

Item 10h: East Asian studies report

Covid-19

- Students on their year abroad in China returned to the UK at Chinese New Year and have been receiving online tuition from partner universities in China. I have heard from several UK universities that they have put in place supplementary measures, such as extra language tuition and UK-based work placements with Chinese companies. However, not all students are happy with this as they don't feel it is commensurate with what they would have received in China. Institutions are seeking to ensure fairness and parity of treatment when it comes to assessment and arriving at grades that will count for this year.
- BAJIS reports that generally the responses by many universities in relation to Japan seems poor (given that the number of cases in Japan is now less than the UK and in most cases the students would be better off staying in or going to Japan than having their studies cancelled).

UCML letters to Ofqual and Cambridge Assessment regarding the cancellation of Pre-U Chinese exam

- The withdrawal of Cambridge's Pre-U Chinese exam leaves the very difficult A-level as the only option for students of Chinese at secondary level. To put forward concerns about the consequences of the withdrawal of Pre-U Chinese, I worked with Claire Gorrara on a letter which was sent to Ofqual and Cambridge Assessment. The letter was informed by advice from Katharine Carruthers (Director of IoE Confucius Institute for Schools) and UCML's Frances Weightman, both of whom have contributed to writing Pre-U exam papers, and also incorporated comments from concerned teachers of Chinese at secondary level. The replies were very disappointing: Ofqual referred us to Cambridge Assessment, who said that the low number of students taking Pre-U has rendered the Pre-U exams unsustainable. I have kept Neil Kenny and Katrin Kohl informed, who affirmed the need for future lobbying of Ofqual on severe grading and exam design of the A-level.

Upcoming Events

- BACS Annual Conference: 9-11 September, University of Birmingham.
- International Interdisciplinary Workshop on Ageing in Japan and the UK: 10-11 September, University of East Anglia. The event will incorporate the BAJIS annual workshop and AGM.

- 8th World Congress for Hallyu Studies (Korean pop cultures): September, University of Oxford.
- British Postgraduate Network for Chinese Studies Annual Conference: 6-7 June, KCL, “China and the Shared Future: Transformation, Collaboration, and Challenges” (*CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK*).

Derek Hird
East Asian Studies representative
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