



HIGHLIGHTS

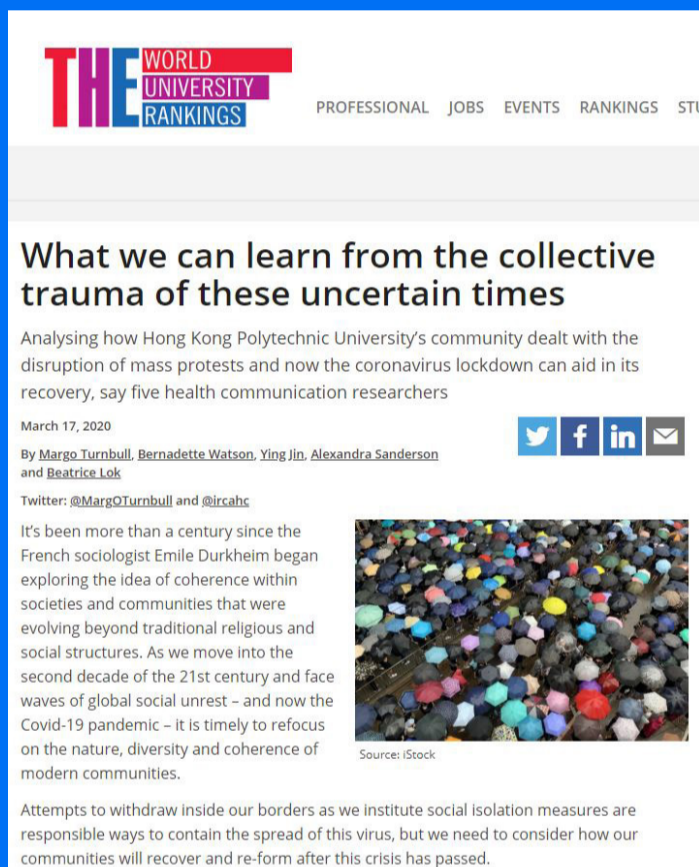
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IRCAHC Researchers Discuss Collective Trauma & Recovery During Uncertain Times in Times Higher Education Blog

The research team at the International Research Centre for the Advancement of Health Communication (IRCAHC) has contributed an article to Times Higher Education (THE) in March to discuss concepts such as collective trauma and how strained or damaged community connections can be repaired once a time of crisis has passed.

People in Hong Kong and across the world are currently faced with unprecedented levels of uncertainty in relation to health, economics, and daily life. A significant amount of research has focused on the impact of sustained levels of uncertainty and disruption on the health and well-being of individuals and close family units. Less attention has been directed towards the impact on different types of communities such as workplaces or places of study like universities.

The article calls for more understanding about collective trauma and recovery, which can help support the mental health of individuals within these communities. Universities should take the responsibility to get prepared and be able to offer support that is both culturally and linguistically suited to the needs of these diverse communities.



Read the full article:
<https://bit.ly/2NCgp8l>



More about IRCAHC and its research:
<https://www.polyu.edu.hk/engl/ircahc>

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Academic Staff Shares Online English Learning Tools in Local Radio Programme

During the current period of class suspension, students and parents are looking for various online tools to support English learning.

Our Dr Phoebe Lin was interviewed by Commercial Radio Hong Kong 881903.com 商業電台 CR1 in the programme *Education Forum 與時並進* on 7 March to talk about her IdiomsTube project and research-informed vocabulary learning strategies. In addition to explaining why her project focused on English idioms, Dr Lin also gave tips on English self-learning and using online resources effectively.



IdiomsTube is available at:
<https://www.idiomstube.com>



Dr Lin (right) talks with the programme host, Nicole, about how students can improve English while watching their favourite YouTube videos with IdiomsTube.

Interview with Academic Staff on Translation Studies



Our Chair Professor Christian Matthiessen was interviewed by two students from the Doctor of Applied Language Sciences programme, Bo Wang and Yuanyi Ma. The interview transcript has been published in the latest issue of the journal *Linguistics and the Human Sciences*.

Part of the interview explores the relationship between the two areas of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and translation studies. Prof. Matthiessen and Bo Wang discuss works by various scholars, including Bell (1991), Baker (1992), and Hatim and Mason (1990), and Prof. Matthiessen suggests some theoretical developments that are needed to improve the quality of translation studies around the world. Prof. Matthiessen also comments on developments in different parts of the world and points out challenges and opposition to current and potential future methods of translation. Finally, he examines the relationship between literary and non-literary translation in translation studies.



Read the full article:
<https://bit.ly/3g8Lly1>

Prof. Matthiessen is a renowned scholar in the field of SFL, and many of his insights about SFL and translation are shared in the interview.

RESEARCH



(From right) Prof. Kathleen Ahrens, Prof. Chu-Ren Huang, and Dr Zhao Qingqing

Research Paper Selected as Editors' Choice Article

A joint paper by Professor Kathleen Ahrens of our Department, Professor Chu-Ren Huang from the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, and Dr Zhao Qingqing from the Institute of Linguistics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences was selected by *Lingua*, a top journal in the field of Linguistics, as one of Editors' Choice articles for the first quarter of 2020. The editors praised the paper as noteworthy and likely to be of high interest to the community.

