

## Global Languages

The core mission of [Global Languages](#) is to educate students in languages, cultures, and intercultural communication, with the broad aim of advancing their academic, career, and personal goals. As MIT students pursue an expanding spectrum of international engagements, our classes and immersive international experiences help prepare them to live and work in the diverse and multilingual context of a globalizing world.

Major achievements this year include the following:

- Confirmation of Korean as a regular offering of the Global Languages curriculum, based on a successful, four-year pilot
- Launch of a pilot Independent Activities Period (IAP)-in-Shenzhen class in Chinese language
- Launch of Global Languages Pedagogy Lecture Series

### The Restructuring of the Academic Unit

Our unit is in a period of transition and renewal following School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) Kenan Sahin Dean Melissa Nobles’s decision to restructure the section in August 2019. The restructuring was carried out by Dean Nobles following a period of consultation with stakeholders in AY2019 and a report compiled by SHASS Associate Dean Agustín Rayo. It was further motivated by a recommendation in the SHASS Reorganization Advisory Committee Report of March 2011, which stated: “Organizing instructional resources for the praxis of writing and of foreign language acquisition has the potential to support strong educational communities that can focus on pedagogy and engage in research on efficiency and effectiveness of instruction.” Global Studies and Languages faculty were reassigned to other academic units within SHASS, and the unit was reconstituted under the leadership of a faculty director and renamed Global Languages (GL). The restructuring enables the unit to develop a strong, shared vision and mission, centered on language pedagogy and innovation, which had been a core strength in the former Foreign Languages and Literatures unit, the predecessor to Global Studies and Languages. No jobs were lost in the restructuring.

Professor Emma J. Teng—T. T. and Wei Fong Chao Professor of Asian Civilizations and former head of Global Studies and Languages—was asked to serve as the faculty director of Global Languages for a period of two years to oversee the transition. Dean Nobles also convened the Global Languages Transition Search Committee to help develop a vision for the new unit and to conduct a search for a new faculty director, with expected appointment in July 2021. The committee consists of Nobles (chair), Teng, Richard J. Samuels (Ford International Professor and professor of Political Science), Sabine Iatridou (professor of Linguistics), Diana Henderson (professor of Literature), and Andrew F. Ross (director of the Language Center at Harvard University).

### Initiatives

In line with the stated goals of the restructuring, this year Global Languages focused on fostering the professional development of our lecturer cohort, climate, and giving

greater prominence to language pedagogy and instructional technology for language education in unit programming and activities. Initiatives included the following:

### **Visit to Harvard's Language Center and Visualization Lab**

Global Languages organized a visit of interested lecturers to Harvard's Language Center and Visualization Lab in September 2019 to see and discuss some of their unique facilities, activities, and pedagogical projects.

### **Global Languages Strategic Retreat**

On October 15, 2019, Global Languages hosted a section-wide retreat, making use of a consultancy service offered by the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL) of the Modern Language Association (MLA). The ADFL-MLA Language Consultancy Service "advises language departments on a variety of issues such as curriculum design, faculty governance, and strategic planning." Professor of the practice in German and assistant dean and director of Language Instruction Gisela Hoecherl-Alden (Boston University) facilitated the retreat.

### **Global Languages Colloquium**

The Global Languages colloquium this year focused on pedagogy and instructional technology, with participation across all language groups. Topics included use of 360 degree photography in the language classroom, online teaching, and blended learning.

### **Global Languages Pedagogy Lecture Series**

The unit organized a public lecture series featuring national leaders in language pedagogy innovation. Guest lectures in AY2020 included: Felix Kronenberg (Michigan State University), who presented "Designing Physical Language Learning Spaces in the Age of Ubiquitous Computing"; and Angelika Kraemer (Cornell University) who presented "Languages across the Curriculum." The final event in this series, featuring Sébastien Dubreil (Carnegie Mellon University), was rescheduled due to restrictions on campus activity owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Pedagogy Innovation Support**

In accordance with our membership in the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning, Global Languages allocated funding for internal grants to support innovation in language teaching. Despite several strong applications, only one project could be funded due to restrictions of activity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Finances, Fundraising, and Development**

Professor Teng led a number of fundraising efforts during AY2020, with a focus on supporting study abroad programs and pedagogical initiatives among the language groups. Funding was also sought to support the expansion of Korean and Russian, and the development of Arabic language curricula, with assistance from the MIT Arab Alumni Association for the latter.

