ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Pre- and Post-COVID-19 Virtual Interactive Teaching in Hong Kong: a Comparative Study

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• Abstract (300 words):
The drastic shift in high education from face-to-face to virtual has brought unprecedented challenges for design education, which has historically relied on in-person interactions such as site visits, group works, desk reviews, pin-ups and formal reviews with outside critiques. While most institutions start to adopt after the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020, higher education institutions in Hong Kong have started to adopt virtual teaching as a result of protests since mid-2019, hence potentially increasing the readiness for online education with approximately 9 months of lead time. The two cycles of pre- and post-COVID-19 teaching also provides the basis for case study comparisons. In addition to reviewing and synthesizing current literatures, this research will utilize the framework to compare and contrast design studio and design thesis teaching between pre-COVID-19 (summer and fall semesters, 2019) and post-COVID-19 (summer and fall semester, 2020) time periods. Parsing the curriculums by viewing each semester as a cycle, by using quantitative (survey) methods, this study will compare online teaching/learning conditions and outcomes. The conditions would include: planning efforts, teaching platform utilized, teaching mode, materials, student group size and assessment mechanism. The outcomes would include: attendance, student feedback,
overall student satisfaction, overall teachers’ satisfaction, and changes in teaching and learning mode preferences (before versus after). The lessons learned synthesized from this research aim to provide guidance for future online teaching activities.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Professor James K. C. Chen is an Associate Professor Management of Technology at Department of Business Administration, Asia University Taiwan. Prior to this position, he has advance knowledge on practice in computer number control (CNC) machine and automatic control of model injection machine. Dr. Chen holds the PhD degree from the Institute of Technology Management, National Chiao Tung University in 2007. With 25 years of field working experience in industry site, Dr. Chen has served in Tatung Corporation (power equipment products), Taichung Machinery Works Ltd. (CNC machine products), and founded Johnway Industry Co., Ltd. He also has served as the general manager in Johnway Industry Company and operation manager in model injection machine of Victor Machine Company from 1986 to 2007.

Dr. Chen’s primary research interests include management of technology, technology innovation, technology forecasting, and information technology planning and adopting. Initially, Dr. Chen’s research themes have mainly focused on management information system (MIS), industry competition strategy, operation management, and supply chain management. Dr. Chen is an author of a number of books and more than 65 papers published in international journals and conference proceedings.

Ms. Han-Hsi Ho is an interdisciplinary design and information management practitioner with diverse teaching and research, architecture, urban design, BIM and lifecycle information management experiences. As founder and Managing Director of Ho&Co, Ms. Ho works with multidisciplinary teams on projects ranging from corporate campuses less than 10 hectares to new urban zones over 140 km2 in collaboration with city officials, corporate clients, non-profit organizations and constituents in China, India, Vietnam, Russia, Turkey and the U.S. Her accreditations as a Project Management Professional (PMP) and Construction Industry Council BIM Manager (CCMB) further enhance her experiences managing large-scale, cross-region, interdisciplinary projects as well as operations in in the design consultancy context.

Since 2016, Ms. Ho has been teaching the Hong Kong urban design studio and design thesis in the capacity of Adjunct Assistant Professor at Department of Urban Planning and Design at the University of Hong Kong’s Faculty of Architecture. Ms. Ho has obtained her Bachelor of Architecture from the Cooper Union, Master of Architecture in Urban Design
from Harvard GSD, MBA from HKUST, and is currently a PhD student at Asia University, Taiwan.