

# Preface

The HKAECT-AECT 2017 Summer International Research Symposium on *New Ecology for Education: Communication X Learning* was co-organized by the Hong Kong Association for Educational Communications and Technology (HKAECT) and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) on 15–17 June 2017 at the University of Hong Kong. In the wake of the advances in information and communication technology, the Internet and new media enable the emergence of new mechanisms of human networking as well as communication, which are shaped by—yet also share—the development of educational practices. Having witnessed the explosion of information on the web, the HKAECT and the AECT feel the pressing need for colleagues in the fields of education and communication to examine their current and future roles, as they are no longer the ones they used to be and may have to re-define their developments in the process of communication and learning. The Symposium aimed at unpacking the complex interactions between communication and learning, as represented by the symbol “X” in the event title. It provided a platform for knowledge exchanges on education, communications, and technology among educators, researchers, and practitioners who share a common goal to explore better approaches to teaching and learning, along with effective and meaningful media communication through technology advancement.

The Symposium appealed through open calls for paper submissions from a number of areas to address the new ecology for education, including (a) assessment for learning, (b) new media, (c) massive open online courses (MOOCs) and open education, (d) instructional design and design-based research, (e) knowledge diffusion in educational technologies, (f) professional education, teaching, learning and development in the digital era, as well as (g) communication and the media. The encouraging response to the calls reflected the timeliness of the Symposium. In this edited volume of the conference proceedings, selected high-quality manuscripts are broadly categorized around three main themes—the new trends in educational technology (5 chapters), teaching and learning experiences with technology (9 chapters), as well as communication and the media (8 chapters).

It is extremely pleasing that the Symposium successfully invited renowned scholars and learned authors to share their inspirational insights with the audience from a wide range of perspectives about how education and communication have adapted and will further emergent practices in the information age. On behalf of the Symposium Organizing Committee, we take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Prof. Mohan Jyoti Dutta of the National University of Singapore, Prof. Brad Hokanson of the University of Minnesota, Prof. Siu Cheung Kong of the Education University of Hong Kong, and Prof. Robert A. Reiser of the Florida State University for their consent to be our keynote speakers. Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to all chapter contributors and reviewers. Their excellent works and contributions have made this monograph a success in facilitating rich and resourceful exchanges among academicians, practitioners, and professionals.

We cannot thank our partnering institutes and organizations enough for their incessant support and sponsorship, without which the Symposium could not have been realized. They included Centre for Information Technology in Education (CITE) of the University of Hong Kong, Online Communication Research Centre and Department of Journalism and Communication of Hong Kong Shue Yan University, Centre for Learning, Teaching and Technology of the Education University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Education of the University of Macau, Department of Education Studies of Hong Kong Baptist University, and last but not least, the Hong Kong Pei Hua Education Foundation.

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