

Report on the International Conference on Social Media & Society

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Between the dates on July 18 – July 20, I attended the International Conference on Social Media & Society in Copenhagen, Denmark. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to attend this conference and for the acceptance I received– it was highly competitive, and I made several rounds of submissions in order to be accepted to this internationally renowned conference. The topics covered at the conference were wide in range and there was a lot of emphasis on how culture plays out in social media. This was similar to my own topic.

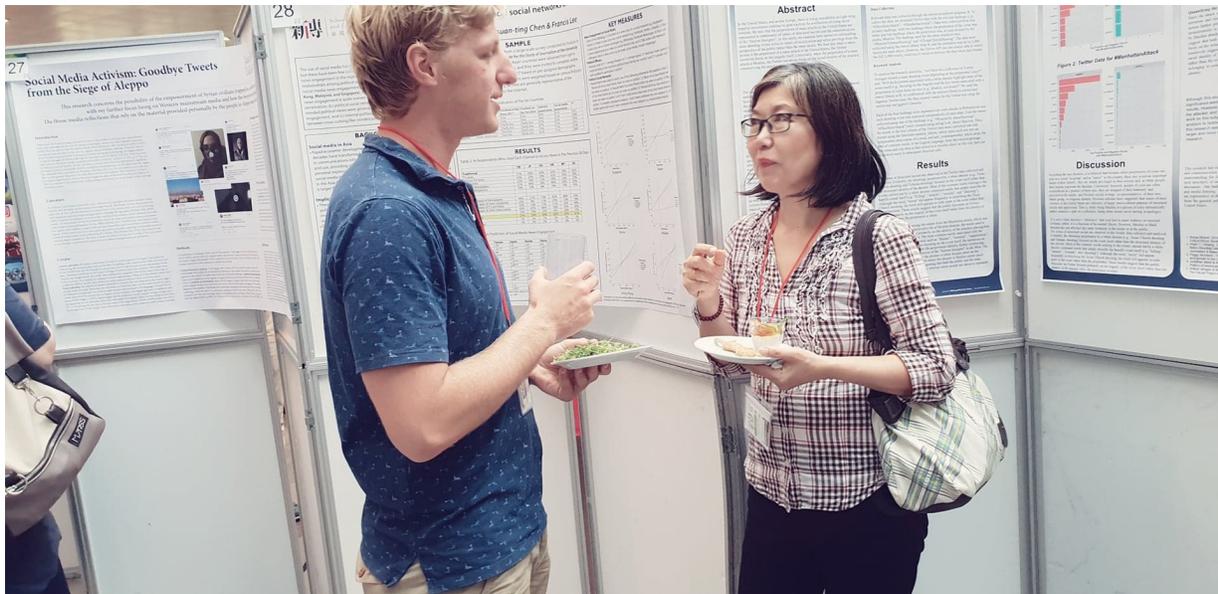
Throughout this conference, I had the opportunity to interact with scholars from around the world and had the opportunity to exchange ideas with researchers of various backgrounds. Although I learned a lot from interacting with these other researchers, I believe the most relevant information for the English Language Learning Center (ELC) concerned the question of data collection. At the ELC, some of our professors may want to do research using data or the ELC may wish to attract more students using data, but I learned that there are a lot of ethical concerns when looking at student data. There was a lot of discussion concerning studying people’s behaviors on social media sites (such as WeChat or QQ) without their consent – I think that researchers and teachers at ELC must consider this as well so we can try to avoid potential ethical issues. Using public data, according to some scholars at the conference, may lead to legal issues. Thus, we should consider to always aim to receive consent for using a person’s data at the ELC.

Additionally, many of my colleagues say incorporating new technology into the classroom can significantly improve students’ participation. These scholars gave me many great ideas that I hope to incorporate in my classroom – for instance, having students use their mobile phones to vote for the answer to a question. This keeps students engaged and it keeps the classroom setting interactive. Further, many of my fellow researchers have argued that incorporating new technologies into the classroom is essential for developing a competitive education program. A lot of teachers use different apps and platforms that allow students to check what the homework is and for students to submit homework. These submissions are automatically logged digitally. The ELC may want to consider eventually digitizing our own systems to make the classroom setting more modern. I am already integrating new technology into my teaching and could learn of novel ideas for adding tech. This is an asset for me as I can learn how to improve my teaching methods by incorporating other ideas which may result in students’ better performance, thereby further contributing to the improvement of the ELC’s overall results in English teaching.

Thank you again for your support in allowing me such an exciting and wonderful opportunity.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3: Standing at the front entrance for the conference



Picture 4: I am standing in front of the welcome sign

Note: When I was first asking for the flight tickets, I looked at a cheap one. But the price ticket went up a lot when during the night. As such, the flight tickets were more expensive than expected. I will personally cover all costs that go over the 14000 RMB allotted if there are any. Thank you kindly for this chance