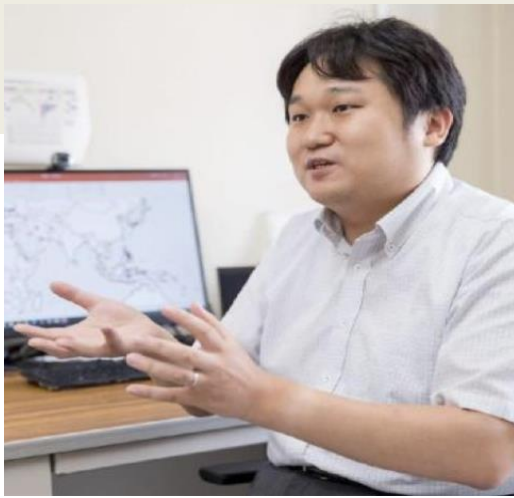


STUDY ABROAD SIG CONFERENCE 2020

THE NEW NORMAL FOR STUDY ABROAD



Special Thanks to Masaki Seo and Ibaraki University

The wonderful student volunteers that made our conference possible are: Hinata Ambiru, Hiroyuki Baba, Kimura Takumi, Takahashi Yuzuki, Takahashi Sumire, Iijima Arisa, Itami Takeru, Horii Nanaho, Ri You, Yuma Itoh, Une Sumomo, Takahashi Kanade, Hanawa Takuto, and Naitou Mayu.

This was my first time to be involved in an online conference as a committee member. Honestly speaking, I had been a little afraid of running the online conference as one of the members because online conferences differ from those in person in many ways. I had actually heard of a case before where a presenter couldn't continue their presentation in an online conference because of a malfunction of a computer.

On the day of the conference we prepared multiple computers and were checking them the whole time to facilitate the conference smoothly and handle possible issues immediately. During the conference, I realized that online conferences have the potential to connect participants to participants more than in-person conferences, by taking advantage of the unique features of applications such as Zoom.

The conference ended up being successful and I'm glad to have been able to provide all of its participants with a forum for discussing academic subjects with each other. I believe that the conference gave me valuable experience.

- Reflections from a student volunteer



The team of volunteers at Ibaraki University hard at work during the conference.

Message from the SIG Coordinator

It is with great pleasure I write regarding our recent SA SIG Conference 2020. We hope you enjoyed the experience. We had an influx of new presenters and attendees this year, a total of 140 conference participants. This might be a record for the SIG.

A big thank you to our Program Chair, Masaki Seo, and his team at Ibaraki University for the great success of the conference's new online format. Masaki, staff, and students facilitated presentation and networking sessions, while insuring the smooth running of the conference behind the scenes. On behalf of the SA SIG, thank you for your time and efforts. I would also like to thank Karen Mattison as a full-day presenter facilitator. In addition, thank you to Russell Hubert for confirming memberships prior to and during the SIG Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the conference. This ensured successful voting concerning AGM agenda items. Also, thank you to Simon Park for taking the AGM Minutes (see below). Allow me to extend my appreciation to our officers for serving the SIG this past year, and your valued contributions during the AGM.

Masaki Seo has generously offered to run the SA SIG Conference 2021. We look forward to seeing you again next year online. Thanks to many of you providing feedback, we have started preparations for a productive study abroad event. The SIG is seeking

volunteers to facilitate presentation sessions so please keep this in mind. The SIG would also like to hear your opinions regarding SIG matters at our 2021 AGM. This is a crucial part of SA SIG decision-making and we want to ensure your voice is heard.

Regarding the SIG AGM, we still have the Publicity Chair position open. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering. It is a great opportunity for career development. Contact us at: studyabroadsig@gmail.com

Finally, we are always seeking articles to publish in our SIG journal. Send your draft article to: sa_publications@outlook.com.

Thanks for being part of the JALT SA SIG. We hope to continue adding value to your membership with us.

My best,
Lyndell Nagashima
SA SIG Coordinator



2020 Study Abroad SIG Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

140 Registered participants at the SA SIG Conference 2020.

Officer Elections and Nominations

Moderated by Lyndell Nagashima, SA SIG Coordinator.

