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1. Comments of Dr. Zhang Jie, Director of the Center for China Studies

We are composing this special Newsletter of the Center for China Studies in these very dark times of our history: All schools are closed, all unnecessary social and service functions are shutdown, and everyone has been instructed to stay at home. The world has paused. At the time of its twentieth anniversary, the Center for China Studies is witnessing the devastating effects of this worldwide pandemic, and all of our plans scheduled for this spring 2020 semester have necessarily been cancelled or postponed. However, the CCS newsletter, a loyal recorder of the Center's stories, events, and achievements, is determined to continue. This CCS Newsletter Special Issue for Spring 2020 has a collection of personal

reflections of our current visiting scholars from China as they recall the experiences and challenges they are enduring away from home and in their lockdown apartments in the United States.

2. Reflections of Current CCS Visiting Scholars from China

Reflections on International Public Health Security Issues Arising from the New Coronavirus Epidemic (Bi Hexia, East China Jiaotong University)

After China's SARS epidemic in 2003, and before the outbreak of the recent coronavirus outbreak in China in 2020, six international public health emergencies occurred in the world: the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the polio outbreak in 2014, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014, the Zika virus outbreak from 2015 to 2016, the Ebola outbreak in Congo from 2018 to 2019, and the 2015 Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) outbreak in South Korea. It can be said that these sudden and highly contagious virus epidemics have never stopped and have always been a common problem facing the modern international community.

Reflecting on the common problems of such international public health security incidents, we found that before the epidemic occurred, the first-level risk warning was missing, and there was a mistake in risk prediction. During the outbreak, the information was very asymmetric at first and was not released in time, and the first-level emergency management and control resources were lacking in reasonable allocation and management. It was therefore difficult to activate the prevention and control capabilities that were seriously insufficient. As the epidemic continued, the practical capacity for public management of the situation was limited, and after the epidemic ended, the credibility of government officials was severely damaged. Faced with the occurrence of such public safety incidents, government agencies need to make effective overall plans for handling such crises,

including the reasonable allocation of responsibilities and powers and an effective strategy of containment. Before the outbreak, establish risk assessment, earlywarning and hierarchical management, and coordinate the "Internet +" command system. When an epidemic occurs, the officials need to release accurate epidemic prevention information as soon as possible to ensure the physical and mental safety of their citizens in a timely manner. When an outbreak occurs, emergency management and control must be quickly initiated and public resources effectively allocated. The Internet + linkage response must be coordinated to ensure the supply and production of strategic materials in a timely manner. As the epidemic continues, public administration must be strengthened to warn of public crises and accelerate the upgrading of the social governance system. After the epidemic, international economic cooperation should be strengthened to restore production and stimulate the economy.

The Importance Effective and Tactful Diplomatic Communications

(Chen Tian, Zhengzhou University of Light Industry)

In the face of a major public health crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, diplomatic communication and exchange among nations becomes more important than ever before. How should different nations, governments, and communities with different languages communicate and exchange ideas in such a crisis? Indeed, the effective use of language and accurate translation play a key role in developing positive, unified strategies for dealing with such incidents. Translation can be defined as "the communication of meaning from one language to another language." The careless use of language and inaccurate translation often has a negative effect and may even cause a diplomatic crisis. Take the U.S. President Trump's words as an example. In his twitter of March 17, 2020, Trump wrote: "The United States will be powerfully supporting those industries like Airlines and others that are particularly affected by the Chinese Virus." In this instance, he used the term "Chinese Virus" instead of COVID-19 and, naturally, the Chinese government was critical of this because, according to one official, "Trump's use of the term 'Chinese Virus' for coronavirus hurts Asian Americans. Viruses know no borders and they don't care about your ethnicity, the color of your skin or how much money you have in the bank. So it's really important we be careful in the language we use lest it lead to the profiling of individuals associated with the virus." Finally, Trump corrected himself and said: "I decided we shouldn't make any more of a big deal out of it. I think I made a big deal." It is obvious that the two little words created a big diplomatic crisis, thus we can see

how important language use in diplomatic communication is. In the battle against COVID-19, the nations of the world aren't perpetrators but victims. The international community should therefore stand in solidarity and work together, not resort to mutual accusation or demand retribution and accountability.



Visiting scholars Bi Hexia, Zhang Dan, and Li Qing shown in a video thanking the Chinese Consulate General of the China in New York for shipping health packages to the Chinese Students and Scholars Association at Buffalo State.

Facemasks: Different Responses by China and the United States **(Huang Aihua, Jiaying University)**

Currently the entire globe has been undergoing the critical threat of COVID-19. Facing such a pandemic by a single nation or a separate country is never easy. Up to April 20, 2020, there were about 2,401,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and 165,000 deaths worldwide. In the United States, there have been 788,562 confirmed cases and 42,065 deaths. Those large figures are threatening and alarming. Behind these figures are the many innocent lives lost, broken families, and a severe slowdown of the economy. Fortunately for the world, as time elapsed and China succeeded in controlling the pandemic, people learned more about the nature of the virus and acquired more experience in dealing with it.