The paper, titled "Directionality of linguistic synesthesia in Mandarin: A corpus-based study," discusses how Mandarin data challenges the prevailing theory of the cross-linguistic universality of transfer patterns in linguistic synesthesia. Linguistic synesthesia is the linguistic device of describing one of our five senses with terms from another sense, such as "a bright sound" or "a warm colour."

This study is the first major study based on non-Indo-European languages and demonstrates that Mandarin synesthesia has some unique directionality tendencies. The article suggests that both neuro-biologically-based and bodily-based experiences jointly underline linguistic synesthesia.

Recent Research Publications

Ahrens, K. and Jiang, M-h. (2020). Source domain verification using corpus-based tools. *Metaphor and Symbol*, 35(1), 43-55.

Cummings, L. (2020). *Fallacies in medicine and health: Critical thinking, argumentation and communication*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Hu, G. (2019). Culture and peer feedback. In K. Hyland & F. Hyland (Eds.), *Feedback in second language writing: Contexts and issues* (2nd ed.; pp. 45-63). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

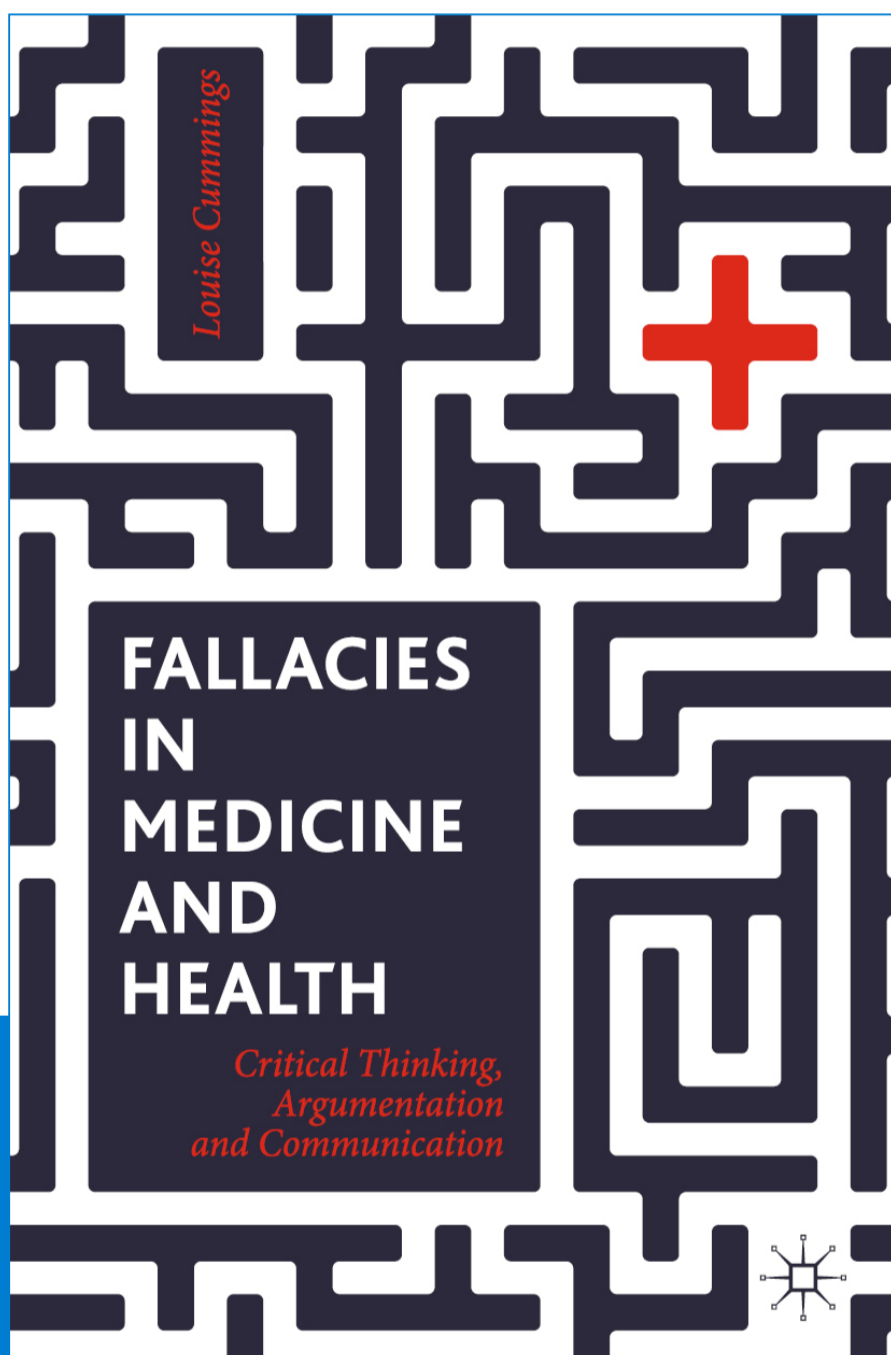
Ladegaard, H.J. (2019). Language competence, identity construction and discursive boundary-making: Distancing and alignment in domestic migrant worker narratives. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, 2020(262), 97-122.

