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The 6th Asian Undergraduate Research Symposium

AURS 2021

PROGRAMME & ABSTRACT BOOK

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Organised by The International Academic Forum (IAFOR) in association with the IAFOR Research Centre at Osaka University and IAFOR's Global University Partners

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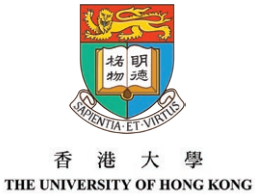
IAFOR Global Partners



Future
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IAFOR has entered into a number of strate[illegible]niversities acr[illegible]d to form the IAFOR Global Partnership Programme. These academic partnerships support and nurture IAFOR's goals of educational cooperation without borders, connecting the organisation with institutions that have an international and internationalising profile, and a commitment to interdisciplinary research.

The IAFOR Global Partnership Programme provides mutual recognition and scope for Global Partner institutions and organisations to showcase their research strengths, as well as engage in the development of projects and programmes with IAFOR.

Programme Design by Thaddeus Pope, IAFOR Media

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Letter of Welcome

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 2021 Asian Undergraduate Research Symposium (AURS). Now in its sixth year, AURS has become an exciting addition to The Asian Conference on Education (ACE) schedule. We are very excited to welcome you all to AURS and ACE. Your attendance means you are taking part in one of the largest international, interdisciplinary academic conferences in Asia.

We are looking forward to meeting you all online and hearing about your research studies. During the day we will be discussing with you the benefits and challenges of presenting at an international conference. We will also be providing workshops to assist you in presentation skills and techniques for how to answer the questions that you may be asked.

During our time together on Saturday, you will have plenty of time for discussion with us, with each other, and with other professors who will come to see your presentations. We hope that you can make many new friends from around the globe and network with those in similar fields.

Don't forget that all student presenters at AURS2021 are welcome to attend other academic sessions at ACE2021 as observers on Friday, November 26. If we don't see you at the ACE2021 sessions, we will look forward to seeing you online on Saturday, November 27.

Kind regards,
Yvonne Masters, José McClanahan, Joseph Haldane, and Grant Black
AURS Facilitators

AURS Facilitators

Yvonne Masters

Yvonne Masters is an independent researcher in Australia. She has been involved with IAFOR for several years as a member of The Asian Conference for Education Organising Committee, as co-facilitator of The Asian Undergraduate Research Symposium, and as a member of the International Academic Advisory Board. Yvonne is the current Editor-in-Chief of the *IAFOR Journal of Education*, a Scopus-indexed, open access journal on education.

Yvonne was a teacher and teacher educator for over 40 years and is still passionate about education. She was a senior lecturer in Professional Classroom Practice in the School of Education, University of New England (UNE), Australia, a position that she accepted after five years as Director of Professional Experience in the same school. Prior to taking up her position at UNE, she had 30 years' experience in secondary schools including in the roles of Curriculum Coordinator, Deputy Principal and Principal. Her teaching experience spans three Australian states. Her research interests centre on undergraduate research, academic publication, teacher education and policy, professional experience, teacher identity, online learning and virtual worlds. Yvonne was awarded her PhD, focused on school principalship, from Deakin University.

Yvonne serves as a reviewer for several education journals and is a senior reviewer for IAFOR conferences. She presents on a variety of education topics including publishing as an academic, teacher education policy, undergraduate research, and online teaching at a range of conferences, both Australian and international.

José McClanahan

Joseph (José) McClanahan, PhD, is Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and an Associate Professor of Spanish at Creighton University Omaha, Nebraska. There, he teaches at all levels of the curriculum, including language, literature and culture. He has taught in Spain, Latin America and Japan. Recently, his research interests have focused on the area of teaching courses related to Languages for Special Purposes, in particular courses related to teaching Spanish to future healthcare professionals. He also has a strong interest in curricular development and design from a language perspective and also focuses on new students entering the university. He has had several summer research grants to work with undergraduate students who are doing research in the Humanities. He has also led student educational trips to every continent on the globe.

AURS Facilitators

Joseph Haldane

Joseph Haldane is the Founder, Chairman and CEO of IAFOR. He is responsible for devising strategy, setting policies, forging institutional partnerships, implementing projects, and overseeing the organisation's international business and academic operations, including research, publications and events.

Dr Haldane is a founding Co-Director of the IAFOR Research Centre, an interdisciplinary think tank situated at The Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP), Osaka University, where since 2015 he has also been a Guest Professor, teaching on the postgraduate Global Governance Course.

A Member of the World Economic Forum's Expert Network for Global Governance, Professor Haldane's research and teaching is on history, politics, international affairs and international education, as well as governance and decision making.

In 2020 Dr Haldane was appointed Honorary Professor of UCL (University College London), through the Bartlett School of Construction and Project Management. He also holds Visiting Professorships in the Faculty of Philology at the University of Belgrade, and at the School of Business at Doshisha University in Kyoto, where he teaches Ethics and Governance on the MBA programme. He is a Member of the International Advisory Council of the Department of Educational Foundations at the University of Hawai i at Mānoa.

Dr Haldane holds a PhD from the University of London in 19th-century French Studies, and has had full-time faculty positions at the University of Paris XII Paris-Est Créteil, Sciences Po Paris, and Nagoya University of Commerce and Business, as well as visiting positions at the French Press Institute in the University of Paris II Panthéon-Assas, The School of Journalism at Sciences Po Paris, and the School of Journalism at Moscow State University (Russia).

Dr Haldane has given invited lectures and presentations to universities and conferences around the world, including at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and advised universities, NGOs and governments on issues relating to international education policy, public-private partnerships, and multi-stakeholder forums. He was the project lead on the 2019 Kansai Resilience Forum, held by the Japanese Government through the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Office in collaboration with IAFOR.

From 2012-2014, Dr Haldane served as Treasurer of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (Chubu), and since 2015 he has been a Trustee of the HOPE International Development Agency (Japan). He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society in 2012, and the Royal Society of Arts in 2015.

AURS Facilitators

Grant Black

Dr Grant Black is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Commerce at Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan, where he has taught Global Skills and Global Issues since 2013. Grant is engaged in diverse roles as a global manager, systems builder, executive leader and university professor. His research and teaching areas include global management skills, intercultural intelligence (CQ) and organisational management. He also has taught Japanese Management Theory at J. F. Oberlin University (Japan), and a continuing education course in the Foundations of Japanese Zen Buddhism at Temple University Japan.

Previously, he was Chair of the English Section at the Center for Education of Global Communication at the University of Tsukuba where he served in a six-year post in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. He holds a BA Honors in Religious Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara; an MA in Japanese Buddhist Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles; and a Doctor of Social Science (DSocSci) from the Department of Management in the School of Business at the University of Leicester. Dr Black is a Chartered Manager (CMgr), the highest status that can be achieved in the management profession in the UK. In 2018, he was elected a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute (FCMI) and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA). Grant is President of Black Inc. Consulting (Japan), a business & university global strategic management firm based in Tokyo which helps individuals and organisations achieve their global targets. He is the director of the newly formed Nippon Academic Management Institute (NAMI) and the author of the forthcoming *Education Reform Policy at a Japanese Super Global University: Policy Translation, Migration and Mutation* (Routledge, 2022). He serves as a Vice-President for The International Academic Forum (IAFOR).

Dr Grant Black is a Vice-President (at large) of IAFOR. He is a member of the Business & Economics section of the International Academic Advisory Board.