One of the most important lessons learned is the importance of wearing facial masks in public areas where it is difficult to maintain the six-foot social distancing requirement. During the initial stage of the COVID-19 outbreak in Europe and America, people did not consider it necessary for the healthy to wear masks. This was based on the assumption that the sick would stay indoors, and if they did need to go outside to do

something essential, it would be they alone who wore masks. However, people in China and other East Asian countries and regions behave differently. They wore facial masks at the beginning of the outbreak and continued throughout. They were motivated in large part by their collective memory of another serious pandemic beginning in 2002: SARS. People in East Asia have come to understand that wearing masks benefits both the healthy and the sick. When the sick wear masks, they can prevent the virus from spreading, while the healthy wear masks to avoid contacting the virus. Later studies have proven the effectiveness of this precaution. The novel coronavirus has an incubation period of fourteen days or even longer, and it can be transmitted through the air, that is the virus has the nature of aerosol transmission. Even worse, it can be carried by asymptomatic individuals that may not know they are infected.

Experience has thus taught us that facial masks are the easiest way for individuals to fight against COVID-19. Compared with the lockdown of a city, a state, or even a whole country by making its people stay at home, wearing facial masks in public minimizes self-isolation by preventing the spread of the virus on a more individual level.

In the face of this worldwide pandemic, there are differences of opinion regarding the most effective strategy for combating it, but there is only one ultimate solution to it: all humans should join together in their effort to curb and cure this dangerous illness. There should be no political bias, no regional or racial prejudice and no arrogance or ignorance. A correct and timely emergency response is absolutely necessary to ensure the health and prosperity of our common future.

Fighting Against The COVID-19 Epidemic **(Li Qing, Zhengzhou University)**

At present, a new coronavirus infection has swept the whole world. As a doctoral student in journalism and communication, I have seen many journalists who have recently dedicated extraordinary efforts to making in-depth reports intended to publicly disclose the latest progress of the epidemic. Some other people, however, have spread rumors on the Internet to create an atmosphere of suspicion and hysteria, which not only aggravates people's anxiety, but also affects the social order.

In the age of Internet, people are exposed to a wide range of media outlets. Some people are not satisfied with the information found on the government endorsed mainstream media and seek various sources of "inside news" in social media. Unfortunately, much of the unconfirmed information found through such sources is intended to make people panic.

More terrible than the epidemic is the chaos in the social order caused by rumors and panic. In the face of such news, people often forget to investigate the facts themselves, and instead focus on the more controversial aspects of emotionally driven viewpoints. Practice is the only criterion to test truth, but we cannot easily discern the truth when we don't have a clear standard to prove whether it is right or not. Now that the epidemic has reached the current stage, each of us has the responsibility to improve our ability to distinguish truth from falsehood and to think independently, refuse to panic, maintain confidence, and correctly view the current situation of the epidemic.

Culture Differences Between China and the US **Regarding the Use of Face Masks** **(Tian Fang, Beijing Technology and Business** **University)**

When coronavirus first broke out in China in January, people such as me thought of the SARS pandemic in 2003; and with that experience in mind, Chinese people began to wear face masks in public. COVID-19 was later declared a pandemic by the WHO, but many Americans were reluctant to wear face masks in public, and organizations such as the WHO and CDC did not strongly encourage people to wear masks. However, with new findings by researchers that the virus may spread when people talk or even breathe, the US government started to encourage citizens to wear face masks in public. I understand peoples' different reactions to the practice as a difference in culture. Face masks have been widely accepted in East Asia as a daily necessity since the outbreak of SARS in 2003 for personal protection against virus, pollution, and allergens. Since my arrival in the US, however, I have never noticed anyone wearing a face mask even during flu season. Probably, COVID-19 will change people's overall attitude regarding the wearing of face masks.

The Chinese Consulate General in New York has sent us health packages that contain face masks, sanitizing towels, and Chinese medicine. Studying in the United States, we thank the Chinese government for their care, concern, and support.

We are All in This Together **(Wang Lishuang, Renmin University of China)**

I arrived in Buffalo at the end of 2019 as a visiting scholar at Buffalo State in the field of economics. I was so excited to be able to do my research in the United States, looking forward to visiting such famous locations as Central Park in New York City. Hardly could I have guessed that the world would come to a phenomenal state of uncertainty, both in our daily life and with regards to the international economy.

Right before the Chinese New Year, the coronavirus started to spread in Hubei province. It all happened so fast that the Chinese community in Buffalo, including students and scholars, began collecting donations and medical supplies to Wuhan. We all participated in the donation effort. My family had even taken part in a video to support the medical staff in Wuhan. The video was made to express heartfelt support and thanks to the people who were battling the coronavirus in China and around the world.



