

Clues for my final project by chats in Week 5

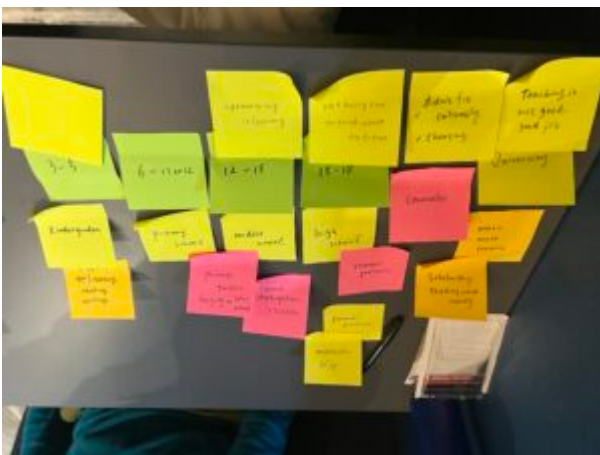
After my first supervision last Friday, I had several opportunities to talk/brainstorm ideas for my final project.

Premise: I am now curious why people sometimes choose what they are NOT interested in, especially in higher education.

More detail >>> [The last blog post on October 9](#)

No.1 Talk with Josua

Soon after I shared a rough idea for my final project, he gave a surprising comment, *"What you described is my life!"* Coincidentally, I found the best person for my first interview. Until a while ago, I assumed the situation in which people chose their learning path without their interest was common only in my country. However, I realised it was also familiar in other areas.



(I'm a big fan of physical sticky notes, while I'm getting used to Miro ☐)

Through the interview with Josua, I found the following points were common in Indonesia and Japan.

- **Difference between city and countryside**
 - Students living in the city are more externally

influenced than people in the countryside(e.g., High expectations to go to a good school).

- **High expectations from parents**

- Some of them want to brag about their children to others.

- **Inevitability of thinking about money**

- Josua decided to join business school because of a scholarship.

- **Don't stop and go straight!**

- While some Western countries adopt the system of apprenticeship or allow people to take a break and think about their learning/career path, it is much rare in Indonesia and Japan. People are expected to go to university soon after graduating high school. Repeating the same grade or taking a rest while they are at the age supposed to be students could be a sign of "failure."

- **Scarce chance for students to consider their futures**

- They can't even come up with ideas to take a break.
- They tend to follow what others do.

Josua also explained to me there were distinctions between ethnic groups, such as Chinese and Javanese culture in Indonesia. Although I found lots in common between Josua(Chinese-Indonesian) and me(Japanese) this time, there would also be differences between cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

No.2 Talk with Jen

I talked with Jen in the drop-in session on Wednesday. I wanted to ask her about what happens in European countries. In the session, she told me the controversial news about "**low-value degrees**" in the U.K.

[The press release from the government](#)

[The article of The Guardian](#)

Simply put, the prime minister announced that the government would cap the number of students when a faculty doesn't produce graduate outcomes that support the economy. I got worried that it would encourage people to learn for money, sometimes not allowing them to pursue their pure interest. Considering it is discussed in the U.K., I may be able to ask my question to European(at least the U.K.) countries.

Throughout exploring this week, I have been convinced that the issue I want to dig into is universal, not just a problem in Japan. Next week, I will continue to have interviews/brainstorming with my classmates who grew up in different cultures, and read more about what Jen and Yuemiao told me.