing.

What I learnt from this experience

Now when I look back, the whole process, from an Organizing Committee built by a cluster of novices to

the Summer School itself, ended in a satisfactory way. I went through sadness when I encountered difficulties, experienced happiness when the problems were resolved, and harvested friendship from the Organizing Committee. I really appreciate this project because it taught me many united knowledges. In particular, I learnt to listen to others, which means not only listening with patience to meaning, but understanding and being considerate of others. It contributes to more efficient communication, while it lets me learn many unique ideas from other people who grew up in different countries.

I also learnt many working skills, such as, communication skills, organizational skills and improving my team spirit. For management skills, I was promoted to design the website and registration system because this work was the main communication channel between the Organizing Committee and participants during the preparation period. In order to ensure the delivery of information in time, I needed to have a clear conception of this program through ceaselessly communicating with other members. This made me think about how to communicate in a more skillful way. My organizational skills were improved by organizing the transnational briefing meeting which was controlled by various factors such as: time difference,



communication device, and the sudden absence of participants. In order to ensure a successful meeting, a lot of details needed to be considered. This process inspired me to think about how I can efficiently organize an activity without missing details. Finally, team spirit was important to successfully conduct the Summer School. Each Organizing Committee member was responsible for different tasks, but we all had the same aim, which was to produce a successful academic activity. That the Summer School ended in a satisfactory way depended on a united team rather than a person, it let me realize that only learnt cooperation and asserting the advantages of each person in a team can facilitate a quality activity.

Overall, I would like to thank the project for giving me such a treasured experience. All transferable skills I learnt from the process will contribute to my career development in the future.

