

# Teacher Journeys 2021

Michael Ellis

*International Christian University High School*

Teacher Journeys 2020 was *forced* online; it felt like an evacuation. From late 2019, we were developing plans for a face-to-face conference in west Tokyo. We didn't explicitly call it face-to-face, of course. That would have seemed redundant at the time. Those plans were disrupted by and ultimately canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference team scrambled to host an online, asynchronous conference on TD SIG's YouTube channel. All of the video presentations focused on teachers' experiences with emergency remote teaching. Though it was a struggle, the presenters and conference team succeeded in sharing many important stories with practical implications for other educators teaching remotely.

Teacher Journeys 2021 was *composed* online; it felt like a homecoming. Using the conference structure established the year before, we were able to maintain an online format to share stories and experiences that weren't necessarily related to online teaching. In this way, Teacher Journeys 2021 reflected an acclimation to a new normal.

There was no struggle. The presenters knew how to record video presentations and were used to speaking to cameras. We weren't overwhelmed anymore. Instead, we used the tools and skills gained through the experience of remote teaching to share journeys of professional teacher development—which might or might not relate directly to remote teaching itself.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy the articles in this special issue of *ETD* from this conference. As the conference organizer, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of the contributors, editors Nick Kasperek and Ryo Mizukura, and all of the *ETD* team for putting this together. As mentioned in the panel discussion at the end of Teacher Journeys 2021, to me this conference represents an exciting blend of synchronous and asynchronous professional development, and I am looking forward to seeing the journey continue under the expert guidance of Alexey Kukharuk and the rest of the new team. Please look forward to more Teacher Journeys in the future!



TEACHER JOURNEYS 2021

a collection of video-based stories of teachers' endurance, adaptation and development

proposal deadline:  
**August 15**

videos posted:  
**this fall**

more details at  
the conference site