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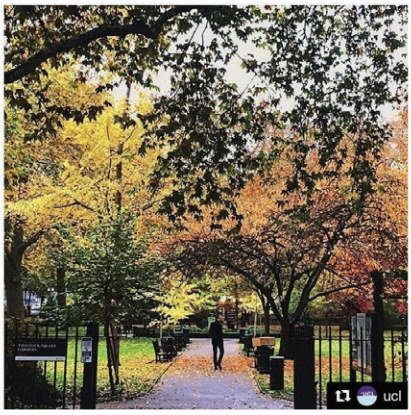
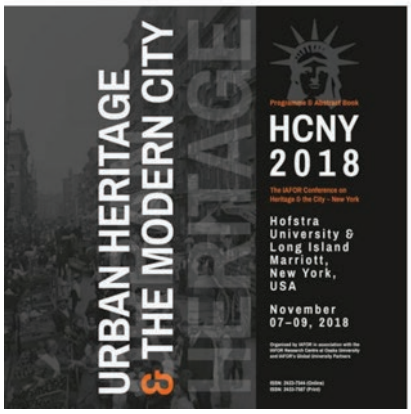
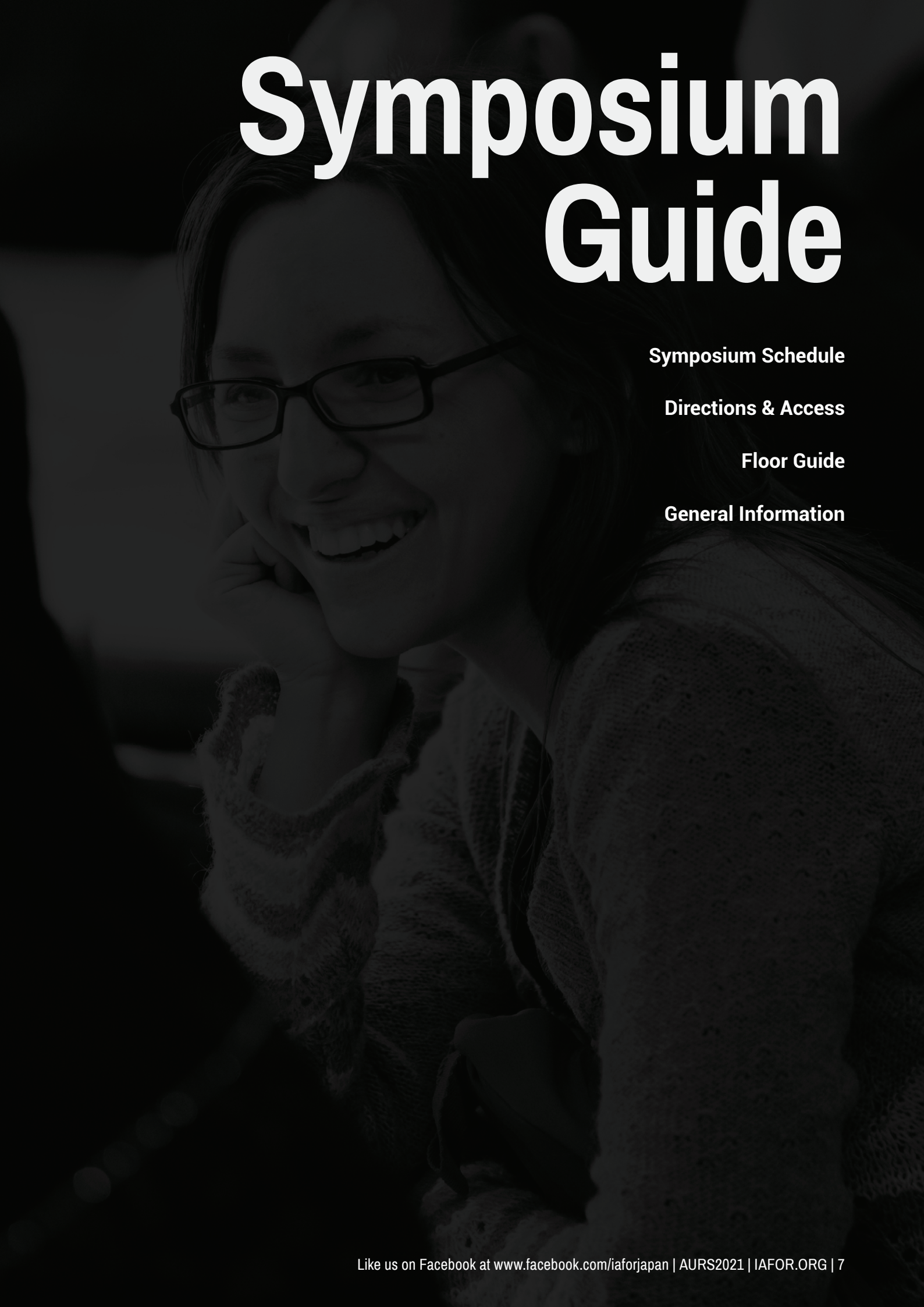
Instagram







Symposium Guide

Symposium Schedule

Directions & Access

Floor Guide

General Information

Saturday, November 27, 2021 | Online from Tokyo

Saturday at a Glance

11:50-12:00	**Welcome Announcements and Introduction**
12:00-12:15	**Student Introductions** Ice-breaker activities that make use of Zoom's breakout rooms to encourage students to get to know each other and share their stories.
12:15-12:40	**Professional Development/Capacity Building Session 1** This session is aimed at students considering further study and a possible career in academia.
12:40-12:50	Break
12:50-13:20	**Professional Development/Capacity Building Session 2** In this session, students have the chance to bring their own questions in small groups and discuss their own feelings about future career paths.
13:20-13:30	Break
13:30-14:00	**Professional Development/Capacity Building Session 3** Students learn how to conduct themselves at conferences, during solo presentations, panels, and roundtables. How to ask and answer questions, deal with difficult situations and disagreements will also be covered.

Saturday, November 27, 2021 | Online from Tokyo

Saturday at a Glance

14:00-14:30 **Professional Development/Capacity Building Session 4**
Roundtable Sessions
Students with research in similar fields engage in discussions based on themes decided by a session chair with knowledge of the relevant field.

14:30-14:40 Break

14:40-15:15 **Professional Development/Capacity Building Session 5**
This session will focus on the skills involved in communicating ideas publicly. Students will need to know how to effectively communicate their ideas in one-on-one scenarios and in small groups.

15:15-15:25 Break

15:25-16:00 **Professional Development/Capacity Building Session 6**
How to Present at an Academic Conference: Poster Power!
This session will follow on from the previous session by focusing on the skills involved in communicating ideas publicly in the academic context, outlining the types of presentation one can engage in at conferences or academia, and looking at their particular features and functions.

16:00-17:00 Break

Saturday, November 27, 2021 | Online from Tokyo

Saturday at a Glance

17:00-18:00 **Parallel Poster Presentations**
Students present five-minute summaries of their research to each other, and seasoned academics.

18:00-18:10 Break

18:10-19:10 **Parallel Poster Presentations Feedback and Q and A**
Students present five-minute summaries of their research to each other. Following each presentation is a short Q&A session and feedback from field-specific experts.

19:10-19:20 Break

19:20-19:50 **Professional Development/Capacity Building Session 7**
Students are given an opportunity to engage with one another and network. The networking chair will provide problems, discussion topics and activities in order to encourage students to work with one another and develop connections that will endure beyond the closing of the conference.

19:50-20:00 **Symposium Closing Session**

17:00-18:00 | Group One
Saturday, November 27

Parallel Poster Presentations I

Watch pre-recorded Virtual Poster Presentations on the following webpages:

vimeo.com/channels/aurs2021

Abstracts appear as originally submitted by the author. Any spelling, grammatical, or typographical errors are those of the author.

AURS2021 Virtual Presentations (Poster) | Group One

60826

Factors Affecting Online Health-seeking Behaviors in Middle-income Class Filipino Adults

Reinzo Vittorio Cardenas, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines
Heather Venice Abogado, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines
Andrea Therese Afable, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines
Rhea Avillanoza, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines
Marie Abegail Ayagan, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines
Catherine Bantayan, University of Santo Tomas, philippines

With the increasing accessibility to health information on the Internet, the tendency of individuals to self-diagnose increases to understand medical terminologies and to avoid expensive consultation costs. The study aimed to understand the factors affecting online health-seeking behaviors in middle-income class adults in Metro Manila. Data collection was conducted from March to April of 2021 with a sample size of 200 individuals aged 20 to 49 years old. An online survey was employed using a questionnaire adapted from the research of Lee et al. (2015). The survey consisted of three sections assessing: web-based health-seeking behaviors, consultation with health professionals, and participants' hesitancy in consulting with physicians, which used a mix of a 5-point Likert-type scale with multiple responses and multiple-choice options. The results showed that the age and educational attainment of the respondents had a negative effect while presenting a positive effect for socio-economic status on health-seeking behavior. Lastly, there was a significant effect of participant's hesitancy for professional consultation on their health-seeking behavior. Although hesitancy had a substantial impact on the spectrum of health-seeking behaviors, it does not imply that certain factors are specifically related to the tendency to seek health information. This information instead becomes essential in understanding the patient-physician relationship and giving more holistic treatments.

60880

An Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis Exploring the Experiences of Mental Health Practitioners Working in UAE During COVID-19

Massa Zarka, Middlesex University Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The COVID-19 outbreak introduced with it a mental health crisis globally due to the excessive stress and the nature of social isolation (Choi et al., 2020). Mental health practitioners (MHPs) are continuously exposed to clients' traumatic realities, and with an added global crisis, like COVID-19, MHPs may become at risk of experiencing increased workloads and shared realities (Werner et al., 2020). Efficient coping strategies become a core practice for MHPs to prevent the severe impact of stress (Posluns, & Gall, 2020). The aim of this study was to explore the experiences and coping strategies of MHPs, in the UAE, during COVID-19. The study explored two research questions; how do MHPs describe their experiences during the global crisis? And how do MHPs cope with their negative experiences? The experiences were explored using interpretive phenomenological analysis of five semi-structured online interviews. All participants were MHPs with work experience during the pandemic in the UAE. The analysis revealed three super-ordinate themes: the personal impacts were worries about their families and personal discomforts, which lead to increased self-care; the professional struggles were limitations on practice, increased workload, and a need to disconnect; and their methods of adapting were increased compassion, a sense of empowerment, and deepened community spirit. The conclusions from this study provided insights into the aspects of shared realities experienced by MHPs practitioners during the pandemic. They also create evidence for the implementation of future preventative measures against MHPs' distress during similar crises.

61549

The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic Social Distancing Policy on the Immune Responses of Domestic Violence Victims in Indonesia

Aurelia Suprestia Djuanto, Tarumanagara University, Indonesia

Social distancing policies during the COVID-19 pandemic could affect not only psychological conditions but also human immune's responses. Regulations which involve self-quarantine and social isolation would complicate situations for some individuals who previously had negative pressures. Looking at the social distancing policies in Indonesia, limited information about the issue, and also the condition of victims who are exposed to more social pressure than normal individuals before the pandemic, the author decided to conduct a review that focused on victims of domestic violence. This review presents four articles that show interconnected and similar topics yet from different sorts of perspectives. The purpose of this literature review is to (a) describe the impact of social pressure to mental health before and after COVID-19 pandemic, (b) examine the impact of social distancing policies on victim's immune responses, (c) discuss and summarize the outcome of this review from multiple perspectives. It appears, a certain of immune responses that influenced by social and psychological stressors (i.e., low income and childhood adversity) show some correlation to the COVID-19 inflammatory responses (i.e., angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) and C reactive protein). Further research is also discussed on protecting the victim's immune responses from COVID-19 pandemic situation and helping victims to get better mental and physical health assistance.

62131

Are Home Exercises as Beneficial as Gym Exercises?

