

Reciprocal Institutional Relationships: An Integrated Model of Study Abroad

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Abstract

This presentation proposes an integrated model of study-abroad program by discussing the rationales and strategies for developing reciprocal partnerships between the administrative and host institutions. Specifically, it argues that to establish an integrated study abroad program model is to create an in-between space, or a Third Space, where constant negotiation and accommodation at both macro and micro levels are instrumental to reach shared goals and expectations. Drawing from interviews and survey data collected at the end of a study-abroad program, the presentation presents a case of an integrated model of in-China study abroad program and discusses how local expectations are conceptualized at three distinct yet intertwined levels centering on the host institution, the local instructors, and the language partners. Innovative approaches to enhancing this reciprocal partnership and pedagogical collaborations at various levels will be introduced, including joint publication of location-specific pedagogical materials, student committee system, field performances and domain mentoring.

Bio

Dr. Zhini Zeng is an Assistant Professor of the Chinese Flagship program at University of Mississippi. Her expertise includes developing pedagogical materials, designing performance-based curriculum and study-abroad programs, language assessment and teacher training. In addition to publishing several articles in these areas, Dr. Zeng also wrote *Perform Chun Cao*, an advanced-level pedagogical material utilizing an authentic Chinese novel, and *Perform Guangzhou* (co-author), a multimedia pedagogical material training intermediate-advanced learner to engage with the local community.