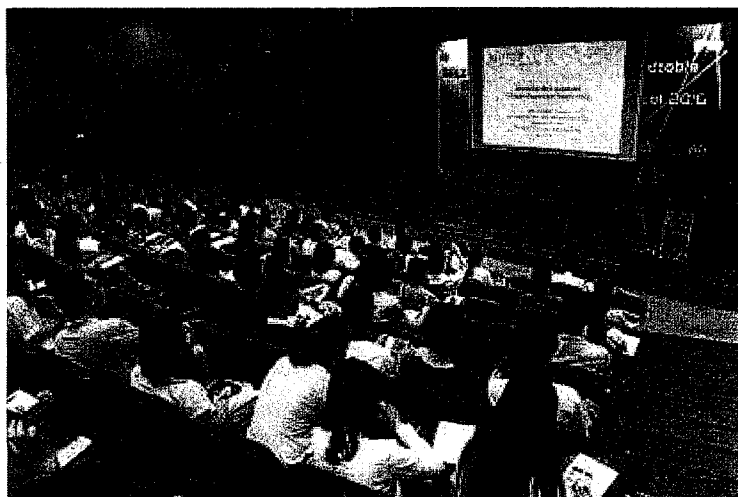


Opening Ceremony

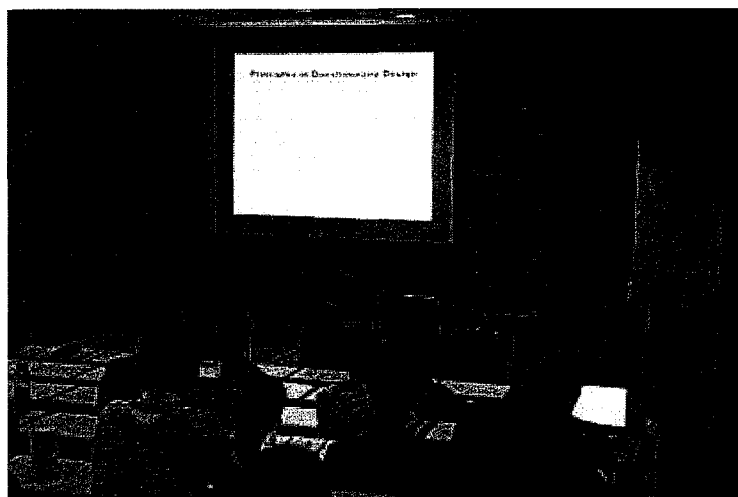


Members of Organizing Committee

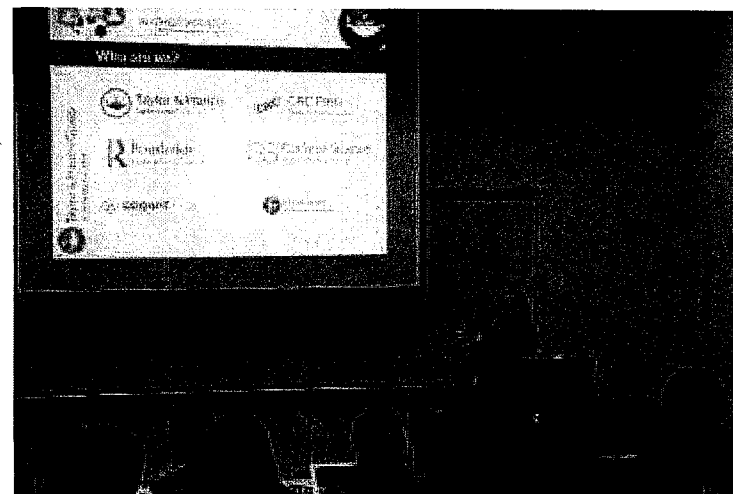




Academic Writing Workshop
by Prof. Mary Curran



Research Training Workshop
by Prof. Lawrence Lam



Academic Publishing Workshop
by Taylor & Francis Asia Pacific



Student Sharing Session



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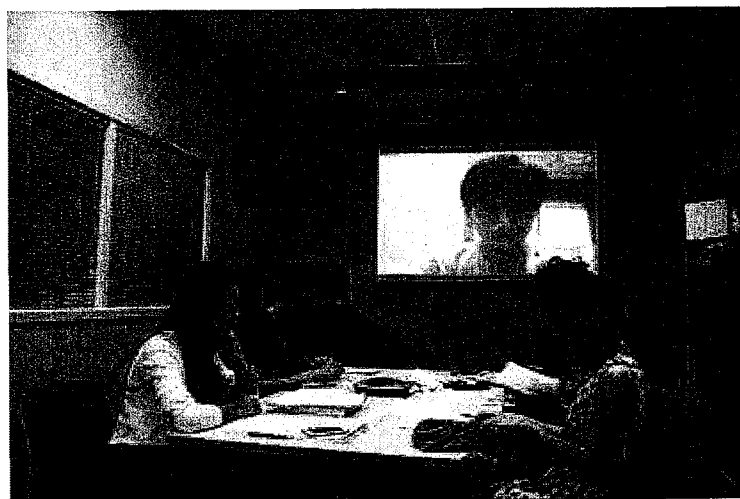
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Students arranged the logistics during the event



Meeting of Organizing Committee

Turning Difficulties into Opportunities— Summer School 2016

ZENG Guohong, Joanna
The Education University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

As a secretary of the Organizing Committee of Summer School, I took on the following responsibilities. My routine was to write the minutes for each meeting. I also conducted a briefing session for student helpers on the registration and information desk. Besides this, I trained local student helpers to be in a good shape for rotating their jobs. Moreover, I facilitated local and international student participants to register and check in for the Summer School, and I answered the attendees' enquiries patiently. Last, I cooperated with other Organizing Committee members and built local and international networks of research.

I have witnessed lots of changes in our project in the past two years. First of all, my gratitude extends to the project funding. With its support, our project becomes more student directed than teacher directed. Of course, I sought assistance from the Advisory Committee when I encountered difficulties. Next, I collected and shared ideas with postgraduate students from in and outside



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Hong Kong to meet our needs. This project has given me the privilege to decide what to learn and how to learn effectively and efficiently. As a result, based on the mutual research interests, I came up with practical workshops such as an academic writing workshop, which attracted more and more international students' attention to the Summer School. Soon after the Summer School, I focused on the evaluation and feedback from all the attendees, and then I highlighted their opinions and created more effective and efficient strategies to meet their needs for next summer school.

Thus, I caught more and more postgraduates' attention for our project and the student network group project become international, practical and attractive. Therefore, I am most grateful for the project funding.

I also found changes in attendees and myself. I worked actively on this project and the attendees were satisfied with my work. Thus, I became more confident and pleased to make more contributions to the Summer School. I realized attendees' passions and participation in Summer School are very important to me and their support will make the greatest contributions to an international Summer School.

In addition, I faced some challenges on the project but, to my mind, our team had good preparation, discussion and collaboration strategies to cope with these challenges.

First, we nurtured our team spirit in spite of the debate on the concerns of Summer School among our struggling team members. Next, we were happy to share ideas and work together regardless of diverse suggestions from attendees. Finally, we formed a dedicated Organizing Committee team.

