

INTERCULTURAL RESEARCH-BASED LEARNING THROUGH VIRTUAL INTER-INSTITUTIONAL EXCHANGE: EXPERIENCES DURING COVID-19

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Hong Kong and Chicago: 12,525 km Apart But Together Via Virtual Inter-Institutional Exchange

Our Journey



**First contact
(Sep 2018)**

**Matt's visit to HKU
(Mar 2019)**

**Virtual
collaboration
(Jan-Apr 2020)**



South China Morning Post

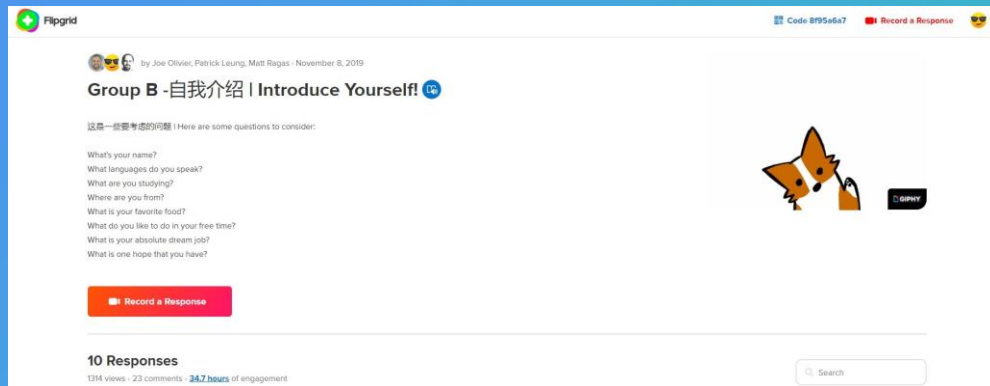
WSJ



Global Learning Experience (GLE) Program Travel Grant: Patrick and Matt at HKU (March 2019)

Virtual Exchange Key Details

- **Classes:** An English-in-the-discipline language course at HKU and a public relations and advertising course at DePaul
- **Project:** Students carry out a small-scale research project and interview their peers in teams at the counterpart university to gain international & intercultural perspective
- **Teambuilding:** Pre-formatted Google Doc with teams swapping contact info and icebreaker videos recorded using Flipgrid



Flipgrid

Virtual Exchange

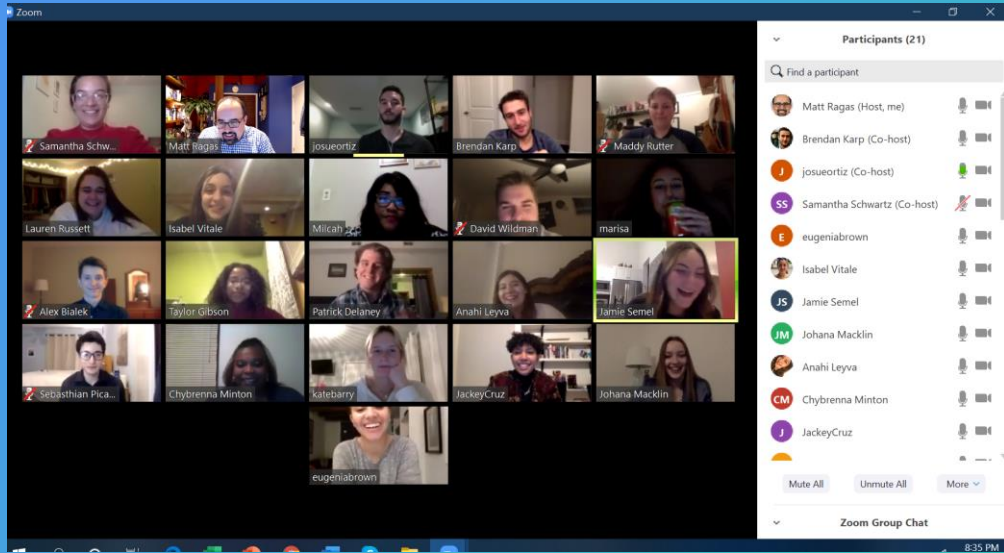
Key Details



- **Synchronous class session:** Held a live online session via Zoom with both classes that built on the rapport from icebreakers
- **Forced to pivot during the pandemic:** HKU students joined from their homes and DPU students from a campus classroom
- **Final project teamwork:** Student teams set up interviews on their own (using WhatsApp, Zoom, Instagram and email)

Key Lessons Learned – Part I

1. Be extremely flexible and adaptable to changes and the latest situations
2. Understand the differences between traditional F2F classes and online classes (e.g., strengths and limitations of the modalities)
3. Deploy appropriate pedagogical approaches and tools/platforms for online learning and teaching



Key Lessons Learned – Part II



4. Arrange a live session where all students can interact with one another in real-time to build rapport
5. Devise meaningful tasks and structures, use technology tools to establish an online community where everyone feels safe to share
6. Prepare students from both universities to embrace cultural diversity and perspectives

Questions?

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Learn More

Leung, P., & Ragas, M. (2020, Jun). Intercultural research-based learning through virtual inter-institutional exchange: Experiences during Covid-19. *Teaching and Learning Connections*, 12. Retrieved from

<https://www.cetl.hku.hk/teaching-learning-cop/experiences-during-covid-19/>