Global Languages was honored to receive the generous donation of a limited edition, World Heritage landmark volume, *The Murals of Tibet*, in October 2019. The volume is housed in the MIT Libraries Distinctive Collections. A celebratory event for the MIT community was held.

## Personnel

### Faculty Changes

Due to the restructuring of the unit, faculty were reassigned to other departmental homes in SHASS. Moved to Comparative Media Studies/Writing were: Ian Condry, professor of Comparative Media Studies and Writing; Paloma Duong, assistant professor of Media Studies and Latin American studies; Paul Roquet, associate professor of Media Studies and Japan studies; and Jing Wang, S. C. Fang Professor in Chinese Language and Culture and professor of Chinese media and cultural studies. Moved to Anthropology were: Melissa Amah Edoh, assistant professor of Anthropology and African studies; and Bettina Stotzer, associate professor of Anthropology. Moved to History was Catherine E. Clark, associate professor of History and French studies; while Professor Teng will retain her dual appointment with History during her tenure as director of Global Languages. Due to his being on a fellowship leave during all of AY2020, Bruno Perreau, Cynthia L. Reed Professor of French Studies and Language, was not assigned a new department during AY2020.

### Other Academic Instructional Staff

In AY2020, Global Languages included 44 other academic instructional staff, including 18 temporary lecturers. Lecturer in Spanish Helena Belío-Apaolaza and Lecturer in German Anh Nguyen each joined the unit as a lecturer I following successful searches in AY2019. They replace lecturers who had left MIT in AY2018.

Lecturer in Spanish Mariana San Martin and Lecturer in Chinese Kang Zhou were promoted from lecturer I to lecturer II, effective January 1, 2020. Lecturer in Japanese Masami Ikeda-Lamm and Lecturer in Chinese Min-Min Liang were successfully reappointed lecturer II effective AY2021. Senior Lecturer in Russian Maria Khotimsky underwent a successful review for reappointment effective AY2022.

In spring 2020, Senior Lecturer in Japanese Takako Aikawa and Senior Lecturer in Chinese Haohsiang Liao were on leave. Two longtime members of the academic staff retired this year: Senior Lecturer in Spanish Margarita Ribas Groeger, following the Independent Activities Period (IAP), and Senior Lecturer in German Ellen Crocker, at the close of the academic year.

A search for a senior lecturer in German was conducted, but did not yield a hire. A search for a senior lecturer in Korean was conducted, culminating in a conditional offer. The case for appointment will be concluded in AY2021.

### Administrative Staff

Global Languages administrative staff included an administrative officer, a systems administrator, an undergraduate academic administrator, and two support staff.

## Accomplishments and Honors

The director and other academic staff in Global Languages were active in their professional fields, publishing books and scholarly articles, presenting research at conferences and other venues, and receiving awards and grants during AY2020.

The Chinese language translation of Professor Teng's book *Eurasian: Mixed Identities in the United States, China, and Hong Kong, 1842–1943* was published by National Taiwan University Press in June 2020, with a new preface and foreword. Professor Teng also published a review of Chien-Hsin Tsai's *A Passage to China: Literature, Loyatism, and Colonial Taiwan* in the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*.

Lecturer in Chinese Tong Chen was editor-in-chief of a new text, *Teaching Basic Chinese Grammar: Communicative Strategies and Activities* by Cheng and Tsui Publishing. Lecturer in Korean Hee-Jeong Jeong was co-author of a new edition of a textbook, *Integrated Korean: High Intermediate Korean 2* published by University of Hawai'i Press. Maria Khotimsky published a book chapter, "Children's Poetry and Translation in the Soviet Era: Strategies of Rewriting, Transformation and Adaptation," in *Brill Companion to Soviet Children's Literature*, published by Brill Academic Publishers. Helena Belío-Apaolaza published several articles, including "La enseñanza de la comunicación no verbal en ELE" [Teaching of nonverbal communication in the Spanish as a foreign language classroom] in *Boletín de la Asociación para la Enseñanza del Español como Lengua Extranjera*. Takako Aikawa published two articles in conference proceedings: "Virtual Reality for Language Learning," in the *Proceedings of the 2020 Asian Conference on Language*, Tokyo, Japan; and "An Analysis of Japanese Language Learners' Errors and Misuses," in the *Proceedings of the 26th Princeton Japanese Pedagogy Forum*.

