

Technology use in education during emergencies

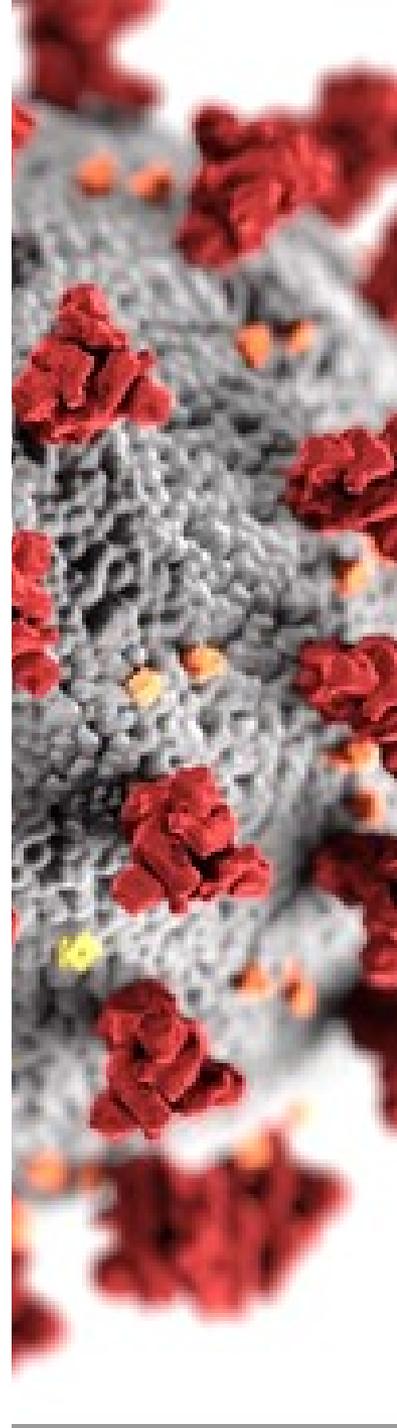
Tatia Johnson
University of Cambridge



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COVID-19





Finding a Silver Lining in the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case of a Teachers' Online Community in Georgia