Khai Yuan Lean, Chuo University, Japan

Data have shown that there are a total of 184 million gym members around the world as of 2020. The explanation for this trend is due to the popular belief that going to the gym allows you to lose weight and get stronger. While this statement remains true, many overlook the benefits of exercising at home. Previous research has shown that home-based training combined with diet can have a positive effect on cardiometabolic health. However, there are almost no studies comparing the effectiveness of home exercises with gym exercises. This study is conducted to understand better why exercising at home can be just as beneficial, if not better than exercising at the gym. Information found online will be collected and evaluated for this study. Contrary to popular belief, most bodyweight exercises performed at home involve multiple muscle groups and burn more calories than gym machine exercises. Performing bodyweight exercises also improves athleticism and body coordination more than gym exercises. However, if one seeks to be able to lift as much weight as possible, then weightlifting at the gym might be the superior choice. For general fitness, home exercises such as push-ups, pull-ups and squats can be beneficial for most individuals. This study is important because many people no longer have access to the gym due to the pandemic, and are seeking alternative ways to reach their fitness goals.

AURS2021 Virtual Presentations (Poster) | Group One

61616

Board Games as Medium for Community Engagement

Guo Yan Jun, Chang Jung Christian University, Taiwan
Leong Yee Vonne, Chang Jung Christian University, Taiwan
Huang Chao Hsing, Chang Jung Christian University, Taiwan
Hong Jing Li, Chang Jung Christian University, Taiwan

Chang Jung University Department of Applied Philosophy students guided by teachers designed two board games based on the local history and recovering efforts of LiuGui district after Typhoon Marakot in 2009. The board games utilize a narrative method to guide players from different ages and communities in opening up about issues occurring during community recovery efforts both during and after playing the games. This paper details the process of teaching students how to design board games that facilitate community dialogue. Compared to traditional learning environments, students would have to interact with communities face to face and learn different skills or techniques while rebuilding or ongoing community works. Additionally, our research included questionnaires designed to provide feedback from both players and students for analysis. Research results indicate that these board games encouraged discussion on public issues which were provided from diverse community backgrounds. Moreover, it can be concluded that using these board games as a medium enhanced students become involved with the community as well as helped develop critical-thinking skills through both designing and playing the games.

61621

Long Live the Social Justice: An Explanation for Increasing Political Trust in China

Yuanzhuo Wang, Zhejiang University, China

Previous research indicates that the modernization of China would result in decreasing political trust, as citizens would shift their focus from material interest to acquiring democracy. However, recent survey data shows that the political trust of China has ballooned up, though the political system remains the same. This article attributes this rise to social justice scholars previously neglected and develops a theoretical framework linking perceived justice to political trust in China's case. Utilizing the database of China Social Survey 2019 wave and regressions, this study finds that citizens who perceive China approaches justice are more likely to have political trust. Equal access to opportunities for public goods and protection of rights is of great concern. This result demonstrates that Chinese citizens are valuing social justice to determine whether a government is trustworthy and they still maintain a strong belonging to current socialist rule.

61622

Creating New Cacao Markets to Achieve Sustainable Cacao Production

Mana Kohno, Ritsumeikan University, Japan

While cacao is grown as a cash crop in many cacao-producing countries, it is not domestically consumed in many cases. Ivory Coast, the world's largest producer, for example, produced 2.22 million tons of cacao beans as of 2019. The domestic consumption volume was, however, very little. Furthermore, the number of cacao farmers is decreasing year by year, and they are in a serious situation with no successors.Cacao grows in the hot and humid tropics. It melts easily when processed into chocolate. Therefore, it needs to be kept refrigerated, which costs a large amount of money. Helping farmers become self-reliant and increase domestic and international consumption is vital to ensure a stable supply of cacao production. If a processing method suits to the local climate with less cost, new markets both locally and globally will be developed. If farmers can prevent exploitation by middlemen and earn adequate wages by producing processed cacao products using cacao grown by themselves, problems such as education of children and appropriate employment for women will be solved. That will eventually help to eliminate the loss of cacao farmers. In this study, Indonesia, one of the largest producers of cacao in the world, was taken as a leading model country which promotes sustainable cacao production. This presentation reports the results of the study, which examined possibilities of developing value-added cacao products focusing on the physiological functions of cacao, and processed cacao products compatible with local food preferences.

61295

Transitional Experiences of Chinese Students at UCL: Practical Implications for UCL's Internationalisation

Lingding Wang, University College London, United Kingdom

The number of students pursuing higher education (HE) overseas is growing rapidly due to the impacts of internationalisation of HE. Accordingly, international students' transitional experiences are receiving greater attention, as their experiences are significant for HE institutions to develop towards internationalisation. Therefore, a qualitative research was designed to explore the transitional experiences of the mainland Chinese students at UCL. Using semi-structured interview data collected from ten Chinese students who come from different programmes at UCL, this study reveals that the transitional experiences of Chinese students are dynamic and involve different phases, which developed in a U-shape. Furthermore, although participants had the previous experiences of studying in international high schools, they still experienced similar transitional trajectories in accordance with the previous studies. Finally, the study provides the insights into how UCL could effectively adjust their policies and strategies to help international students with their transitions.

AURS2021 Virtual Presentations (Poster) | Group One

61370

A Critical Analysis of the Impacts of Social Integration on the Learning Experience of Chinese HE Students in the UK

Mengke Jiang, University College London, United Kingdom

In recent decades, universities in the UK have seen dramatic growth in the number of Chinese students. While social integration has long been considered as one of the important factors affecting students' overseas study experience, Chinese students tend to be less socially involved in their university community. This study, based on an interpretive qualitative framework, investigates the relationship between Chinese students' social integration and their learning experience. Methodologically, in-depth interviews were conducted with five participants recruited using a convenience sampling strategy. Through a thematic analysis approach, the research findings suggest that although there are individual variations (e.g., attitudes towards higher education, English proficiency), lower levels of social integration are likely to have negative impacts on students' learning experience in terms of 1) language and culture learning; 2) learning approaches; and 3) learning motivation. This paper has important theoretical and practical implications for how educators and universities could rethink the internationalisation of higher education and further improve the educational experience of overseas students.

61516

The Power of Individual Mindfulness and Leadership to Transform a Collective System

Takumi Sampei, Soka University, Japan

This exploratory case study investigated the power of individual mindfulness to transform a collective system, within an organization, and in society. Specifically, how does the quality of attention and intention make a difference on the outcome and process of transformation. Theory U, which is the base of this study, has practical benefits for how to think about and see the world, listen to others, and take action to bring individuals from an ego-system to an eco-system (Scharmer, 2018). This study presents findings on key informant interviews conducted with two female leaders, the founder of Guinness World Records Japan and a social entrepreneur who received her MBA from MIT. The themes which emerged in the data analysis referred to experiences of mindfulness, leadership styles, and mindfulness in changes. The findings of this exploratory case study demonstrated connections from past research to the interview data, responding to the research questions: 1. How does mindfulness influence the quality of attention and environmental sensibility? 2. What is the role of mindfulness in leadership? 3. What is the role of mindfulness in transforming a collective system? The discussion examines the relevance of the findings to the field of leadership and limitations. The discussion section examines how focusing on your inner world and understanding its impact on the world around you prevents one from holding fast to only one's opinions.

61590

Integration of Virtual Laboratories in eLearning: Enhancing Science Education Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic

Charena Mae L. Tabigue, Bukidnon State University, Philippines
Thessa Grace C. Abao, Bukidnon State University, Philippines
Gwynn Roland, JR. G. Cantery, Bukidnon State University, Philippines
Earl Lyndon G. Caballero, Bukidnon State University, Philippines

The effectiveness of virtual laboratory during the new normal education is a great challenge for both educators and students which indicates that education must continue amidst the health crisis. The study determined the experiences of eight Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Science students of the Bukidnon State University, College of Education, in virtual laboratory activities amid COVID-19 pandemic during academic year 2020-2021. This qualitative action research utilized a descriptive phenomenological research approach of Husserl since it deals with the experiences of the learners in science related activities. The open-ended questions were adapted and modified from the study of Reece (2015). It collected data through interviews via Online Platform. The researchers analyzed the response of the students to come up with generalizations regarding their learning experiences when engaging virtual laboratory using qualitative descriptions by utilizing themes and frames. The study identified six emerging themes from the data such as learner autonomy, preparation required for lab activities, evidence of student learning, presentation, collaboration, and motivation to learn science. More so, virtual laboratory is safe, provides alternative space, allows to save time, and it saves money for both teachers and students. Immensely, it allows students to explore online simulations. Integration of virtual laboratory is a strategic way of promoting a conducive learning environment to fill the gaps in students' learning despite the pandemic. Hence, it offers constructive and versatile learning environment which made them realized the importance of Science and Technology and its essential role for advancing safer community.

61636

Self-identity and Development of Vocational School Students in China

Peiran Nie, Beijing Normal University, China

Vocational education is considered a significant development path other than the normal academic route. It is currently undergoing structural reforms in China, with policies directed to promote enrollment. However, the problem of self-identity among vocational school students highlights the necessity for curriculum reform and more employment opportunities. This research aims to understand how vocational education curriculum and employment opportunities affect students' self-identity and learning motivation. Based on a literature review on the vocational education system in China, I conducted a semi-structured interview with vocational school students about their perceptions of themselves and career paths. Analysis of the results demonstrates that social recognition and job market entry requirements play important roles in students' self-perception and personal prospects. In China, vocational school students are likely to develop low self-confidence, underestimate their learning achievements, and reduce their commitment to hard work. Research results also show a disconnection between the current curriculum and assessment methods: students' lack of motivation to learn professional skills in class, and thus the inefficiency of the current vocational education system. The findings indicate that curriculum and career prospects impact students' self-identity, confidence, and learning motivation. On this basis, it is recommended that the job market provides more opportunities for vocational school students, and academic records should not be the only criterion for selection. This study also has implications for understanding the current Chinese vocational education system and provides a reference for policymakers to raise students' motivation in different development paths.