Jing, Y. & Watson, B. M. (2020). Playback: An investigation of the discursive implications and the pragmatic functions of repetition in traditional Chinese medical consultations. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*. doi.org/10.1177/0261927X20908614.

Zheng, H-h., **Tay, D.** & **Ahrens, K.** (2020). A multifactorial analysis of metaphors in political discourse: Gendered influence in Hong Kong political speeches. *Metaphor and the Social World*, 10(1), 139-166.

RESEARCH

New Book by Academic Staff on Fallacies in Medicine and Health



Our Professor Louise Cummings recently published a new book titled “Fallacies in Medicine and Health: Critical Thinking, Argumentation and Communication.” This book examines the ways in which arguments may be used and abused in medicine and health. The central claim is that a group of arguments known as the informal fallacies — including slippery slope arguments, fear appeals, and arguments from ignorance — undertake considerable work in medical and health contexts, and that they can in fact be rationally warranted ways of understanding complex topics, contrary to the views of many earlier philosophers and logicians.

Modern medicine and healthcare require lay people to engage with increasingly complex decisions in areas such as immunization, lifestyle and dietary choices, and health screening. Many of the so-called fallacies of reasoning can also be viewed as cognitive heuristics or short-cuts which help individuals make decisions in these contexts. Using features such as learning objectives, case studies, and end-of-unit questions, this book examines topical issues and debates in all areas of medicine and health, including antibiotic use and resistance, genetic engineering, euthanasia, addiction to prescription opioids, and the legalization of cannabis. The information covered in the book may be useful to students of critical thinking, reasoning, logic, argumentation, rhetoric, communication, health humanities, philosophy, and linguistics.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

Italian Alumna Shares Life in Hong Kong with an Italian Business Magazine

The magazine of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and Macao, *italiancham*, interviewed our 2018 PhD graduate Dr Esterina Nervino regarding her life in Hong Kong as an Italian. Dr Nervino recalled her connection with this territory, which started from a 6-month exchange programme at PolyU during her Master's study at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia in Italy in 2012.

A year after Dr Nervino went back to Italy, she was awarded the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship to study for her PhD for three years in our Department. Upon completion of her PhD, her original plan was to join a research centre in Austria. It was an opportunity offered by her current employer, Bluebell Group, which made her decide to stay in Hong Kong. Dr Nervino is now Director of Retail in Asia, the Asian business of Bluebell Group.

Dr Nervino has seen many changes in Hong Kong since first coming to the SAR. As an Italian, she finds Hong Kong a promising place for career development, and she has been able to gain diverse experience operating in regional offices overseeing Asian markets. Working in the retail industry, Dr Nervino believes Hong Kong will continue to be an important and innovative location given its proximity to Mainland China.

After living in Hong Kong for several years, Dr Nervino still thinks of Italy as her home. Every time she goes back to Italy, she is able to better appreciate facets of Italian life that may seem trivial to people living in Italy but that become very special to Italians living elsewhere. Dr Nervino finds that living abroad can actually give people a better appreciation of their own home countries.



Esterina Nervino
Director
Retail in Asia

"Italy will always be home. I actually wish Itali living in Italy, could see our country the same I and other Italians living abroad se

An Unforgettable Study and Cultural Experience in Spain

Elsa Lai, a student studying Spanish through the Department, took a Spanish course in Spain last summer. This one-month trip provided her with new perspectives about the language and culture of Spain.

"In the last summer holiday of my university life, I attended a one-month intensive Spanish course organised by the University of Salamanca. It was my first time going to Spain. Even though I took some Spanish courses in Hong Kong, I still felt nervous about communicating with the Spanish people there. Fortunately, the people I met were very nice, and even though I could not always understand what they said, they were still very sincere and enthusiastic when interacting with me.

Salamanca is a very beautiful city, and the University of Salamanca is the oldest university founded in Europe. Every year, people from various places around the world go to this university to study classic Spanish. In my class, nearly two-thirds of the students were from North America, and most of them had learnt Spanish since elementary school. The Spanish language spoken in the US is slightly different from that in Spain in terms of pronunciation and vocabulary. Therefore, I have learnt not only grammar taught by the course, but also some vocabulary widely used in the US from other students.

After I finished the course, I went to Madrid and visited numerous tourist attractions including the Museo Reina Sofía, the Prado Museum, and the Market of San Miguel. The two well-known museums are worth visiting for art-lovers since they have huge collections by both modern and classic artists. In the Market of San Miguel, there is a shop offering paella made with different recipes at a reasonable price. This journey is definitely one of the most treasured experiences in my life. Stepping out of one's comfort zone is not an easy task, but it is worth the effort to do so.



Spanish churros with chocolate are one of the typical Spanish dishes that Elsa tried during her trip.