This is the family of Wang Lishuang taken from a video created by Chen Qinghua,, a PhD student at UB. The video is made for expressing heartfelt support and thanks to people who are battling the coronavirus in China and around the world.

As the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic has moved to the USA, the Chinese community here has gone a step beyond that to buy masks directly to donate to local hospitals. We are all in this together, and we will defeat the virus.

Personal thoughts during the epidemic

(Wei Ran, Central University of Finance and Economics)

I am an international student from China. I came to the United States at the end of January this year. Originally, I was full of expectations for this life of studying abroad. I was hopeful that I could learn a lot of professional knowledge, make a few foreign friends, practice my English speaking ability, and then go travelling. Unfortunately, this epidemic has disrupted all my plans. Classes on the Buffalo State campus were suspended and all courses were transferred to online learning. Because of the rapid spread of the epidemic, my original travel plans also collapsed, and I could only stay at home every day. Although it is a very boring life, spending every day at home also gives me more time to write papers and think independently. In the past two months, my cooking

has become better and better, and the dishes I made have become more and more delicious. In addition, throughout this epidemic I also felt the fragility and value of life. At the earliest outbreak in Wuhan, although I had already come to the United States, I was always concerned about the domestic epidemic situation. I felt very sad to see so many people infected. But China is a united and strong country, and many doctors and nurses from other regions volunteered to rush to the frontline in Wuhan to participate in the fight against the epidemic. At the same time, I have been looking forward to the end of the domestic epidemic. Now, the domestic epidemic situation is really good, China's epidemic situation has been brought under control, and Wuhan has resumed normal life and production. This is really exciting news.

However, when China's epidemic situation improved, the international epidemic began to break out. The United States was not immune, and it has even become the most impacted country. I feel very sad. This fully shows that the whole world is a big family, each of our countries is a part of this big family, and every country is inseparable. Therefore, when other countries are in trouble, every country in the world should join together to help them. Helping others is helping ourselves. Now China and the United States are also helping each other, and American attempts to control the virus are becoming more and more effective. I hope that the United States can overcome the virus as soon as possible so that we can go to class, travel, and meet friends as we did before. I hope that Sino-US relations will become better and better and that Sino-US cooperation will improve so that the future world will be more harmonious and happy.



Academic community at UB supporting the fight against the disease

Fighting Against Covid 19 **(Zhang Dan, Shandong University)**

In December 2019, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was detected in Wuhan, China. With the effective control of the epidemic, the national outbreak reached an inflection point at the end of February, and China's economic production as well as people's life is gradually back on track. However, other countries are suffering severe outbreaks. As of April 20, the United States, has become the country with the largest number of confirmed cases. As a visiting scholar in Buffalo this year under such an unexpected disaster, my family and friends in China are very worried about me. About two months ago, my husband worked as the first squad of volunteers in the prevention and control of the epidemic in the community. He has gained much valuable experience, and currently he has shared with me some effective tips to disinfect the environment. COVID-19 is sensitive to heat and can be inactivated at 56 degrees centigrade for 30 minutes, and 75% alcohol can effectively kill novel coronavirus. Proper cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces with disinfectants can effectively prevent the spread of viruses. Therefore, I open the window for ventilation twice a day, and wipe and disinfect the ground, wall surfaces and furniture with 75% alcohol once a week. Disinfectants can be toxic and cause skin irritation, so gloves should be worn during their preparation and use; and articles should be wiped with clean water after disinfection. I hope what I have shared will be helpful for those who are still fighting against the COVID-19.

Reflection of My Atypical American Life **(Zhou Yuanyuan, Hebei University of Economics and Business)**

From novelty, observation, and chaos to adaptation, peace, and embracement, I have experienced many complicated events in the process of settling down. This has provided me both challenges and opportunities as I took a closer look at American life. However, just as my life at Buffalo State began to get on the right track, an unexpected guest disrupted everything: the COVID-19 virus. Due to coronavirus, we have to make a lot of compromises in life. It made online courses a necessity, including the two I selected to take this semester: Dr. Ron Stewart's "Research Methods in Sociology" and Barb and Phil's "American Culture." Although the cancelling of classes was disappointing you can still feel these instructors passion for teaching via the Internet. Fortunately, the Internet enables me to continue work on my thesis and project research and to keep in touch with my family and friends on the other side of



Visiting scholars recording the empty shelves in a grocery store

the world. At no other time have I felt more intensively that the whole world is interconnected by an invisible "net." While political leaders have locked their borders, the virus has actually created a community of common destiny for all mankind, with no borders.

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main . . . send not to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee." John Donne's poem seems more thought provoking than ever in the global village today. What we need most right now is not criticism, but collaboration.



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