AURS2021 Virtual Presentations (Poster) | Group One

61651

Can Podcasts Improve Educational Inequalities?

Chuying Wu, University College London, Institute of Education, United Kingdom

Research on technology often depicts it as a straightforward means to achieving educational equality, without realizing its potentiality in producing exclusions. During Covid-19, the problem of the digital divide – the gap between groups who can and cannot access the Internet and other technologies – became widely seen. This paper critically evaluates the role of technology in addressing educational inequalities and argues that podcasts, as a traditional form of technology, might be a better solution to the issue. Firstly, the paper extends the notion of inequality in Pierre Bourdieu's theory of capital and class distinction — which primarily focuses on class — to cover other marginalized social groups. This will lead to the discussion on how social inequalities are reproduced from schooling given the differential access to "capitals" among those groups. Then, through an analysis of a particular podcast that we produced with two British students, one from a working-class family and another from a middle-class background, the paper reveals a substantial difference between their learning experiences under the pandemic. The underlying reason is suggested to be the digital divide, not only speaking from the "access" to technologies, but also from the "socio-cultural" (e.g. lack of school support) and "emotional" (e.g. sense of inferiority when being left behind) dimensions. Starting from these three dimensions, the paper argues that podcasts can better address educational inequalities by enabling wider access, providing more easily customizable teaching materials, and establishing emotional attachments with audiences concerning social justice issues.

61659

Cultivating Reading Culture Among Lower Secondary Students in the English Language Classroom

Asshiddiqah Abdul Rauf, International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia
Faizah Idrus, International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia

In English Language class, the focus is not solely on four main language skills which are reading, listening, speaking and writing but the students were taught English literary works such as poems, short stories, drama and novels. This is because the English literature component is integrated in the English classroom as well as Literature in English Language subject. Additionally, learning foreign language is not only limited to learning grammar. In fact, the students need to learn English Literature to make them familiar with the culture, geography and socio-economic structure of the targeted language. However, in order for the students to know and comprehend underlying aspects of literary text, they need to have an interest in reading. In this globalised world, it becomes a challenge for the teachers to ensure the students are interested in reading especially English literary text because most of them are more fascinated in engaging with their social media and gadgets. Hence, this study looks into how English Literature can cultivate reading culture specifically among lower secondary form students in the English Language classrooms. A qualitative design employing semi-structure interview were carried out with 20 secondary school students in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 3 selected schools. Thematic analysis is used to extract data from the interview transcripts. The findings point to the direction of the need to vary the teaching of literature and texts to get students to be more interesting to read. Exposure to different cultural aspects are needed to engage students in their readings.

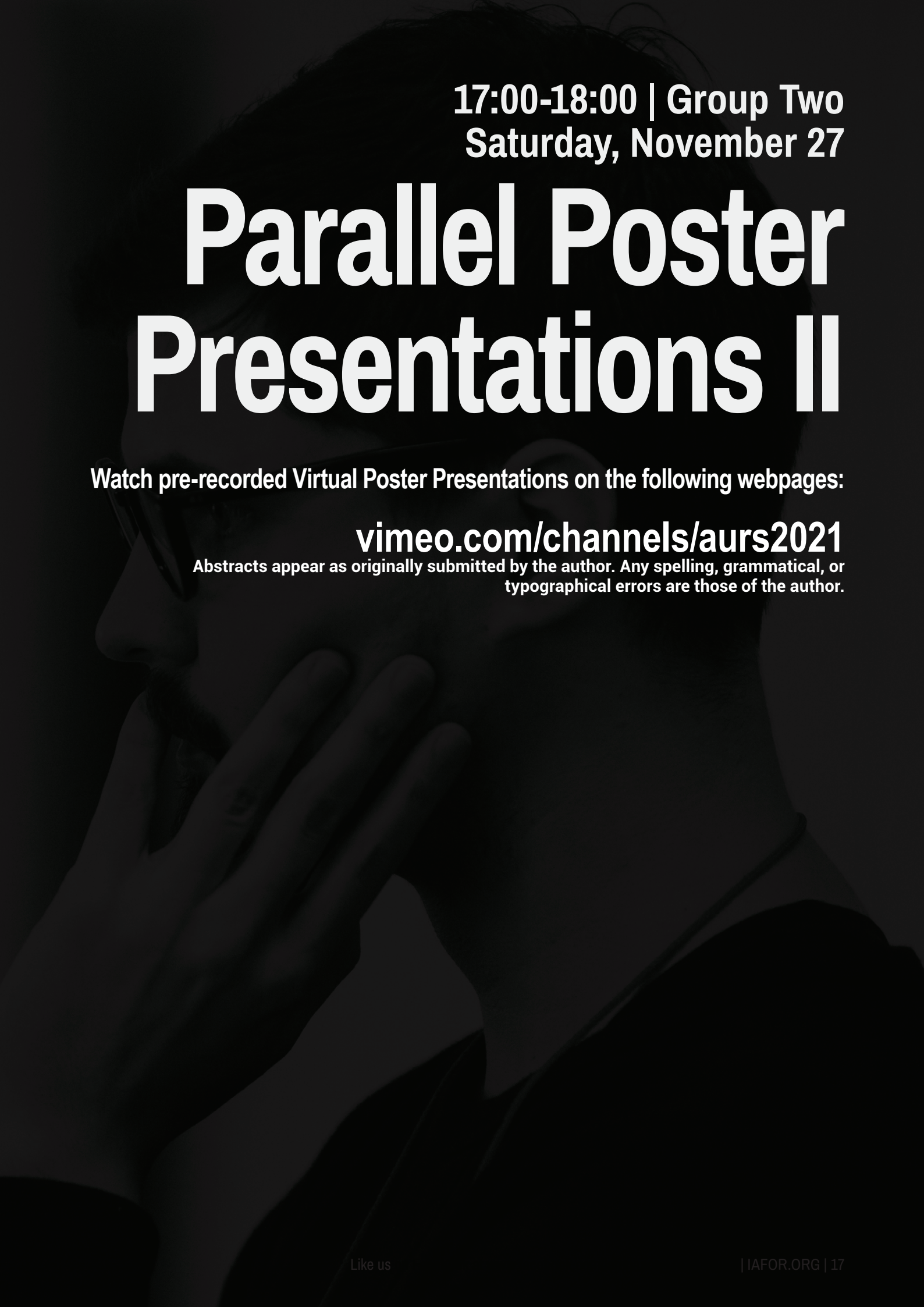
62129

What Style of Classes Should We Choose for Student Learning ? – Thinking From the Recent Pandemic –

Kenta Minato, Chuo University, Japan

The recent pandemic has changed the way people learn by adopting online classes via the Internet. Along with the shift from traditional classes to online classes, advantages and disadvantages of both styles of class are gradually becoming apparent. This poster aims to consider how people can enrich their education by mixing both styles of learning. Perhaps, people will see a return to traditional classes soon, but there should be further debate to define their way of learning with this unexpected opportunity. Recent studies conducted in Japan found the reputation of online classes from the students was mostly positive. Students could enjoy their freedom from the restriction of time and location and use them effectively. On the other hand, the demand for in-person classes was still existing, especially, if classes need discussion or debate. In this poster, we use the results of several surveys for university students about online classes conducted by Japanese universities during the pandemic. Then, we compare the results and find out the essential points of each style of learning. As for the lectures for input of knowledge, it is good to use online, but for classes needing discussion or further debate, it is better to use face-to-face. Therefore, traditional classes cannot be completely replaced by online classes, but even within a single subject, students and teachers need to consider which styles of learning should be applied. Then, before back to traditional classes, we hope to consider mixing style of education format to increase the efficiency of learning.

Notes



17:00-18:00 | Group Two
Saturday, November 27

Parallel Poster Presentations II

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AURS2021 Virtual Presentations (Poster) | Group Two

62043

Citizenship Education and Nationalism Fostering Hatred Toward Other Nationalities

Xiangshan Ye, University College London, United Kingdom

Theoretically, this research would be developed from the concept of nationalism, and to investigate what role has citizenship education played in fostering hatred toward other nationalities. It would start with a brief historical background of the war between China and Japan, followed by a personal experience that sparked the initiative of the research. Harber's work would be greatly evaluated, as well as other scholars', to expound on the relations of education, nationalism, and hatred. Accumulated on the secondary research, the in-depth analysis would be conducted over whom to blame for the hostile Sino-Japanese relationship. The difference in Chinese and Japanese education pedagogy would be illustrated; also, it would explain the significance of informal education (i.e. family and media) adding to the overall circumstance. Further discussions would focus on the social problems caused by the particular issue, and plausible attempts for education to fix the current situation regarding the ultimate goal of education in consideration of nationalism.