From these experiences, I explored the impact of organizing a summer school on students' intercultural communication skills. In other words, I improved my communication skills while working with different participants from multicultural backgrounds. I learnt how to listen to participants' voices patiently and give them timely support when they were in need of my help. I made more friends and developed a strong social network with local and international postgraduate students. Moreover, I have improved my writing skills and research skills after attending academic writing workshops. In addition, I acquired positive attitudes while taking on the Student Network Group project.



I have developed a strong sense of community and I was able to nurture my team spirit. Last, I have learnt how to negotiate difficulties with strength and to label myself to work them out. In addition, I developed my leadership skills with academic focus while working on this project.

What is more, my learning experience as an organizer, participant and helper in the Student Network Group project facilitated me to acquire the essential skills in academic research and writing. In a word, the Student Network Group project has led me to establish important collaborative partnerships with local and international institutions.

Therefore, I have learnt many “real life” lessons from this project and from my peers and team members. First, the difficulties in the Student Network Group project remind me of the challenges in life: keep positive and never ask for a satisfactory answer and just explore a smart question. Second, life is not about seeking the right person, but creating the right relationship with the people around me. It is not how much I care in the beginning, but how much I care till the very end. Third, positive attitudes always work. Some people always throw stones in my path. It all depends on how I deal with them. With these stones,

I prefer to build a bridge across our gap rather than to build a wall to block our way, for I am the architect of my life. When I faced the challenges in the Student Network Group project and lost all hope, I decided to go ahead since I believe it is just a bend but not the end.



Key to Success: Communication

*LIU Xing
Hiroshima University, Japan*

Firstly, as a member of the Student Network Group and as a participant in the workshops, I learnt a lot.

Communication with some friends who are also interested in philosophy of education really benefited me a lot and I now know what my peers are doing in their different fields. On the other hand, since my major is philosophy of education, data analysis systems or quantitative researches are somehow far away from me. But I have been unsatisfied with my very narrow view for a long time and these workshops acquainted me with friends who are doing this kind of work and helped me know how a different kind of research approach could operate. Their presentations did inspire me.

As a member of the Organizing Committee, I have to say that EdUHK students are really responsible, and I did learn a lot from this work. The first thing that I came to know is that in language learning, only practice can make perfect. My major is neither English nor Japanese so I may not have been a good translator between Hong

Kong students and Japanese students at the beginning. But after trying again and again, I found that I could get closer and closer to a precise way of expressing what others think and made communication possible, both in English and Japanese. I really appreciate EdUHK for giving this chance to me.

The second thing I learnt is that cultural difference does exist, but it is not necessarily an obstacle between communication. Actually I found that, given enough time, we could always get consensus after discussion guided by the principle of reason. I believe this is really important in such a global world, for our attention has been upon how people are different, rather than close for too long.



Transferrable Skills I Acquired during Summer School 2016

Takashi OMURA
Nagoya University, Japan

During the Summer School, I learnt the process of writing academic articles through the Conference Workshop presented by Professor Mary Curran (Rutgers University, USA) and the Sub-theme Speech “Publishing in Academic Journals: Tips to Help you Succeed” by Taylor & Francis. Especially, I could appreciate the importance of creating academic writing groups around myself: sharing one’s situation and discussing academically and frankly are the essence required to produce a good thesis.

I also learnt a unique method of presentation from Professor Mary Curran: her presentation was impressive for us because the slides were constructed only of pictures and yet they still had continuity. For me, slides with some sentences help to reconfirm what is being said but I tend to lack concentration on what the presenter is saying because I am focusing on the sentences in the slide at that moment. I don’t know whether Professor Curran intended this or not, but I found that I could concentrate on her presentation more than usual.

The Conference Workshop “Question Me for an Answer: How to Ask Research Questions Wisely?” by Professor Lawrence Lam (University of Technology, Australia) gave me the opportunity to review fundamental frameworks of academic research about humanities and social sciences. Sometimes it is said that the methodology of humanities and social sciences is subtler than that of natural sciences. And this has made me aware of my methodology when I do research. I need to consider its purpose and whether it is adequate or not.

Finally, the presentation “Student Networking: Sharing by International Workgroup” specified the main points of the work we did when preparing for this event. Student members of the Organizing Committee explained the purpose of this International Workgroup and how they organized it. That information had not been available to the participants of the Summer School. After this presentation, it was clear how much effort is needed if we want to have a successful event like this.