4:30
SIG Coordinator Vote
Lyndell Nagashima is confirmed as coordinator.

4:35
Treasurer Vote
Karen Mattison to be shadowed by Andras Molina, become Treasurer April 1, 2021.
14 members voted affirmatively.

4:37
Publications Chair Vote
12 members voted affirmatively for Paul Bird to retain his position.

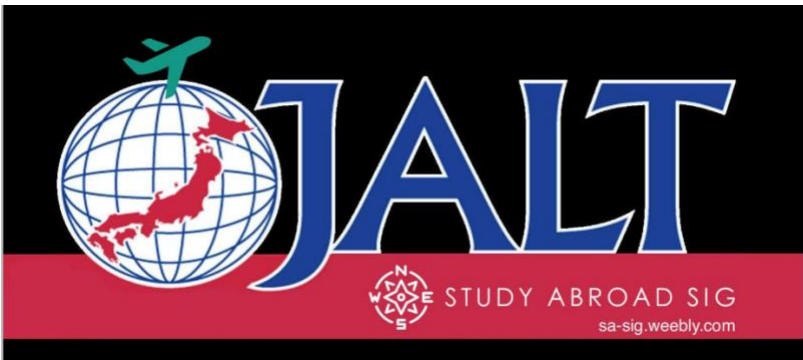
4:39
Membership Chair Vote
14 members voted affirmatively for Russell Hubert to retain his position as Membership Chair.

4:40
Program Chair Vote
13 members voted affirmatively for Masaki Seo to retain his position as Program Chair.
Mr. Seo expressed his desire to maintain the position for 1 more year.

4:42
Publicity Chair Vote
Volunteers were requested as Mike Matsuno has stepped down from his position, however none were found.

4:43
Website Editor Vote
14 members voted affirmatively for Nicolas Bovee to retain his position as Website Editor.

4:43 Newsletter Editor Vote
13 members voted affirmatively for Simon Park to retain his position as Newsletter Editor.



4:46 Social Chair Vote
Catherine Oki has stepped down from her position and no volunteers came forward to fill her position.

Old Business
Moderated by Russell Hubert, Membership Chair.

4:50
A discussion of anonymous voting systems occurred where various suggestions were discussed. Google forms was offered as one possible option. The topic of low voter turnout for online votes was also discussed, as well as methods to increase turnout. Ultimately the use of a simple link to a Google form, to be sent to the membership was decided upon. Russell Hubert, Membership Chair, offered to look into creating a Google form.

New Business
Moderated by Lyndell Nagashima, SIG Coordinator, and Masaki Seo, Program Chair

5:03
The Study Abroad SIG forum at the 2020 JALT International Conference was discussed, with the topic of the SIG’s duties towards sponsoring the two forum speakers being given particular attention.

5:05
The 2021 SA SIG conference was discussed with Mr. Seo announcing that Ibaraki University would again host the conference. The rescheduling of the conference to an earlier date, post- Corona considerations and alternative destinations were discussed. Suggestions for a potential theme were also discussed for the conference with no theme conclusively decided on.

5:14
The topic of the Study Abroad SIG’s presence at the PanSIG Conference was also discussed. An “Introduction to the Study Abroad SIG” forum as well as a “How to Publish in the Study Abroad SIG Journal” were discussed as possible forums or workshops.

5:17
The topic of SIG funds was next discussed. Karen Mattison, SIG Treasurer, requested ideas for spending the considerable SIG funds and emphasized the need to spend the funds. Suggestions for printing hard copies of the SIG Journal as well as offering scholarships were discussed.

5:24
The topic of SIG Publications was next discussed. Paul Bird, Publications Chair, announced the submission of five manuscripts to the next issue of the SIG Journal, which will be released in December. He also requested volunteers to act as peer reviewers and/or a Japanese editor. Ways to maintain a high standard for the journal as well as discussion on the ways to meet to the “three publication” requirement as described in the SIG’s constitution were discussed. Various solutions such as publishing a conference proceedings, student reviews, and conference abstracts were suggested instead of using the Newsletter as a publication.