61241

Word Choice on E-commerce Platform: A Case Study of Shopee

Zhefu MuRong, Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand

This research paper aimed to analyze the vocabulary choice on the online shopping platform focusing on Shopee Thailand. The data was collected from product descriptions under the pictures for 10 product categories, which were the Top 10 highest sales from the topic “Best Sellers of the Week” from February 23, 2021, to March 1, 2021. Each category contained approximately 19-30 items, a total of 282 items. The result revealed that there were 10 types of vocabulary that were chosen on the Shopee online selling platform, sorted from the most to the least as follows: 1) Vocabulary indicating product characteristics (43.4%) 2) Vocabulary indicating product delivery (16.3%) 3) Vocabulary indicating product qualification (13.4%) 4) Vocabulary indicating product prices (12.4%) 5) Vocabulary indicating product qualities (4.9%) 6) Vocabulary indicating product sales promotions (4.7%) 7) Vocabulary indicating product ingredients (2.3%) 8) Vocabulary that indicating properties (1.6%), 9) Vocabulary indicating product sales (0.5%) and 10) Vocabulary indicating product manufacturers (0.5%). It was also found that the top three vocabulary categories that were popularly used on the online shopping platform "Shopee" were vocabulary that indicating characteristics, vocabulary indicating product delivery, and vocabulary indicating product price.

61655

The Increased Use of KYŪSU by Young People During the Coronavirus Epidemic: Their Intentions and Life Styles

Akari Kitamura, Ritsumeikan University, Japan
Ryanghyun Kim, Ritsumeikan University, Japan
Yuka Iwai, Ritsumeikan University, Japan
Ryota Imai, Ritsumeikan University, Japan

KYŪSU(急須) is a traditional Japanese teapot. It plays an important role to add some flavor to the tea, depending on the material used. Recently, the use of KYŪSU by young people is declining, which is recognized as one of the problems in the tea industry. It is interesting, however, a survey by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (2021) shows that the number of KYŪSU users aged 18 to 29 has increased by 25.9 percent during the COVID-19 disaster. The survey shows that the increased ration of the KYŪSU users was highly related to the increased hours spent at home due to the COVID-19. However, it remains unclear what types of young people those users are. It is also unclear what perceptions led them to use the KYŪSU. We became interested in exploring reasons and intentions why the young people start to use KYŪSU. The purpose of our research is to specify the lifestyle of the young KYŪSU users and clarify their intentions of using KYŪSU. The method used in this research is an in-depth interview to obtain qualitative data. The participants are between 18 to 29 in their age, who recently started using KYŪSU. Specifying the lifestyle of the KYŪSU users can help understand the problem of declining use of the KYŪSU among young people.

62126

Difficulty in Translating Japanese into English

Keisuke Chida, Chuo University, Japan

There are a number of Japanese words with subtle or complex meanings, which are difficult to interpret in English. In Anime or movies with English subtitles, sometimes that translators fail to interpret such words accurately. What factors make translation so difficult? In this presentation, we will discuss three contributing factors: impossibility to correspond, context-based language, and grammatical differences. First and foremost, it is simply impossible to be compatible Japanese with English accurately. For example, お疲れ(otsukare) is one of the most commonly used expressions among Japanese people when meeting someone and leaving. But there is no equivalent meaning in English, making translation difficult. Secondly, Japanese is well-known for high-context language; everyone has concepts shared, so you do not talk about them specifically. You might see a label when you are on the train like “Please give way a seat to people who need it”. People who live in high-context culture can understand who needs a seat, so the sentence becomes concise. Last but not least, grammatical differences also make a great difference when translating. Japanese does not have articles, future tense or plural nouns; therefore, translators have to interpret if the meaning works as in Japanese. On top of that, Japanese has many pronouns, each of them is slightly different depending on the situation even referring to the same person. This presentation seeks to provide a good understanding of Japanese unique expressions.

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61608

What Are the Criteria for Young People to Choose Plastic Bottle Tea?

Arisa Miyagawa, University of Ritsumeikan, Japan
Hirotaro Ishizaki, University of Ritsumeikan, Japan
Yujeong Chang, University of Ritsumeikan, Japan

This study explores the influencing factor on purchase behavior in the plastic-bottled tea market, which is considered a promising market for Japanese tea. According to the Tea Situation released by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in May 2016, the consumption of leaf tea in Japan significantly decreased, while the consumption of plastic-bottled tea was on the rise.
From the perspective of the future potential of the market, the focus of our research is to identify the criteria young people use to choose plastic-bottled tea for daily consumption. According to Murakami (2016), plastic-bottled tea was the most preferred form of green tea drinking among university students in Japan. By identifying the characteristics of the plastic-bottled tea products, including green tea, selected/preferred by university students in Japan, we are exploring the major factors responsible for the sales of plastic-bottled tea in the youth market. To achieve this research objective, we use a questionnaire survey on the selection criteria of plastic-bottled tea among university students in Japan to analyze the consumer behavior. We are planning to conduct small-scale qualitative research as needed. Detailed results will be presented in the poster session. We understand that the outcome of our research cannot be generalized to different markets. Furthermore, it is not enough to discuss the transformation of consumer awareness and behavior with the development of social movements such as the SDGs. Both of those issues are challenges for the future.

62029

Analysis on Li Qingzhao's Poems: Discussion on the Limitations of Applying Sentiment Analysis on Chinese Literatures of the Song Dynasty

Hoi Ting Law, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Natural language processing (NLP), concerning the interactions between computers and human languages, has been widely used in processing and analyzing large amounts of data in human languages. NLP not only enables computers to understand the contents of human languages in different media, for example documents and audio, its subfields have been universally employed to handle lexical tasks. Sentiment analysis, which has been used to quantify and study affective states and subjective information, is an example. Although a rising number of packages and algorithms for sentiment analysis have been introduced to further enhance the accuracy and usefulness of the analysis, they are not that developed for analyzing Chinese characters compared to that of English. SnowNLP, one of the few packages for sentiment analysis in Chinese, despite being acclaimed as having satisfying accuracy in the analysis, its efficiency in analyzing ancient Chinese characters is still questionable. This paper aims to evaluate the efficiency and accuracy of sentiment analysis on classical in Chinese literature of the Song Dynasty by using SnowNLP to analyze all poems (Song Ci) of Li Qingzhao, a famous female poet in the Song Dynasty. In this paper, an experimental analysis of all poems of Li by SnowNLP are discussed, followed by the evaluation based on the analysis results. Finally, suggestions on ameliorating the outcomes of sentiment analysis are provided.

61254

The Framing and Production of Villains in a Capitalist Society

Rifal Imam, New York University Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Is the human being innately selfish? What does it mean for something to be innate? Do all human beings share the same innate motivations? What makes a villain a villain, and who decides? Is selfishness equitable with evil? This essay explores the influence of capitalism in creating a framework for how modern villains in western society are produced. The essay utilizes a sequential analysis of multidisciplinary theories to analyze their application on capitalism and its consequential effects on society's understanding of the human. Moreover, the essay analyzes the emergent framework produced and its application in art, particularly literature, further utilizing The Devil Wears Prada as an exemplary case study. Capitalism has functioned as more than just an economic system in the modern Western world, spreading its influence into disciplines such as psychology, biology, politics, and most significantly art, or literature in particular. Authors, representative of the common citizen, recreate the framed “evil” and “good” into narratives through the creation of a character. In the Western capitalist society, the evil character is an exaggerated primal selfish figure whilst the hero is the unattainable truly altruistic character. Approaching characters through a different lens illustrates that the idea of evil may not be as universal as western theory likes to promote and is, instead, a build-up of interdisciplinary theories.

61609

The Popularity of Taiwanese Foods in Japan: Factors of Attraction

Chinatsu Takeda, Ritsumeikan University, Japan

Taiwan is a small country famous for its “delicious food at reasonable price” in Japan. In recent years, many foods that allude to a Taiwanese origin, such as "Taiwan bubble tea," "Taiwan melon bread, "Taiwan maze-soba," etc.) have appeared on the market, attracting much public attention. In addition, according to Japan National Tourism Organization, the number of Japanese travelers to Taiwan has been gradually increasing since 2018. Maehara and Park (2021)* defined three major waves of tapioca tea boom in Japan. The amount of imported tapioca during the first wave (around 1992) and the second wave (2003-2008) was under 2,000t, while during the third one which started in 2018, it increased dramatically to reach about 17,000t, which shows how big and influential has the third boom been. The purpose of this research is to reveal what factors have contributed to the popularity of Taiwanese food in Japan and how the current boom of Taiwanese foods will contribute to the relationship between Taiwan and Japan. The results presented here are based on a questionnaire survey conducted among 109 Japanese students aged 18-22 in October to November, fieldwork research I conducted in August 2021 in the city of Nagoya, which is considered to be the birthplace of a Japanese original Taiwanese food. In addition, examination of Tabemiru, database service provided by Japan's largest recipe sharing online platform Cookpad, particularly focus on the frequency of searches for foods related to “Taiwan” has been rapidly increasing since 2018.

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61653

The Study of the Japanese English Education System and its Impact on the Growth of Global Leaders and its Influences

Johannes Pandhito Panji Herdento, Musashino University, Japan
Prakriti Thokra Tamang, Musashino University, Japan
Miu Sakai, Musashino University, Japan
Momoko Saito, Musashino University, Japan

Globalization has made the world a global village connecting nations through a common base of English as its universal language. It has created a vast network of chains between various nations creating opportunities not only to communicate but also to exchange knowledge, technologies and expand it. It has made global trade possible with billions of imports and exports throughout the world increasing the global business with the use of English. Amidst this, it is seen that countries with a good foundation in English have been able to influence global business through its skill. Referring to the skillset and potential of being one of the top-tier global market leaders, Japan is seen as one of the best candidates. However, Japan is facing difficulties in the competitive business market due to its lack of an early strong foundation in English compared to other surrounding nations. These significant differences in English levels determine the ability of Japanese Business owners to expand their product and service market overseas with the global world. This situation brings Japan to the edge of global competition since the growth of the Japanese economy relies on global business cooperation and overseas markets of its manufactured products. The research would address the importance of English education and its impact on the market expansion and growth of global leaders.

