

# Teaching Behavioral Culture through Chinese-American Telecollaboration

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## Abstract

This study attempted to examine the potential of using telecollaboration in teaching behavioral culture. The Chinese-American exchange under discussion was a semester-long, online project mediated through WeChat, connecting ten CFL students in a third-year Chinese language class (i.e., CHN211) at a liberal arts college in the U.S. and ten Chinese-speaking English majors at a university in China. In this exchange, the students on both sides interacted within a WeChat group and connected individually with their respective partners. The exchange involved the following activities and tasks: WeChat group cultural discussions, one-on-one video chatting, two collaborative presentations, one reflection journal and one end-of-semester questionnaire. Adopting a mixed-methods research approach, this study investigated both Chinese and American students' perceptions of this Chinese-American exchange and its effectiveness in teaching behavioral culture. Challenges, practical implications of the findings and future research directions were also discussed.

## Bio

**Dr. Han Luo** (骆涵) is currently an Assistant Professor of Chinese at Lafayette College. She is the recipient of the 2017 Action Research Award and the 2014 Peking University Press Publication Award granted by the Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA), USA. Before she joined Lafayette, she worked as a lecturer of Chinese at Northwestern University for three years and taught English and linguistics at the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing for six years. She received a PhD in Foreign Language Education with a specialization in the teaching of Chinese from the University of Texas at Austin in 2011, and a PhD in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics from Beijing Foreign Studies University in 2007. Her research interests include Chinese linguistics, cognitive linguistics, second language acquisition, foreign language anxiety, heritage language education, online intercultural exchange, and foreign language pedagogy.