Regarding the organization of the event, I learnt the character of online communication and the attitude which I need when I have online meetings.



I was able to follow and understand the process of organizing this event through constant communication with emails, online meetings via Skype, and attached data received from the members in Hong Kong. Also, they helped me overcome difficulties which I faced with the tasks, even if it was a little thing. I learnt that to build a good relationship with each other it is important and effective to prepare before receiving any questions or comments from members in foreign country, even for a very small matter.

On the other hand, the benefit or the efficiency of the online communication is very dependent on the condition of an internet connection, especially with Skype. A bad internet connection will obstruct our conversation. To overcome this problem, of course, we had to prepare a stable internet connection between each other and to be prepared to tell each other when we can't hear them or catch their words even though this can be an interruption.

A Few Reflections on Summer School 2016

*SAM Ka Lam, Sam
National Institute of Education, Singapore*

I am proud to be a part of the Organizing Committee of the International Postgraduate Roundtable and Research Forum cum Summer School 2016. During the preparation period, we met our team members constantly, both face-to-face or via e-channel, to work out the overall schedule, promotion, event arrangement, facility stuff, etc.

For the arrangement matter of the Summer School, there were some issues that needed to be considered. The first thing was the check-in/check-out time for accommodation. As we did not have sufficient manpower to operate the counter 24 hours, we needed to inform the participants of an official check-in/check-out period rather than leave them free to decide when to come for checking in and out. If a special request was received, it would be more efficient to treat it case by case.

The second issue concerns the logistic team. Thanks to the technology, during the preparation and event period we were highly reliant on mobile or high-end devices, i.e. smartphones, tablets, etc. for the communication purposes.

One of our members created a WhatsApp group for all of us, then we informed each other of the latest news and requests via the group which was extremely helpful/useful. If we were in another room working on logistics, e.g. moving the chairs and tables, setting up the stage and banners, many of us might not have time to pick up a phone to talk, but the text/voice/picture messages notified us about the updates with maybe just a tiny delay on responding to the message sometimes. Keeping the team spirit was the crucial thing while we were working with others, and the stay-connected culture helped us to achieve the goal easily because it was upheld by the whole team: everybody appreciated the immediate help they received from each other.

The third thing was collecting the participants' feedback. We wanted to interview some of the participants about the Summer School, but, due to the packed schedule and limited time of breaks, the only way we could do this was to distribute questionnaires to them to fill out. Luckily the feedback was quite positive and encouraging, and we did receive constructive and inspiring suggestion/comments.

We believe that the above issues served as a good learning experience for all of us. To sum up, we had a great time

during the rush of the event schedule and the after event activities when we travelled around most of the checkpoints in Hong Kong and got good food! Such a memorable and valuable experience, that I will treasure. Wish you all the best in all your endeavors; see you.



Summer School 2016: Fruitful Efforts of Organizers and Participants

CHEN Zezhao, Jack
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

One of the greatest memories in my life was being an alumnus of The Education University of Hong Kong and 6 years after my graduation still being able to contribute something to it. In this reflection I will share the learning aspects of my contribution to the Student Networking Group, learning the keynote theme, participating in workshops, as well as discussing the potential future summer school cooperation.

I graduated from The Education University of Hong Kong in 2011, and went to the US for another masters degree (WMU) and currently I am pursuing a PhD program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, majoring in kinesiology and community health. During the Summer School, I had the chance to communicate with the Organizing Committee members through Skype, and emails from different countries. We discussed progress, and shared the difficulties we encountered, asking for advice from professionals. Though we had the time zone difference (13 hours behind Hong Kong), we overcame

it and we took notes from each meeting as our reference for the next meeting. My teamwork skills were developed.

Learning the keynote theme of supervisor and student relationship, was my first opportunity to gain knowledge from the experience of so many experts. Since this relationship is essential, and also mysterious, some students have a difficulty in dealing with it, according to several cases in many campuses. There is no doubt that connecting with a supervisor is an important component before being accepted, besides IQ and EQ. I shared stories and various experiences of pursuing degrees in different countries and connecting with my tutors at different times, though a lower GPA was a weakness for myself. I asked a question: "What is the common characteristic most supervisors like?" I was so impressed that the characteristics, such as "grit", "never giving up" and "honest" were keys most of the supervisors mentioned.