61255

The Transnational Apolitical Humanitarian: A Consequence of Biafra

Rifal Imam, New York University Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

This essay explores the significance and consequences of Biafra in the history and conceptualization of humanitarianism in Africa, delving into the tensions between the political and the apolitical, or the "emotional." Through the case study of Uganda, the essay analyzes the consequences of Biafra's solidification of the perception of Africa in the humanitarian sector, particularly the move to transnational humanitarianism for individual human rights. Biafra emerged in the historically defined "global 1960s," a period of transnational protests, the African independence movement, anti-colonial struggle, and a vital transformative period for the conception of scale and purpose of non-governmental aid, and more largely humanitarianism. Capitalizing on the new transnational human rights movement and the newly formed conception of genocide, Biafra pushed itself to the international stage to garner transnational support and recognition for the human right of sovereignty. In response, Nigeria and its paternalistic supporter, Britain, reframed Biafra as manipulative of the political and the apolitical humanitarianism resulting in the solidification of the indisposition of African States to protect its citizens. Biafra further solidified the idea that secessionist projects were not viable options for the postcolonial African state, as opposed to the European Balkans, as the African state could not be trusted. Humanitarianism, thus, transcended the nation and was aimed at the innocent, apolitical individual, and political engagement was seen as impossible, as illustrated by the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Uganda.

61559

Slipping Through the Net: Pirates in the South China Sea During the Reign of Emperor Jiaqing (1796-1820)

Pui Yin Sze, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

The presentation will start with the introduction of a famous Qing official scroll, entitled "Pacifying the South China Sea(靖海全圖)", portraying the pirates and Qing naval force in the South China Sea during the reign of Emperor Jiaqing (1796-1820). Zheng Yi Sao鄭一嫂 (1775-1844) and Zhang Bao張保(1786-1822), the Bonnie and Clyde of the South China Sea, were the leaders of these pirates. This scroll provides us with some glimpses of the relations between pirates and the Qing state. The pirates were the free-floating elements who slipped through the net of the state. Unlike their compatriots in the heartland, the pirates did not stick to the land permanently – they were mobile, flexible, and uncontrollable – they could move by boats freely and hide in different islands. As such, they were de jure living in the shadow of the Qing state but not de facto governed by it. As they were hardly incorporated as a stable part of the empire, which posed a potential menace to the sociopolitical stability along the coast, the Qing state desired to oversee them, although in vain. Meanwhile, they were not always the opposites of the state; there were co-operations and bargains. These negotiations manifested that not only were their positions kept on an equal footing, but the pirates were also open resources that could be utilized and exploited by the state for its own sake. In this way, this presentation attempts to examine their relations.

AURS2021 Virtual Presentations (Poster) | Group Two

61642

How Does New AI Technology Reproduce and Contest Patriarchal Norms and Social Reality in Contemporary Japan

Jiatian Li, Soka University, Japan

This presentation shows how new forms of digital capitalism reproduce an old patriarchal hegemonic moral order rooted in reactionary social judgements that standardize homogenous ideals about gender and minority cultures in the process of Japan-making. I show how new robot technology is being used to reproduce long-established gender ideologies that legitimate gender division of labor by appealing to people's entrenched social expectations. Despite the progress of innovative technology in Japan, robot production has been found to be a product of naturalized gender performance. Furthermore, AI algorithms reflect heterosexual norms of gender division of labor, inserting data with inbuilt biases that amplify people's perceptions of a homogenous reality. We here see how the old salaryman-housewife model systematically underpins such calculations. Under the development of digital capitalism, it is also now well-documented how minority cultures reinvent themselves into standardized identities, often commodified into easily consumable objects to attract tourists. This is part of wider media messaging that create boundaries between mainstream and minority cultures in ways that necessitates display of authenticity along majority expectations of minority exotic difference. For example, both Japanese Burakumin or Ainu minority status reflect histories of stigmatization and colonialism but who now bear the responsibility to display their "authentic" culture to promote certain values and rights. This paper shows how the reproduction of homogenous gender and minority scripts reflect national narratives that represent domestic power through transforming individual self-identities into parts of a collective national body that demand consumer ability along old colonial and patriarchal norms.

61633

Racism, Bias, and Harassment Towards Frontline Workers: Experiences of Environmental Public Health Professional During the COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Subrana Rahman, Ryerson University, Canada
Fatih Sekercioglu, Ryerson University, Canada

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted several challenges for Environmental Public Health Workers (EPHPs). This study aims to understand the experiences of EPHPs during the pandemic to improve future crises and incidents that may arise. A mixed-methods, cross-sectional online survey was conducted in June 2021. There were a total of 80 survey responses. Participants were EPHPs from across Canada. Frequency tabulations were used to analyze close-ended survey responses, and both a conventional content analysis and thematic analysis were used to conduct open-ended responses. Results from this study revealed that EPHPs have faced incidents of harassment, frustration from the public, and a lack of support from management. These matters ultimately challenged the wellbeing of EPHPs, placing them at increased risk of burnout, stress and fear. Thus, it is crucial that support for mental health and reporting systems are improved for the future to ensure that EPHPs are able to meet the demands of their work. Further studies should be conducted to examine the experiences of EPHPs lived experiences and the barriers faced.

61600

The Role of the Arts in Education — Examining the Purposes of Creativity in Education

Chuying Wu, University College London, United Kingdom

The role of the arts in education is often underscored in knowledge-rich curricula. This is because, given the increasingly neoliberal practices in education, the arts are seldom perceived as directly contributing to the standardized form of knowledge and higher school grades. However, through reflecting on the purposes of creativity, this paper argues that the arts can confer a more transformative and active form of education than the mere presence of standardized knowledge. The paper first argues that knowledge-rich curricula often view creativity as mere problem-solving, such as solving math problems. This notion of creativity is challenged since it may run the risk of restricting the purpose of education to raising productivity in the capitalistic society. By critically analyzing Maxine Greene's and Kieran Egan's philosophical works, the paper then suggests an alternative understanding to creativity, which calls for greater social goods and personal sense-making. On a social level, Greene's works envisage a more transformative use of creativity by showing its possibility in the reconstruction of social orders, such as breaking down social prejudice. On a personal level, Egan's works fill a dimension that Greene does not focus on — the active use of creativity for meaning-making. Finally, by examining arts education, the paper argues that the arts have the very potential in bringing about this newly proposed understanding of creativity, constructing a more transformative and active mode of education.

