

Affordances of Collaborative Online International Learning in the time of limited mobility

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Abstract

Since 2018, Nanzan University (Nagoya, Japan) and the University of North Georgia (GA, USA) has jointly offered various COIL projects. As the global pandemic put all the mobility-based study abroad opportunities on hold, the two institutions not only increased the number of remote COIL projects, but also converted the existing mobility-based COIL projects to remote ones. We will introduce one such case, Sakura Project, where COIL serves as an effective alternative for a short-term study abroad program. In the original design, Nanzan students and UNG students engage in virtual exchange for six weeks, followed by two-week in-person collaboration at UNG. After the cancellation of this annual project in the spring of 2020, considerable modifications were made to the 2021 project, reorganizing the entire project. Student voices and pedagogical implications will also be discussed for future planning of COIL projects as an effective alternative to study abroad programs.

Bios

Tomoe Nishio is Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at the University of North Georgia. She teaches Japanese and linguistics and regularly conducts Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects in her courses. Her research interests include language learning and technology, intercultural communication, and language learning and culture. Her recent articles appeared in *CALICO Journal*, *Language Learning and Technology*, and *Journal of Virtual Exchange*.

Chie Fujikake is a lecturer and project manager for NU-COIL Program at the Center for International Affairs, Nanzan University, Nagoya, Japan. She teaches project-based learning courses, collaborating with American universities and business and government institutions. The topic includes intercultural communication in business, marketing and women's empowerment. She also contributes to promoting the program inside and outside her institution.

Masataka Osawa is Head of International Office at Nanzan University. He is responsible for overseeing all the programs including NU-COIL program, inbound and outbound student mobility, student recruitment, dormitories and scholarships. He also contributes to the development and implementation of organizational strategies for internationalization of his institution.