The director and other academic staff presented research and pedagogical findings at a range of conferences, symposia, and invited lectures across the United States. Findings and lectures delivered internationally include the following: Professor Teng delivered a keynote lecture, "Expanding the Empire 'Beyond the Seas': The Imagined Geography of Taiwan in Qing Travel Writing," at the International Conference on the Aesthetic Mechanisms of Ocean Representations in British, American, and Asian Contexts, hosted by the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies at Seikei University, Japan; Takako Aikawa gave invited talks at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden, and the Hokkaido International Foundation in Japan; Senior Lecturer in English Language Studies Jane Dunphy gave an invited talk at Aix-Marseille University, France; and Haohsiang Liao delivered invited talks at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages in Taiwan, the National Chengchi University in Taiwan, and the Vienna University of Technology in Austria.

Members of Global Languages also received funding and resources from external and internal sources to support their pedagogy and research. Professor Teng was a faculty research member of the AI for Personalized Foreign Language Education project, led by principal investigators Shigeru Miyagawa—professor post-tenure and senior associate dean of Open Learning, and Douglas A. Jones—Lincoln Laboratory senior technical staff, and sponsored by the MIT/Air Force AI Accelerator grant. This project is a workstream of the Conversational Interaction for Unstructured Information Access and Language Learning project, led by principal investigator James Glass, CSAIL senior research scientist. Haohsiang Liao received a grant from Taiwan's Ministry of Education to

develop three, Chinese language, massive open online courses (MOOCs) for publication through MITx. The MOOCs will be completed and published by October 2021. Takako Aikawa was selected as a faculty fellow by the SHASS programs in Digital Humanities (DH) for spring 2021. She will lead a team of DH Lab students working on the application of artificial intelligence and natural language processing for language and culture learning. Together with faculty principal investigators Maria Khotimsky and Elizabeth A. Wood, professor of history, received an MIT d'Arbelloff Fund for Excellence in Education award for their project (Russia Real and Imagined through the Ages—Introduction to Russian Studies: Developing an Innovative, Hands-on Exploratory Course).

Maria Khotimsky and Lecturer Isadora Nicholas were selected as recipients of 2020 Teaching with Digital Technology Awards, awarded by MIT Open Learning and based on student nominations.

### **Service to the Profession**

Global Languages members are active in the profession, playing various leadership and service roles.

Professor Teng is a member of the governing board of the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning. In AY2020, she served on the executive committee and board of directors of the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy. She serves on the international advisory board of the International Chinese Language Program, National Taiwan University, and on the board of advisors, North American Taiwan Studies Association.

Haohsiang Liao is an advisory board member of the steering committee for the Test of Proficiency, Huayu, ministry of Education in Taiwan, which supports standardized international testing of Chinese language proficiency. Tong Chen is the president of the New England Chinese Teachers Association. Min-Min Liang is the secretary of the Heritage Language Group, Special Interest Group of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Senior Lecturer in French Sabine Levet is a board member of the New England Regional Association for Language Learning Technology and the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning. Hee-Jeong Jeong is on the Critical Language Scholarship Program selection panel for the US Department of State. Jane Dunphy is a member of the advisory board on Communicating Science to the Public, a program in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University. Lecturer in Portuguese Nilma Dominique was elected to the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association board of directors, representing the Portuguese language, for a four-year term.

Global Languages organized and hosted the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, administered by the American Association of Teachers of Japanese.

### **Service to the Institute**

Professor Teng served on several Institute committees in AY2020: the Karl Taylor Compton Lectures Advisory Committee; the International Advisory Committee; the Committee on Student Life (fall); the Working Group on Disclosures in Connection with

Complaints of Violations of Conduct Policies; and the Education Group of Task Force 2021 and Beyond. Jane Dunphy served as advisor to the ESL Program for MIT Service Employees. Lecturer in French Cathy Culot served as co-director of the MIT-Belgium Program. Lecturer in English language studies A. C. Kemp participated in the MIT International Student Orientation in August 2019.

## **Intellectual Commons**

Global Languages hosted programming in support of intellectual commons throughout the academic year. Major programming included the following:

The third annual T. T. and W. F. Chao Distinguished Buddhist Lecture Series featured Venerable Miao Guang, the deputy chancellor of the Fo Guang Shan Institute of Humanistic Buddhism and the personal interpreter and translator to Venerable Master Hsing Yun, founder of Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Order. The venerable led a group meditation before speaking on the topic of mindfulness in a time of pandemic, discussing mindfulness and compassion as means of facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Global France Seminar, supported by the French Initiatives Endowment Fund (FIEF), hosted a number of speakers. In October 2019, Stéphane Gerson (New York University) gave a presentation titled “A History from Within: When Historians Write about Their own Kin.” Willem Degraeve (Belgian Comics Art Museum) gave a talk entitled “Belgium: The Kingdom of Comic Strips” in November 2019. In February 2020 Régis Coursin (University of Montreal) delivered a lecture titled “Against Slavery: Approaching Republican Atlantic, circa 1769–1791.” Global Languages also administered the January Scholars in France Program, supported by FIEF and the MIT-France Program, during IAP. Professor Clark led six students on this experiential program in Paris.