5:36
The topic of “Best of JALT” 2020 SA SIG nominations was discussed next. Lyndell Nagashima, SIG Coordinator, requested nominations and also reminded members of the Networking Dinner after the AGM.



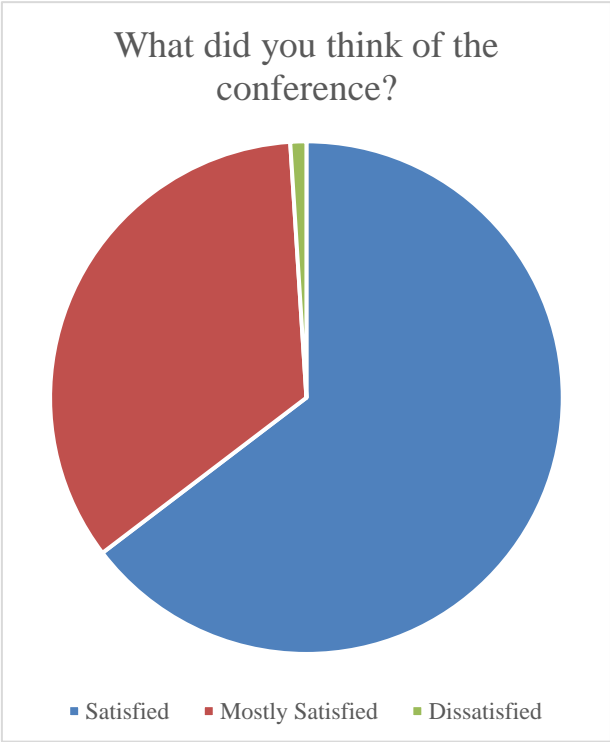
What did you think of the conference?

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

We asked the SIG what you thought of the conference, here is what you said:

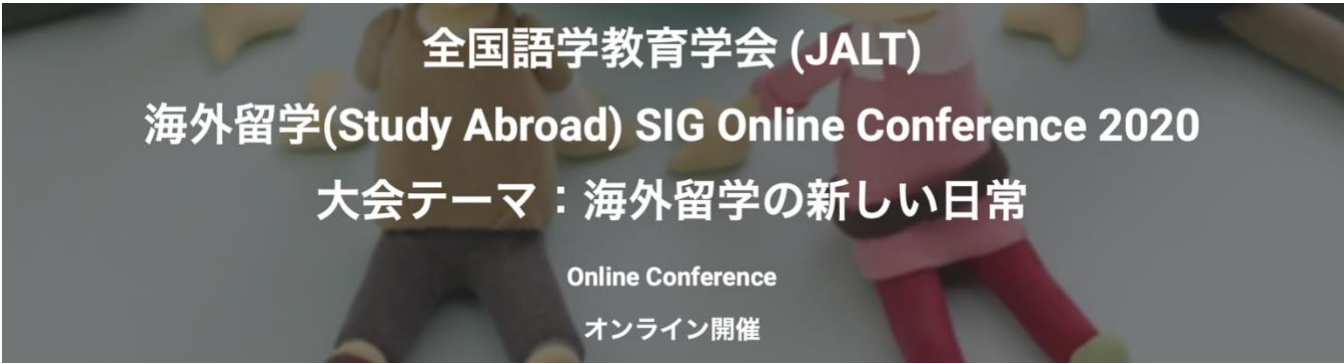
- オンラインになったせいで、海外からの参加者が増えて、より国際的になった。学生にとっては旅費が発生しないので助かる。事前にゆっくりビデオで発表を見られるのがよい。
- 他の参加者、プレゼンターとの交流時間が多く、とても有意義でした。
- 構成が効率的に考えた上で進められていたこと（先にオンデマンド式にPPTファイルを見ておくことなど）。オンライン学会の良い例であったと思います。日英バイリンガル方式であったこと
- Very enjoyable. I had never experienced that format before.
- The keynote speaker was very interesting; There was a wide selection of interesting concurrent sessions; It was great being able to watch all of the presentations beforehand; It was well organized and efficient; It was free!
- I had a wonderful time talking with the participants during the conference and at the networking section, and everyone has been just so polite. This was the very first time for me to attend an academic conference, and I was so nervous. Although my presentation was lacking so much information and content, the participants left comments and questions for me and it was more than enough.
- I though the organization was excellent, and it was easy to participate in the different Q&A sessions.
- I can know well about recent situation of study abroad.
- 構成が効率的に考えた上で進められていたこと（先にオンデマンド式にPPTファイルを見ておくことなど）。オンライン学会の良い例であったと思います。日英バイリンガル方式であったこと
- Thank you for the hard work - the logistics were beyond my imagination.
- This was my first online conference and I felt partly dis-embodied. Thanks for the hard work!