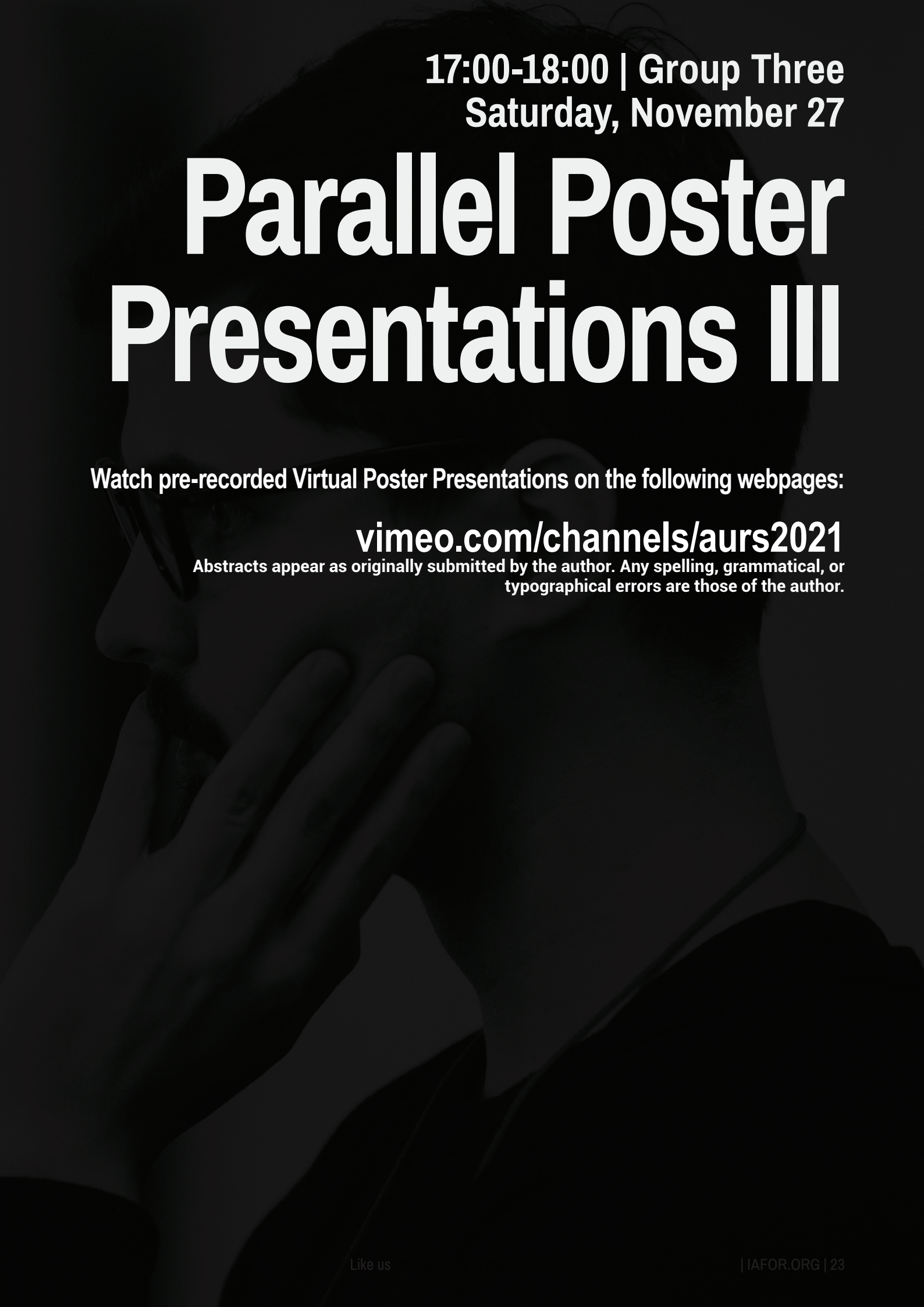
61596

Music & Human Connection: Leadership for Human Relationship

Chien Chin Yap, Soka University, Japan

During a global crisis such as the pandemic, a lonely and socially isolating society led to a higher suicide rate and individuals with mental distress. In this time of crisis and change, what kind of leaders are needed? Can some hope be found in arts, specifically the arts? How do aesthetic leaders lead in this materialistic 21st century where civilians have lost their connection towards humanity? Aesthetic leadership is a leadership theory that connects to the five-human senses to collect aesthetical data that will be used to make decision making (Hansen et al., 2007). With the capability of music to foster stronger interpersonal characteristics and people skills, the aim of this research is to present how the fields of music and art develop leadership that contributes to stronger human relationships and community bonding. What is the impact of group music learning experiences on the development of leadership traits? This qualitative research touched on the lives of two music conductors with different backgrounds and countries. As the result of the analysis, two significant themes emerged: music generates community bonding and humanistic meaning, and music learning cultivates people skills and leadership variables. This research contributes to the field of music education for leadership development and sheds light on the discoveries of aesthetic leadership connecting to human relationships.

Notes



17:00-18:00 | Group Three
Saturday, November 27

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61566

The Two Pathways of Global Fintech Development

Tin Hei Alpha Yuen, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Wai Kee Thomas Yuen, Hong Kong Shue Yan University, Hong Kong

In the past few decades, the worldwide development of fintech have been rapid. The current development of the global Fintech Industry can be divided into two distinct pathways, which are promoting fintech within the current financial ecosystem and incorporating technology firms into the current financial ecosystem. The rise of the two current pathway for global fintech development is predominantly induced by the emergence of techfins that forced traditional financial institutions like international banks to incorporate fintech into their system to encounter the challenge from techfins. The two distinct pathways of global fintech development both has their own edges and shortcomings. Even though the incorporation of technology firms into the current financial ecosystem would be significantly benefited by the technological and data analytical competitive advantage technology firms holds, the risk posed by techfins due to the lenient regulation is an inevitable issue. While tight regulation on banks have limited the risk of promoting fintech within the current financial ecosystem, it would also limit the trial of innovation and fintech development. This study tend to analyze the correlation between the global FinTech hub Index (GFHI) ranking with the global financial center index (GHCI) ranking to evaluate the current mainstream pathway of global fintech development. Two hypotheses would be set up. For the null hypothesis, a positive correlation between the two rankings indicated that global fintech development is following pathway one. For the alternative hypothesis, no or negative correlation would instead indicate that the global fintech development is following the second pathway.

60943

Hopeful Narratives, Grim Realities: A Phenomenological Study on The Satisfaction of Duterte Supporters in Tondo, Manila regarding the Train Law and Anti-Endo Bill

Kyle Arguelles, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines
Eugene Beltran, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

In the 2016 presidential race, Rodrigo Roa Duterte highlighted the need to put a halt to contractual employment and reform the tax system. Key socio-economic policy promises made by Duterte had taken a “pro-worker” and “pro-poor” approach, much to the delight of the animated supporters of the former mayor. Presently, the working conditions of contractual employees remain problematic as contractualization persists while the implemented TRAIN Law ensures clear but conditional benefits. By employing the Met Expectations theory (Claassen & et.al, 2013; Banks, 2005), this phenomenological study aims to explore the expectations of the electorate towards a potential Duterte-led government, experiences under the socio-economic policy outcomes under the current administration, and overall satisfaction with the performance of Duterte in addressing the aforementioned socio-economic issues. Taxpayers and contractual workers residing in Tondo, Manila engage in one-on-one interviews wherein basic and categorical themes are constructed. Through narrative and thematic methods of analysis, the researchers were able to come up with the following themes: (a) poor socio-economic conditions for taxpayers and contractual workers prior to the 2016 presidential race, (b) positive perceptions and high expectations towards a potential Duterte-led national government, (c) negative experiences for both taxpayers and contractual workers under the implemented TRAIN Law and vetoed Anti-Endo Bill, and (d) low levels of satisfaction for taxpayers and contractual workers that yielded negative experiences. This study examines the lived experiences of the electorate, providing an in-depth view of the challenges faced under the socio-economic landscape of the Duterte administration.

61587

Revisiting the United Nations' Role in Maintaining Peace and Security in the 21st Century: Norm Contestation and Changing Power Dynamics

Wenbo Wu, University of Nottingham Ningbo China, China

As the freezing effect of the Cold War on international relations vanished in the 1990s, the past two decades have witnessed a more active role played by the United Nations (UN) in maintaining international peace and security with the introduction of influential new policy programmes. In assessing the UN's effectiveness, while none of the individual International Relations (IR) theories can generate adequate knowledge, each of them holds critical insights. Based on empirical investigations, rationalism-informed approaches, particularly the realist-neoliberal institutionalist debate on interstate cooperation, have offered important insights in conceptualizing the role of international organizations in IR. Nevertheless, the state-centric and rational choice-based model of these approaches could be vulnerable in more interpretive contexts. Based on a theoretical model inspired by constructivism and complemented by the English School and Chinese IR scholarship, this thesis examines the UN's efforts in maintaining international peace and security in the 21st century from a normative perspective and argues that owing to its normative importance, the UN plays a predominant role in the socialization processes of international security norms, which have major impacts on how the UN delivers governance in security issues. Meanwhile, this thesis also demonstrates how states influence UN security governance through participating in norm contestations and how this reveals the rise and fall of state power. Drawing on extensive UN documents and government statements, the socialization processes of two norms: the Responsibility to Protect and the Women Peace and Security agenda will be analyzed using a process-tracing method to further illustrate the thesis.

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61604

Interrogating Post-truth Politics From the Perspectives of Speed and Technology in the Age of Global Pandemic Through Paul Virilio's Dromology

Yuting He, University of Nottingham Ningbo China, China

The spectre of post-truth politics haunts the globe, particularly in an era of the global pandemic when the threat of the invisible coronavirus renders fear, panic and insecurity. This paper considers the covid-19 pandemic as an example of dromology, when physical movements are limited and ICTs play significant roles in shaping people's perceptions. Considering the post-truth phenomena including distrust, fragmentation and xenophobia, this paper will start with a Foucauldian 'knowledge-power' paradigm of truth. This paper will critically examine the nuances of attributing post-truth politics to postmodernism, and argues that the Foucauldian account of post-truth meets its erosion under the current age of mass media. This paper will introduce Paul Virilio's thesis of dromology and argues that a Virilian 'moving-power' paradigm is more effective in interpreting the post-truth politics during the global pandemic. Virilio argues that politics was driven by the need for security, which centres on speed and assisted by the invention of technologies to speed. Given that who has the access to speed will have the power, the current democratization of power happens when information and communication technologies (ICTs) are widely used by people. Thus the 'synchronization of affect' through mass media emerges and causes the 'democracy of emotions'. The former politics that consist of opinions has been changed to responses to emotion, resulting in the post-truth chaos.

61627

Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf? A Study on the Filipino Youth's Perspectives on Philippines-China Relations

Fea Jerulen Gelvezon, University of Alberta, Canada

This study examines the perspectives of Filipino youth ages 18 to 24 towards an increasingly nationalistic and militaristic China regarding Philippines-China relations, using the Chinese blockbuster film Wolf Warrior II as a vehicle for focus group discussions. The Philippines and China currently have a strained relationship. They compete for territorial claims in the South China Sea while also having strong economic ties through China's increasing investments in the Philippines. Meanwhile, the Philippines' current administration of President Rodrigo Duterte pursues a foreign policy of appeasement towards China, hoping this approach will strengthen the Philippine economy (Zha and Gong 2021, 253). An analysis of two focus groups from two different cities in the Philippines, Manila and Iloilo City, showed that the Filipino youth have concerns regarding the current Duterte administration's friendly approach towards China. The Filipino youth are concerned that Duterte's approach would prove unfavourable to the Philippines' sovereignty, economy, and identity. This study suggests that the Filipino youth's perspectives towards the influence of China on the Philippines stem from the sitting administration's response to Chinese foreign policy. Much of the Filipino youth's perception of fear and concern about Philippines-China relations stem from the Duterte administration's pro-China foreign policy. The attitude of the Philippine President towards China then influences the Filipino youth's own attitude towards China. The outcomes of the 2022 Philippine Elections could potentially turn the Filipino youth's perspectives towards Philippine-China relations. If a pro-Filipino presidential candidate wins the Philippine presidency, their attitude can turn from anxious to optimistic.

62171

The 1941 Oil Embargo as a Result of Unintended Factors and Leadership Failure

Jio Kamata, Akita International University, Japan

It is widely agreed that the 1941 oil embargo, effectively halting the entire oil export from the US to Japan, ignited the Pacific war. However, even after decades have passed since that event, there is still an ongoing debate regarding what initiated the US to implement that measure. One popular interpretation asserts that the policy was decided based on Roosevelt's firm beliefs. However, this paper would frame the 1941 oil embargo as a result of unintended factors distorting the decision-making process. First, this paper argues that President Roosevelt has been opposed to an oil embargo, by analyzing his attitude towards Japan since his inauguration. Moreover, by looking into the disturbing factors, represented by Dean Acheson, this paper would discuss how Roosevelt's desire was prevented from materializing. Finally, as an indirect cause that provided a window of opportunity for the emergence of the resistance from the bureaucracy, the paper would conclude that the Europe first strategy was critical.

