

【Research theme introduction】 study regarding online learning under pandemic situation  
(M2 Tatsuki Abe)

Hello!

My name is Tatsuki Abe, currently an M2 student at ICME.

My current research interest is the role of online learning in education and social well-being in the pandemic situation. (also ruminating about issues like “How can we optimize learning?”, “If we think something is lacking from online learning, what exactly is that?”)

I am very interested in the social constructivist view of learning, having gone through a medical education curriculum heavily invested in interactive learning methods like PBL<sup>1</sup>, project-based learning and portfolio<sup>2</sup>. I always found joy in the process of learning through reflection, negotiation and communicating with peers, so hopefully I would like to continue learning this way, as well as propagate that joy through mutual learning with future peers.

The COVID19 pandemic was in its prime - back in April 2020 (when worldwide cases just climbed above 1 million)<sup>3</sup> when I entered ICME. So, my postgraduate experience revolves around the pandemic situation, and the changes in lifestyle that involves all of us alike. I would like to see this as an opportunity to reflect upon the learning and concepts behind the learning processes that take place online (and in our minds).

Taking this opportunity given by this changed lifestyle with COVID19, I first considered what was possible given the current situation, and selected my current research topic out of genuine curiosity after discussion with Onishi-sensei. “how did other students feel about the current situation?”.

My current research is qualitative, which is a refreshing change from the previous experiences I have had in medical school (I was involved in two quantitative research in my undergraduate medical education). It is one of the things I have learnt completely from scratch in this Master’s programme, among many other things which I may be able to share in the near future here (in the blog). Currently I am having a lot of fun thinking about how we can extract insights from snippets of thoughts represented by words, transcribed and analysed in the qualitative methods.

Before I start digressing into many different things that fill my disorganized mind, I will end my introduction here!

To sum up, I would like to continue learning through interacting with the peers here in ICME (and friends I have met during the classes), and continue broadening my perspectives until the end of Masters - and beyond.

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<sup>1</sup> Hmelo-Silver, C. E. (2004). Problem-based learning: What and how do students learn?. *Educational psychology review*, 16(3), 235-266.

<sup>2</sup> Buckley, S., Coleman, J., Davison, I., Khan, K. S., Zamora, J., Malick, S., ... & Sayers, J. (2009). The educational effects of portfolios on undergraduate student learning: a Best Evidence Medical Education (BEME) systematic review. BEME Guide No. 11. *Medical teacher*, 31(4), 282-298.

<sup>3</sup>WHO; Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)Situation Report – 75 (2021). Retrieved 16 July 2021, from:<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200404-sitrep-75-covid-19.pdf>

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