- The organization was very good and the event went very smoothly. I feel as though the organizers have had a lot of experience with the online format.
- I enjoyed the student poster presentations, and the use of break out rooms for this. Having a chance to speak with students about their study abroad experiences is extremely useful. The plenary speaker was also good (great to have such a big name as the plenary speaker).
- オンラインではどうしても参加が限られてしましますが、十分に楽しめました。
- I really like the fact that no traveling was required, and the format makes it so much easier to collaborate internationally.



- Thank you for making it free and easy to attend!
- オンラインにしたことでご苦労があったと思いますが、オンラインなりのよさがあったと思います。お疲れ様でした。
- Thank you so much to the organizers. It was a huge endeavor to put on this event, with many details to keep track of...I was very impressed, and I felt my JALT membership and SA SIG membership were an important part of my ongoing professional development.

- 学会員でなくとも参加の機会を与えていただきありがとうございました。現在は大学職員ですので、その立場からコロナ状況下の課外活動を中心になすべきことは何か、また、留学の将来展望を考えたく参加させていただきました。。。。多くの視点を学ばせていただきました。ありがとうございました。
- Please continue to have online conferences.
- Very well coordinated and managed. Largest and best ever for the SIG!
- 事前にスライドを配付するなど、効果的にオーガナイズされていたと思います。時間の関係で、関心のあるスライドすべてを視聴できなかったため、参加を躊躇してしまったセッションがあったのが残念です。大変ありがとうございました。
- Thank you so much for this opportunity and I hope this conference will keep empowering both teachers and students!
- Physical conferences are good but I love online as well.
- 瀬尾先生をはじめとする茨城大学の先生方、大会運営お疲れ様でした。オンライン大会ならではの良さが発揮された大会であったと思います。大会の内容とともに、運営面でも大変勉強になりました。
- I was able to view a lot of presentations online this time while I probably couldn't do so if I attended a physical conference due to schedule conflicts. There were a lot of opportunities for networking as well (even though I wasn't able to attend one because of my schedule). Many Kudos to the organizers for such smooth operation!
- 学会員でなくとも参加の機会を与えていただきありがとうございました。現在は大学職員ですので、その立場からコロナ状況下の課外活動を中心になすべきことは何か、また、留学の将来展望を考えたく参加させていただきました。ご趣旨からも私のような立場の方の参加は少ないかと思いますが、多くの視点を学ばせていただきました。ありがとうございました。



Introducing the New SIG Publications Chair



Paul Bird is the publications chair of the JALT Study Abroad SIG, a position he has held since April 2020. He joined the SIG as a presenter at the 2019 annual conference, reporting on maintaining expected outcomes while overseeing study abroad programs. In 2019, Paul relocated from Kansai to Nagasaki, Kyushu where he continues to publish in the fields of American crime fiction and comparative studies while editing and modernizing the Study Abroad journal.

The SA SIG editorial team is currently recruiting members to assist editing and reviewing our academic journal and supplementary edition. Members are, as always, encouraged to contribute to the growth of the SIG, but we also understand that it may be difficult for some to offer their time. In order to balance our needs with those of our members, we have separated the editorial process into spring and autumn blocks. Our hard-working members can therefore elect periods when they feel they are able to offer their services. Please contact the editorial team at sa_publications@outlook.com for more information.

JALT Study Abroad SIG Publications Calendar* | 2021

March						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

September						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Spring editorial
Autumn editorial
Supplemental editorial
Peer reviewing

*Proposed



Thank you to everyone who helped make the conference such a success. See you next year!