THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Micro-Module Courseware Development Grant

Scheme 1: Basic Scheme

Final Report (2017-18)

Report due 31 October 2018.
Please return by email to mmcd@cuhk.edu.hk

Project title: **Teaching the Cultural Revolution with the Posters of the University Library Special Collection.**
Principal supervisor:
Department / Unit: Centre for China Studies
Project duration: From December 2017 to October 2018
Date report submitted: 31 October 2018

1. Project objectives

The project is based on the collection of posters of the University Library. My idea was to develop micro-modules as an extension of the course **CCSS1003/UGEC1431 The Cultural Revolution and its Legacy** which I taught for two years. To prepare the micro-modules, I needed to complete the database of the posters, which is now available on the University Library web-page (see dissemination activities), and to complete research about their history and content. It took almost one year to digitalize all the images, to analyze them, to translate their content, and to prepare a digital collection. I personally translated the content of the posters, I have divided them according to date and topics, and I have prepared al the introductions to all the thematic galleries. I have also published the result of my research on a leading American research journal *Cross Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review* (see dissemination activities). My research and work for the Library took longer than expected, leaving me very little time to dedicate to the Micro-modules, which I was not able to complete. I could have prepare more basic modules which did not contain any personal research, just a description of the posters, but I think this would have not been a useful imput for students.

2. Progress on process, outcomes or deliverables

As explained before, the research for the project took longer than expected, and it resulted in the digital collection and an article. My plan was to film the micromodules during the months of June-July 2018. Unfortunately, my contract with the Center for China Studies was not renewed, it expired in June 2018. I thought I could still use the premises of the university while teaching the Summer School in July, but this could not happen as my CUHK email address was abruptly cancelled, the data form my office computer deleted, my CUHK card cancelled, my Blackboard erased, and I was basically left only with the basic services

provided by the Summer School. I enquired about this before, asking if I could use my CUHK email and computer while teaching the Summer School, and I was told that I could, but this happened to be a wrong information. Left without contact email (and the contact of the people I talked with about the project), little time, and a lot of work, I was unable to find time to tape the micro-modules. This is partially my fault as I could have organized my time better, but I cannot overview the fact that my ties with CUHK have been cut quite abruptly earlier than I thought. In August I had to leave Hong Kong to relocate to Europe and start a new job.
I did not spend any of the money of the grant.

3. Evaluation Plan

The evaluation plan was supposed to be a quiz. The person I contacted in ELITE which was supposed to develop the quiz decided to quit her job in the months between the submission of my grant and my last correspondence to her.

4. Dissemination Activities (reports, websites, video links, products, *etc.*)

Even though the micro-modules have not been completed, I am proud of the database I developed with the University Library: I am sure that this database will be useful for teachers who will teach CCSS1003/UGEC1431 The Cultural Revolution and its Legacy and other courses. I think this is a meaningful contribution to the University from my side:

The Cultural Revolution in Images: Caricature–posters from Guangzhou 1966–1977
http://repository.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/en/collection/crposter

Another spin-off of this project is the photo-essay published in the UC Berkeley journal *Cross Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review*, which contained the information on which I wanted to base my micro-modules. It contains the most important finds about my research on the posters.
https://cross-currents.berkeley.edu/e-journal/issue-27/pozzi

5. Conclusions

I regret not being able to use the funds provided by the MMCDG. I still believe this was a useful project. I blame myself for underestimating the time I needed to produce well-informed modules, but my work was also interrupted by the end of my contract, and the fact that I was cut out from most of the CUHK services despite I was still working in the University in July. I hope the work I manage to complete, which is completely open-access, will still be useful for those who will teach the Cultural Revolution Course in future.