

Global Shakespeare: Transforming HASS Subjects through Online Collections and Web-based Tools: Demonstration Project, Community Building and Planning

This proposal seeks funds for:

1. A video-intensive demonstration project in global Shakespeare, to be implemented initially in 21L009 (Shakespeare) and 21L435 (Film and Literature: Global Shakespeares) in the Fall of 2009 and continuing in later terms. These subjects will fully integrate educational modules using video and other materials from the Shakespeare Performance in Asia archive (a collaboration between the MIT Shakespeare Project, NUS Singapore and researchers and teams in Japan and Korea) using web-based tools for making and annotating virtual clips, and including them in online discussions and multimedia essays.
2. Support for workshops aimed at building a community of video users in HASS and beyond with the aim of increasing the number of HASS subjects in which video and images are used, introducing the new tools and pedagogies for using them, and planning for the future. The goal is to transform teaching with video resources from illustrative modes to the highly interactive “close encounters” and instant cross-media comparisons that new technologies – those developed at MIT as well as elsewhere – now make possible.

The Shakespeare Performance in Asia archive – the first phase of a series of Global Shakespeare collections – is already well advanced, nearing initial launch, and offers unique opportunities for introducing global materials and perspectives in education:

- As an ongoing international partnership it allows students to participate in a global dialogue as UROPs and team members as well as in coursework.
- The collection, even in its initial phase is extensive, with more than 30 full productions digitized already (out of a target of 100), including most of the productions crucial for understanding the new role of Asia in Shakespeare performance; the productions are illuminated by extensive metadata on such matters as production, reception, staging and intercultural strategies, and the national, regional and international artistic forms and references that are used.
- The videos, images and scripts in the archive are in most cases provided by the theater companies *with specific permission to use on the web for educational and research purposes*
- The creation of web-based tools incorporates the advances and profits by the lessons learned in the iCampus XMAS Project especially. The pedagogies enabled by the possibility of rapidly making and annotating clips have proved transforming at MIT and at other institutions in the outreach phase of iCampus, but were limited by single platform development and reliance on purchased DVDs. In the current development effort, full

permissions for use and web-based access to materials and tools will increase ease of use and adoption through the Institute and beyond.

- Asian productions of Shakespeare are key examples of radical changes in older models of the relation of classic Western literary and dramatic texts and their enactment outside the West. Since 1985, in a stunning array of experiments that combine traditional and contemporary theatrical styles, Eastern and Western and that are often multilingual, directors such as Ninagawa, Suzuki, Deguchi, and Kurita (Japan), Ong Keng Sen (Singapore), Wu Hsing-kuo and Stan Lai (Taiwan), Lin Zhaohua (Beijing), Su Leci (Shanghai) and others have made Asia a center of revision and innovation in Shakespeare production and in the emergence of new kinds of global conversations among traditions and cultures. Many were first performed for culturally and linguistically diverse audiences, and in some the characters even speak different languages, and thus directly raise some of the questions of intercultural experience we would like our students to explore.

The moment is right for a strong demonstration project in this area and a concerted effort to engage faculty and staff in discussing video and other media in education. The proposed project will:

- Leverage current work on the Asian archive and the video toolkit as well as pedagogies and strategies that have been developed under the D'Arbelloff Initiative (MetaMedia: Peter Donaldson, Kurt Fendt, John Dower, Shigeru Miyagawa), iCampus (XMAS: Cross Media Annotation System, Peter Donaldson; Spoken Lecture, Jim Glass, and in other projects developed in the last 15 years in CECI, Hyperstudio and CSAIL.
- Benefit by the focus on media crossing and media convergence of the Comparative Media Studies program and extend a comparative media approach to humanities education in a school-wide effort to enhance teaching and learning through the use of video-rich resources and online tools.
- Contribute to the emergence of a coherent and powerful strategy for video in education at MIT now being discussed in the Libraries, MITCET, SHASS and elsewhere.

FIRST YEAR:

SUMMER 2009

Workshop and discussions aimed at forming user community of faculty, teaching staff, project members and associated developers/educational specialists interested in the use of media-rich online resources, especially video, in MIT education, continuing for duration of project. Completion of Phase 1 development of Video Toolkit. Assessment plan developed.

FALL 2009

Launch of Shakespeare Performance in Asia archive. Teaching materials prepared for 21L009 and 21L435 including commissioned introductions and translations and clip

collection for teaching. First full online use of Asian Shakespeare videos and associated tools in these subjects. Video user group proposes new subjects and modifications of subjects for AY 2011.

Spring 2010

Demonstration project continues in 21L009 and in collaborative teaching with Alexander Huang at Penn State. Module of archive materials and introductions created for use in Shakespeare courses outside MIT. Assessment of 21L009.

Project assumes dedicated support from OEIT, support and advice from the Libraries would be very helpful.

Funding requested: \$20,000/year for two years.

First Year funding categories:

Meetings and workshop support: \$1000

Translation: \$2500

Honoraria for expert essays/introduction on Asian Shakespeare \$500 x 5 = \$2500

Project manager and classroom support: 10% FTE \$6000 + e.b. = \$7500

Undergraduate students: \$15/hr x 300 hours = \$4500

Assessment: \$2000