I participated in the workshops which included academic writing, quantitative method, and publishing, which were surrounded by the disciplines of education, social sciences, liberal arts, and humanities; and were delivered or facilitated by distinguished scholars from around the world. I learnt from their experiences of encountering

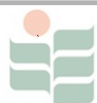


difficulties, solving problems, and advanced skills, which enhanced my critical thinking. Academic writing and publishing have been my weaknesses as I am not a native speaker, and I learnt several techniques for achieving as a professional scholar that will play an important role in my career. In terms of quantitative method, this represents the future direction of the quality of research design, assessment and studies in an academic environment.

The number of participants is a new record (more than 350 scholars and postgraduate students from 14 countries / regions), which has demonstrated the fruitful efforts of EdUHK in exposing students to an international research environment, building their research capacities, and enhancing their academic network. However, the diversity of foreign students might be further enhanced in the future. One of the barriers for international students coming to Hong Kong is the airfare. A program called "Summer Workshop Credits" might be considered. Together with their instructors, students from US, UK, or other countries could come for the summer school, give a presentation, attend a workshop, write a report when they return to their school, and they could get the credits (2-3 credits hours) graded by their instructor. This cooperation programs might be initiated by cooperating with overseas

the Departments of Education, since EdUHK has high international ranking and status.

This Summer School not only gave me experience of being a Workshop Tutor, but also of building academic networks. I am so proud to have had opportunities to play an active and leadership role in the event. The record-breaking success of this year's International Postgraduate Roundtable and Research Forum cum Summer School was created by scholars and students.



By and For Students: Our Participation in Summer School 2016

DU Lei

Shanghai International Studies University, China

1. Preparation Up-close

This was the second time that Shanghai International Studies University had come all the way from China's most vibrant city to partake in this wonderful event held in another great region of China—Hong Kong. Right after receiving the invitation letter from the Graduate School, we took no delays in informing our students that they were going to have a chance to present their academic thoughts and ideas in a prestigious university in Hong Kong where they would be able to exchange views with international researchers with diverse backgrounds. In addition to the show time tailored-made for them, they would also have several high-quality workshops to help them enhance their overall research abilities. They were in ecstasy.

2. Our Role of Coordination

It was just what we had expected and the immediate

response was a fervent wish expressed on the part of our students to be part of this forum. Many students expressed their strong interest in this year's wide coverage of topics; they found the event unique and the main theme this year to be very practical and well-chosen. So we were inundated with application forms. The number of students largely exceeded what we had been able to handle last time. Volunteers came to our rescue promptly as we took several night shifts to sort out the applications. Interestingly enough, students at both doctoral and master levels wanted to join the event. It was something quite fresh. Normally, forums like these are preponderantly dominated by graduate students at master level. We knew that students were going to exhibit their substantial expertise in their specialized domains. We were happy about that more because we were aware that they were to be understood and appreciated in an atmosphere totally different from what they were used to.

3. "By the Students & For the Students"

We asked students to go on-line to submit their personal information and application materials. Apart from that, we developed a system of WeChat for students' mutual help and support. We did not forget that this event



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organized by Education University of Hong Kong had its philosophy of “by the students and for the students”. We established this system as we understood that students could actually help each other in a lot of ways such as obtaining information and getting preparation for this trip. And as it turned out, they did help each other in ways that we as organizers can hardly imagine.

A Student-led Story Unfold: Summer School 2016

ZHU Yuefeng

The Education University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Our university is a unique story of campus and postgraduate education internationalization, and I believe the successful completion of the Summer School marks the completion of an important page. Before becoming a participant and a volunteer, I had believed this page would leave a lot of room for the imagination. At the current moment I am able to share with you that it was beyond my expectation.

The Summer School in nature was a student-orientated event, creating a platform for participants to satisfy their individual needs. When everyone devoted their time, efforts and passion, the plots of the story were created automatically. It was great for us to be the main characters in this story, filled with opportunities to realize how our working models are different from others, and can motivate us to make a change. Human thought is amazing: sometimes even a life's time cannot change our way of thinking, but sometimes a wonderful tiny minute may light up and trigger a long-lasting change. The Summer



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School created numerous of these kinds of tiny minutes for participants, intentionally and unintentionally.

In general, the Summer School was a successful practice of campus and postgraduate education internationalization, promoting the spirit of participation, contribution, communication and transformation.



Published by

Graduate School, The Education University of Hong Kong

B4-G/F-02, The Education University of Hong Kong

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