

Corpora and Intercultural Studies

Volume 9

Series Editors

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Kanglong Liu · Andrew K. F. Cheung
Editors

Translation and Interpreting in the Age of COVID-19

 Springer

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Preface

We lectured in the classroom. We met with students in our offices. We attended academic conferences and interacted with colleagues and peers. We told jokes at the dinner table. This is what normal life was like before COVID-19.

Two years have passed. Now, we teach classes on the Zoom platform. We meet with students online through Zoom or other web conferencing applications. We attend conferences and workshops online, deliver our presentations, and then close Zoom. We stay in our own home or office most of the time.

It's completely unthinkable that we haven't been able to live a "normal life" for more than 2 years. This shows how much our lives and work have been affected by this unprecedented pandemic. In fact, in the context of globalization, COVID-19 may be a "pandemic" in the true sense of the word. In an increasingly interconnected world like ours today, no one can possibly stay immune from its effects. When the COVID-19 epidemic broke out in Wuhan City in China, there was a lot of hope that it would soon pass. When we were told that face-to-face instruction would be suspended and replaced with online teaching, most of us were completely unprepared. Besides, we also had no idea how effective online instruction would be, especially for interpreting courses, which are usually taught in classroom interpreting booths equipped with headphones, microphones, monitors, and tape recorders. As the COVID situation improved, we switched to hybrid instruction, which is a combination of face-to-face and online modes of instruction, and students can choose to participate in either one depending on their particular situation related to COVID. Later, when Omicron ravaged Hong Kong and caused a large number of infections, we were forced to switch back to online teaching. To a large extent, we were forced to cope with various uncertainties and unknowns about COVID-19 and its impacts. When we shared our story with colleagues and friends around the world, many of them resonated and expressed the same thoughts and feelings. Given the magnitude of the impact of this pandemic, we believe that COVID-19 is a topic of interest to people from all industries and disciplines. That's how we first conceived the book project in the summer of 2020.

Based on our own experience as translation and interpreting (T&I) teachers and researchers, we thought it would be meaningful to put together an edited volume

describing how COVID-19 affects the daily work and lives of T&I practitioners, teachers, and researchers around the world, and to allow them to share their unique experiences. It is likely that the social and emotional disruption caused by COVID will not disappear anytime soon. As more variants of COVID emerge, there is no doubt that our world will continue to remain vulnerable. In this sense, this book will continue to be of relevance in the COVID and post-COVID era. We sincerely hope that it will contribute to the ongoing research efforts to address the impact of COVID-19 on T&I as an industrial practice and teaching and research field.

Finally, we would like to thank Prof. Kaibao Hu and Prof. Hongwei Ding, who have been very supportive of our book project. We are also grateful to our colleague, Dr. Dechao Li, for his encouragement and support when we discussed with him this project on T&I and COVID. Finally, we would also like to thank the many authors who contribute to this book despite their busy schedules which have been constantly impacted by COVID. This book would not have been possible without their dedicated and inspiring efforts.

Hong Kong, China

Kanglong Liu
Andrew K. F. Cheung

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