61012

Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Waste Management: A Case Study of Dhaka City in Bangladesh

Alice S. Gomes, North South University, Bangladesh
Ahsan Saif, North South University, Bangladesh
Samiha Hasan, North South University, Bangladesh
Shama E. Haque, North South University, Bangladesh
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According to the World Health Organization, between 3 January 2020 and 6 July 2021, there have been 966,406 confirmed cases of Covid-19 with 15,392 deaths in Bangladesh. Currently, fueled by the delta variant, Bangladesh is suffering from the third Covid-19 wave. With the surge in Covid-19 patients, PPE requirements have increased, which in turn will increase the generation of PPE wastes. The objective of this study is to evaluate plastic waste management situation during the pandemic in Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. This study focuses on the impacts of Covid-19 on plastic waste generated by healthcare facilities in Dhaka. The results indicate that the responses to the coronavirus in Dhaka have resulted in excessive use of long-lasting single use plastic products. Use of these items experienced a surge due to a rise in online food delivery amid Covid-19 restrictions. The study finds mismanagement of healthcare facility wastes during the early stages of Covid-19. Subsequently, healthcare authorities reported that proper Covid-19 waste management procedures are being followed. The findings further indicate that due to waste mismanagement, substantial plastic waste leaks into the environment. This is concerning due to its impacts to natural ecosystems as well as public health and safety. The findings indicate that some local healthcare facilities incinerate the generated Covid-19 waste or mix the generated waste with regular garbage. For proper management of Covid-19 waste, an efficient incineration facility is critical. The study proposes an incinerator, which is expected to reduce the Covid-19 waste quantity by ~95%.

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Investigating the Role of Short-chain Fatty Acid Butyrate on Anxiety-like Behavior and Social Recognition in Mice

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The microbiota-gut-brain axis is a concept describing the complicated interactions among gut microbiota, intestinal microenvironment, and central nervous system. Accumulating evidence suggests that signaling from the gut microbes can directly or indirectly impact brain development and functionalities through immune, neural, hormonal, or metabolic pathways. Short-chain fatty acids (SCFA) are metabolites derived from intestinal microbial fermentation of dietary fibers and resistant starch and play a critical role in the host nervous system. Among the various SCFA, previous studies suggest that butyrate exerts beneficial effects on neurodevelopmental disorders and cognitive dysfunction. However, most studies focused on the peripheral effects of butyrate on behaviors. Herein, we examined the effects of central infusion of butyrate on anxiety-like and social recognition in mice. Butyrate was infused into the brain by intracerebroventricular (ICV) injection in mice treated with antibiotics. The data showed that ICV injection of butyrate did not produce any effect on anxiety-like behavior and social recognition in antibiotics-treated mice. However, we found that central infusion of butyrate downregulated the locomotor activity in the open-field test. In addition, our preliminary data showed that ICV injection of butyrate increased c-Fos+ cells in the paraventricular nucleus of hypothalamus (PVN) and central nucleus of the amygdala (CeA). Altogether, central delivery of butyrate in the acute fashion decreases the locomotion but does not alter mouse anxiety-like and social recognition. We speculate that the lowered locomotion in central butyrate-infused mice might be associated with the neural activity in distinct brain regions in the limbic system, such as PVN and CeA.

61260

The Decarbonisation of the University of Leeds Campus Through Electrification

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Advances in lithium-ion battery technology have led to electric vehicles becoming more affordable, as technology advances, more and more EVs will be adopted, giving encouraging progress in the hopes of reducing air pollution. However, whilst progress has been made, there is a significant difference between the number of electric vehicles on the road compared to the number of conventional vehicles. Electric vehicles are shown to have numerous benefits over diesel and petrol fuelled vehicles, as a result, the government has attempted to stimulate uptake through a number of incentives such as a road tax discount and the 'plug-in' grant, enabling a £2,500 discount on the price of new, low-emission vehicles. These incentives have encouraged the general public to consider EV adoption, however, numbers of electric cars on the road are still significantly smaller than conventional vehicles. The university of Leeds is considering various incentives in order to increase the use of sustainable transport vehicles around campus. This study analyses the attitudes of staff and students around the university on the matter of electric cars and electric bikes, from this, a set of policies are carefully considered that will aim to help members switch to a more sustainable form of transport.

61442

Comparison of Physical and Chemical Properties to Find the Alternative Substrate Material for the Betterment of Green Roof Technology

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Green roofs are becoming increasingly implemented aspect in building construction at recent years. Growing substrate is the most important component of Green roof. The main problem faced with implementing the Green roof technology is heavy weight of substrates. The primitive reason is the inability of existing production trends to incorporate the identification of lightweight composition with required physical and chemical properties. Identification of proper lightweight substrate is essential for environmental sustainability since it provides a good living nature for human specially in urban nature through facilitating more chances for increased vegetation. Therefore, the aim of my research is to propose alternative lightweight substrate mediums with high drought resistance, optimum thermal conductivity, ambient nutrient provision (N, P, K content), optimum electric conductivity while having allowable pH magnitude that is suitable for plantations. The accomplishment of aim would mitigate the ongoing environmental impacts like lack of rainfall, scarcity of water and drought conditions due to lack of vegetation. The objective of this research project is to reduce the cost of manufacture and to increase productivity of Green roof substrates through locally sourced wastes. Since Green roof is an improving concept, it is essential to examine substrate compositions and characteristics. Waste materials like Coir, Saw dust, Biochar, Wood bark and cooked food wastes would be compared in terms of mentioned parameters. The optimum substrate medium can be implemented effectively in Green roofs technology to resolve UHI effect issues and to increase the longevity of living ecosystem.

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61606

Free Solar Charging for Electronic Devices in Japan's Public Areas

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Electrical energy consumption through electronic devices has been rapidly increasing in Japan as technology becomes more accessible and cheaper. There are an estimated 95 million people in the nation, consuming approximately 3 to 4 watts of energy each day for the purpose of recharging their gadgets and electronics. This poses an imminent challenge for the future of Japan's energy security and sustainability. This study was conducted to determine if the implementation of solar charging alternatives in public are feasible in Japan, which may help reduce the depletion of electrical energy in the country. The research was collected and conducted through descriptive research design which included 45 participants, both Japanese and Foreign residents in Japan. A Google Forms questionnaire was used, and the data gathered consisted of 5 sections, designed to collect the opinions of our audience in regard to solar energy. Based on the results, it was concluded that individuals in Japan are aware of the increasing energy consumption in the country and are willing to utilize free solar energy alternatives/outlets in public as a way of charging their electronic devices should it be made available. Thus, it presents a market for opportunities to reduce energy consumption within the nation. Furthermore, the researchers recommend that to increase the accessibility of this project, collaboration with private companies and government subsidies through funding and public support is advised. Moreover, designing these solar charging alternatives in the form of cost-efficient kiosks or stations may aid in making the project's expansion more effective.

61614

Plant-based Meat: The Role of Grocery Stores and Consumers for Food Sustainability

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As interest in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) increase worldwide, it has become necessary to take action to achieve the goals on an individual basis, not just by the governments and industries. The purpose of this study is to propose a business model for consumers to work on SDGs by approaching plant-based meat substitutes in supermarkets. The survey methods are to search for news articles, conduct questionnaire surveys about how well the substitutes are known to the public, and carry out on-site surveys at several grocery stores in a local city in Japan. Compared to the global market trend, the market of plant-based meat substitutes in Japan has just begun, and its consumer awareness is still low. Meat production contributes to environmental issues, and current meat consumption is considered to cause a global food crisis in the future. There are only a few types of plant-based meat products available in local stores, and the sales areas dealing with such products similarly to raw meat are limited. Based on the survey results, we will introduce a point system that is given by purchasing prepared foods using plant-based meat substitutes and can be used for shopping, and plan “No Meat Day" once a week, which encourages consumers to reduce meat for their meals. Then, we simulate our ideas and examine whether they have a ripple effect or not. In conclusion, it is desirable for supermarkets to deal with plant-based meat substitutes to promote and develop a sustainable diet.

61639

Peace, Conservation and Capitalism Within the Korean DMZ: Critiquing the Proposal for a DMZ Peace Park

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Since the late 1990s, Peace Parks have emerged as a model for managing border regions with histories of conflict, combining the aims of peacemaking and protecting fragile ecological landscapes. Organisations such as DMZ Forum argue that transforming the Korean Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) into a ‘Peace Park’ can both promote inter-Korean peace, and protect unique ecosystems within the DMZ. The proposal for a DMZ Peace Park is rooted in an assumption of political neutrality; however, recent Peace Park literature suggests the opposite. This paper explores why the Peace Park model has become a significant framework for imagining the DMZ's future, and asks what Peace Park theory can tell us about the potential implications of the DMZ Peace Park proposal. Drawing upon recent contributions to Peace Park theory, Korean media, provincial government policy papers, and scholarly critique, this paper argues that the vision for a DMZ Peace Park is far from politically neutral or benign. The proposal ‘remakes’ meanings and narratives of DMZ in ways that oppose the interpretations of the North Korean government. In this way, a DMZ Peace Park can inflame perennial political disagreements about legitimacy and identity between the two Koreas. Further, the proposal is embedded with developmentalist logic, suggesting that the prima facie environmental objectives of a Peace Park are conditional upon the profit motive. My findings suggest that scholars ought to more closely critique visions of the DMZ's future and ask: what does ‘peace’ mean to governments, communities, and capital, and whose material interests does ‘peace’ serve?

Notes

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