Continuing for the 10th year, Nilma Dominique convened a monthly Portuguese-language lunch table, *Solta a Língua*, which is open to the MIT community. This year’s series included guest speakers: Jean Wyllys de Matos Santos, former member of parliament, Brazil; and Professor Charles Bicalho, of University of the State of Minas Gerais (Brazil).

## **Academics**

### **Curriculum**

Based on a successful four-year pilot, Dean Nobles confirmed Korean as a regular offering of the Global Languages curriculum.

In AY2020, four new subjects were offered for the first time: 21G.237 MIT Out Loud: Public Speaking for Bilingual Students; 21G.240 Imagining English: Creative Writing for Bilingual Students; 21G.095/21G.595 Cultures of Music in East Asia: China, Japan, Korea; and 21G.014 Introduction to Russian Politics and Society, a first-year discovery subject. An additional first-year discovery subject, 21G.013 Discovering Multilingual Boston: Voices of Immigrant Communities, was developed but unfortunately could not be offered due to low enrollment.



Professor Teng offered her first-year discovery subject, 21G.012 Exploring Globalization through Chinese Food, for the second time.

With generous donor funding, Global Languages launched a pilot language and cultural immersion class in Shenzhen, China, hosted by the Global Engagement Office of the Southern University of Science and Technology. The Shenzhen-Guangzhou MIT alumni club hosted participating students. Global Languages also offered two classes in Madrid during IAP: 21G.793 Spanish III in Madrid, and 21G.795 Advanced Spanish Communication in Spain.

### **Enrollments**

Course 21G enrollments reached a new high in AY2020, with 2,323 students taking Global Language classes, an increase of 116 over last academic year. This increase included a rise in the number of first-year students taking Course 21G classes, from 329 in AY2019 to 491 in AY2020.

Spanish and Chinese continue to be the most highly enrolled of our language subject offerings. Japanese and French maintained strong enrollments, while German successfully reversed declining enrollments with a 10% increase over AY2019, bringing total enrollments to 171 in AY2020. Korean and Russian are also growth areas.

High subject enrollment also translated into an increase of student enrollment in Global Languages minor and concentration programs. Concentrator numbers increased to 489 at the close of AY2020, continuing a steady trend of growth since AY2016. Enrollment in Global Languages minors rose to 77 students, led in particular by an increase of Japanese minor enrollments.

Global Languages had four students in its major programs in AY2020, graduating three of them: Jordan Alford was a double-major in chemical engineering and Spanish; Kaleigh Hunt was a double-major in chemical engineering and German; and Sarah Owen received her SB degree in Spanish. Joanna Lin declared a second major in French, with a primary major in biology.

### **Transition to Remote Instruction**

In March, MIT transitioned to online instruction in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instructional staff were given two weeks to prepare for remote teaching, during which time Global Languages hosted training sessions with MITx Digital Fellow Meghan Perdue and Global Languages systems administrator Joseph Borkowski. Global Languages instructors successfully pivoted to incorporate new technologies and teaching tools for remote instruction, including Zoom in particular. With Institute support, we expanded our use of the Canvas learning management system (LMS), which the unit had piloted since 2017. In May, Global Languages instructional staff organized a roundtable to share experiences with new tools and platforms, and to discuss the challenges and successes of remote instruction. A separate panel discussion was organized to introduce primary features of Canvas, in particular, for those unfamiliar with the LMS. Ben Hansberry of the Teaching and Learning Lab led an additional workshop to revisit fundamental considerations of moving instruction online, in preparation for fall 2020.

Professor Teng presented Global Languages' experiences in this transition at an academic continuity meeting attended by leaders from the Institute; school; and various departments, labs, and centers. Subsequently, Global Languages' experiences were highlighted in Open Learning's remote teaching series as "[Innovations in Remote Language Instruction](#)," and on the Teaching and Learning Lab's "Introduction to Get Ready to Teach Remote" Canvas page. Spring term student evaluations indicated broad student satisfaction that their Courses 21G classes had provided effective learning environments and instructional strategies that supported their remote learning, under difficult circumstances.