Tatia Johnson

University of Cambridge, UK

Maka Eradze

University of Foggia, Italy

M. Nutsa Kobakhidze

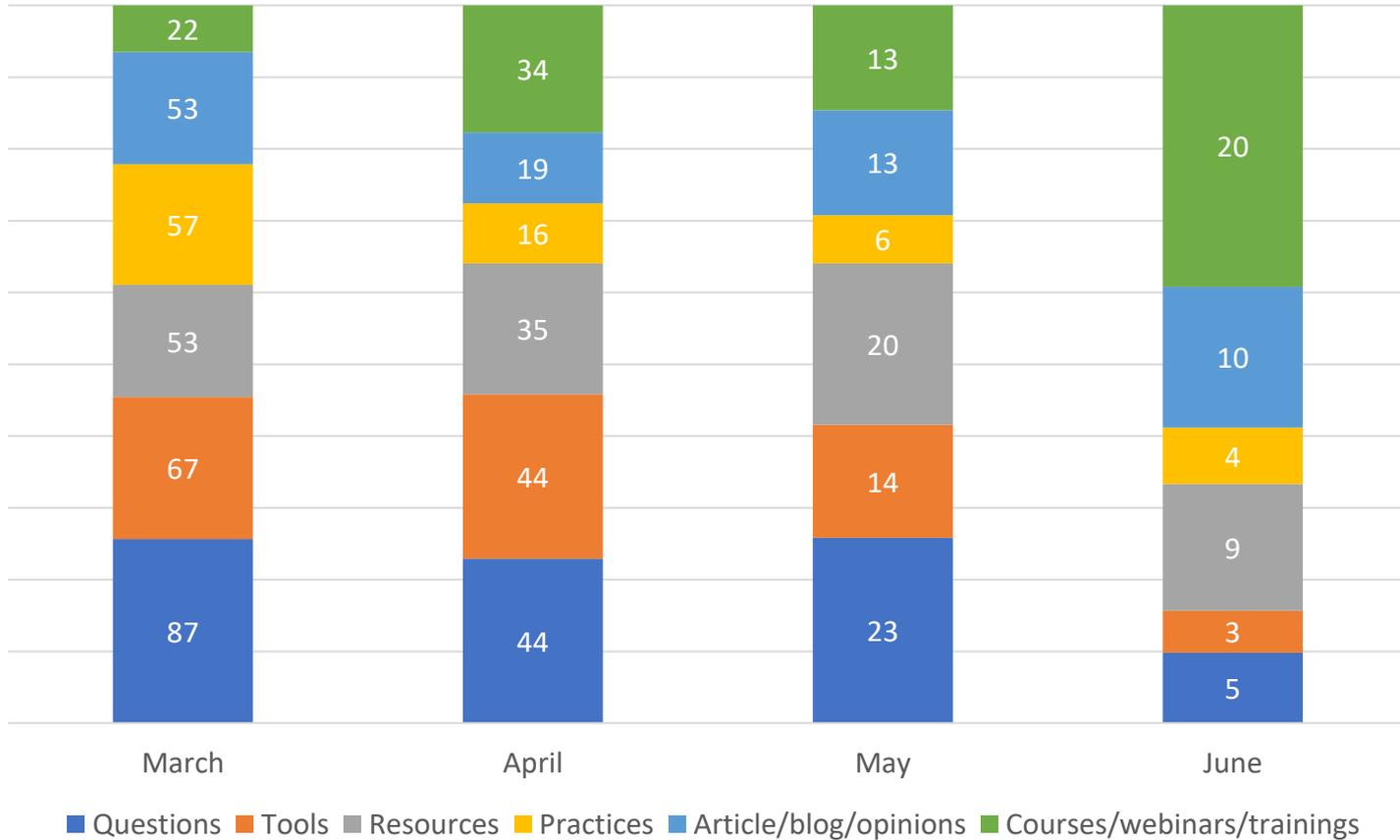
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic caused an unprecedented shift towards educational technology around the world. Teachers began exploring digital tools, which contributed to their professional development. This ethnographic research studied a teacher online Facebook community in Georgia from a participant-observer perspective to understand its social interactions and discussions, using both qualitative insights collected through observation, and quantitative data using various digital tools. The chapter attempts to find a silver lining in the middle of the pandemic: it argues that the adaptation to educational technology during the pandemic gave teachers new opportunities to explore teaching online. Peer-led teaching and learning, sharing experiences, and best practices appeared to be productive. This chapter contributes to understanding the Georgian context during the early waves of the pandemic, and can serve as a unit of comparison with similar online communities elsewhere.

Johnson, T., Eradze, M., & Kobakhidze, M. N. (2022).
Finding a Silver Lining in the COVID-19 Pandemic: A
Case of a Teachers' Online Community in Georgia.

Change in post category frequencies over a period of 4 months



(Johnson et al., 2022)

Word frequencies

School (736)	Children (298)
If (650)	Education (261)
Teach (633)	Distance (241)
Teacher (591)	Video (234)
Pupils (535)	Problem (222)
Online (526)	Thanks (203)
How (516)	Good (177)
Possible (427)	Public (157)
Group (424)	Experience (151)
Lessons (357)	Private (150)

*If school teachers have to **teach** the **pupils online**, how can they make it **possible**?*

Tools mentioned

Zoom (170)	Google Meet (20)
Teams (162)	Skype (18)
Facebook (133)	Messenger (15)
Google Classroom (40)	Moodle (13)
Google Forms (32)	Khan Academy (13)

All

Connections

Roads full

And they are
western ukra

Not the mon



The war

24 February

Parent: are they going to have school today?

Where is everyone?

School: No

How

Here is how to communicate with our children:

Добрий ранок
Що сьогодні вранці?
Що знає

06:57

Важко повірити так з боку "цивільної
сторони" як в зонах освіти, так і в зонах
правила для "цивільної оборони".
1. Слухаємо "старшого" вчителя/матір
мама

Може все в Києве

Києві

Виділили гроші відчували

техніком і планує бути.

Киє

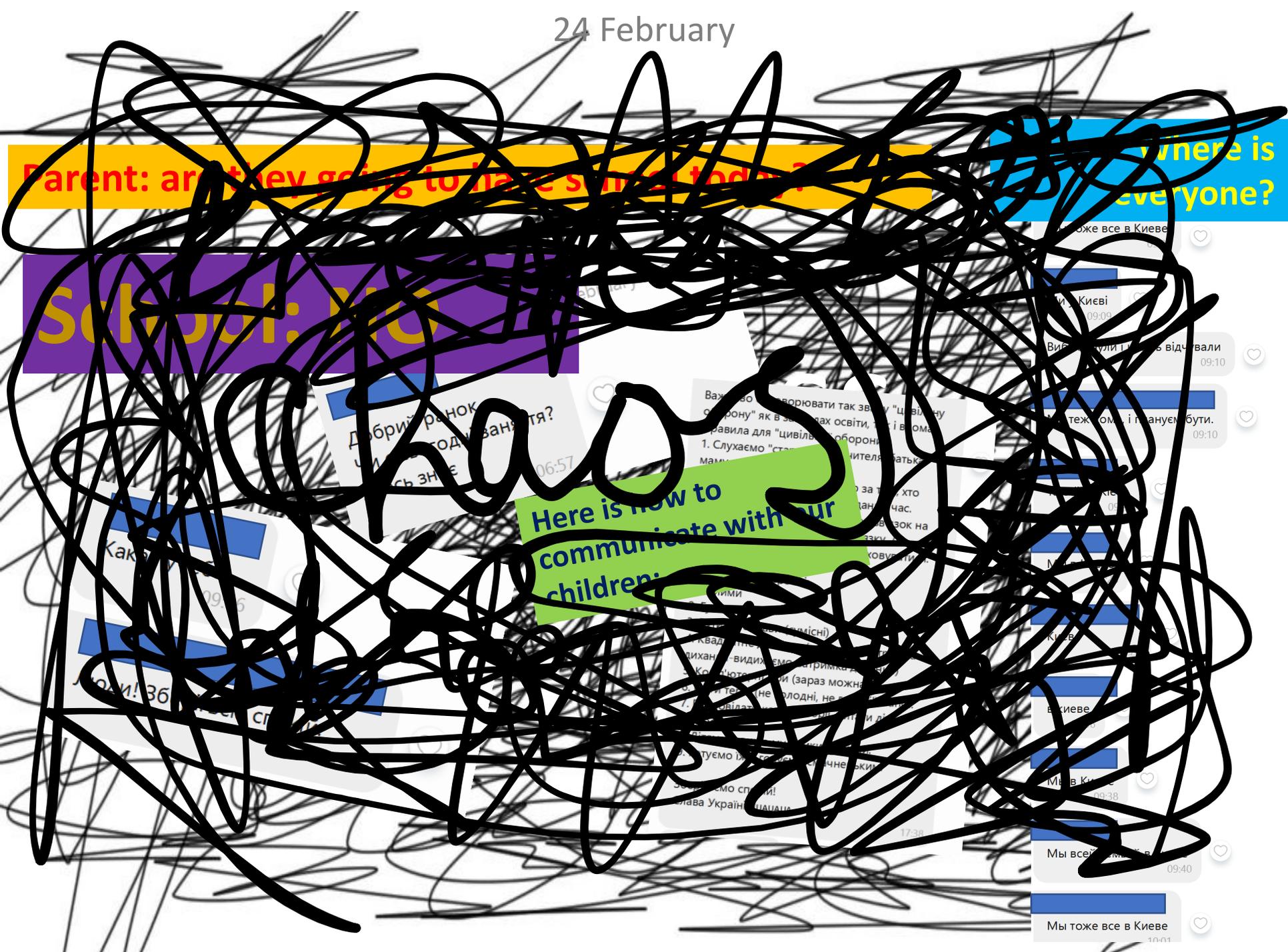
Києв

в Києве

Мив Киє

Мы все

Мы тоже все в Києве



25 February

chissing silence

26 February

26 February 2022

Safe?

8:35 am

Не выходим

03:54

27 February and onwards

- Latest announcements
- Which “news” are fake and how to distinguish them
- Locations of nearby bomb shelters
- Volunteering activities
- Sharing experiences:
 - Which roads are safe
 - which border crossing is the quickest
- Emotional support
- Asking / offering help to each other



Children meanwhile

- Process their worries
- Minecraft and Scratch
- Lots of TV and devices
- WhatsApp group chats



3 March

Online school started



Check-in

(we are here)

~

Just talk

(use of "forbidden words")

~

Share

(grandma, teacher in a bunker)

~

See each other safe

(Alexandra)

~

Routine, feeling of normal life

~

Learn

(countries, geography, currency)

~

Presentations

Thank you!

tj313@cam.ac.uk