### **Student Engagement and Community**

As in past years, Global Languages was strongly represented at campus-wide student events, such as the Academic Expo, Go Global Fair, and the Tour de SHASS in September. For the first time, Global Languages also sponsored a booth at the annual student career fair in the fall. Along with other SHASS sections, Global Languages hosted a virtual booth during the Campus Preview period in April 2020.

Global Languages significantly increased outreach efforts in AY2020. The unit launched the new "STEM+Languages → ∞ Possibilities" campaign to promote dual majors in STEM and Course 21G, as well as our minor programs. The Global Languages Student Advisory Group convened to provide student input to Global Languages leadership, with a focus in AY2020 on the website and student community events. Global Languages, represented by Professor Teng, the undergraduate academic administrator (UAA), and two lecturers of Spanish and Portuguese, met with the Office of Minority Education Student Advisory Council (OMESAC) to offer an introduction to Global Languages programs and learn more about student interests, particularly in heritage language learning.

In order to assess student interest and need, several surveys were conducted. In addition to surveys of students in German and Portuguese, a broad survey was distributed to Global Languages students and through the OMESAC and GLSAG student networks. In total, nearly 400 students responded to the broad survey. Responses indicated general student interest in language and culture classes, for a variety of reasons such as personal interests, intellectual enrichment, career opportunities, and family heritage among others. Students identified scheduling as one barrier to language study at MIT. The survey also reflected a desire from some respondents to study languages not currently offered at MIT, including Arabic, Italian, and African languages, among others.

The focus on outreach and community continued even following the shift to remote instruction in March 2020. Global Languages hosted a virtual community tea on April 20, in lieu of a World Languages Day event that had been planned for April 8 in Lobby 10. Co-hosted by Professor Teng, MIT alumna Samira Okudo '19, and the Global Languages UAA, the event gathered more than forty students, instructors, and staff. Global Languages also organized and hosted a virtual international film series, featuring one film per week from early June to early August as selected by various MIT faculty and instructional staff across SHASS. Each contributor provided a videotaped introduction to their selected film (made available through MIT Libraries), and led a post viewing discussion open to the MIT community on Zoom.



Global Languages recognized student distinction with the awarding of several student prizes: the Global Languages Excellence Award; Margarita Ribas Groeger Distinguished Scholar Award; Ellen Crocker Distinguished Scholar Award; Miyagawa Japanese Prize; and the Isabelle de Courtivron Writing Prize. Student awards in excellence for German studies were supported by the MIT-Germany program. Student recipients as well as graduating majors, minors, and concentrators were recognized in the annual Spring Fest gathering, held remotely on May 28, 2020. The event brought together students, family, alumni, and Global Languages employees, and included a community share, where students as well as academic staff offered words of gratitude and congratulations in this challenging year.

### **Administrative Initiatives**

Following the faculty moves noted above, several space changes occurred to relocate the faculty closer to colleagues in their new academic units, and in some cases, to release their office space to the new department. Rooms 14N-423, 14N-426, 14N-427, and 14N-429 were released to Comparative Media Studies/Writing (CMS/W) for the use of faculty who had moved to CMS/W. Rooms 14N-224, 14N-238, and 14N-329A were released to SHASS, roughly equating the space vacated by three faculty who left Building 14N as a result of their move to a new department.

Following faculty reassignment to other SHASS departments, continuing administrative and service duties relevant to the lecturer II and senior lecturer roles were reviewed, while continuing responsibilities of the faculty, including Course 21G major advising and Communication Intensive in the Major (CI-M) teaching roles, were confirmed.

Several measures were taken with the aim of standardizing or streamlining lecturer effort in administrative matters. A lecturers' task force, chaired by Maria Khotimsky with participation from lecturers across language groups, drafted a standardized rubric for teaching observations. In consideration of the budgetary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Global Languages reallocated academic administrative responsibilities of the coordinator role for language groups, ending the coordinator designation and its associated course release going forward.

The annual review form for other academic instructional staff piloted last year was confirmed, bringing greater transparency and uniformity to the process. We also explored the use of MIT's electronic professional record (ePR) application for the annual review. In November, Global Languages invited Sonia Liou and Huey Chan of Institutional Research to introduce the ePR to the unit. Global Languages planned to pilot ePR in the annual salary review process, but this was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Global Languages commenced work to redevelop its website, with expected launch in fall 2020. Global Languages also transitioned its file storage to the Microsoft SharePoint platform, consolidating files and documents from a static server and staff computers.

**Emma J. Teng**

**Director**

**T. T. and Wei Fong Chao Professor of Asian Civilizations**