

EDUCAUSE Annual Conference 2021 Report from French & Japanese perspectives

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Abstract

The EDUCAUSE Annual Conference is a key yearly event for the IT/ICT matters in Higher Education. The 2021 edition, to be held on late October, will benefit of a joint coverage from members of the Japanese and French EDUCAUSE Delegations. This session consists of a report of this coverage, highlighting the key trends and stakes to be discussed during the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference 2021.

1 Introduction

The EDUCAUSE Annual Conference represents a key moment for any practitioner, stakeholder or researcher in Higher Education involved in IT and ICT stakes. The 2021 edition [1] obviously has a special meaning, being held after almost two years of a pandemic that unprecedentedly challenged the universities by dropping them into a sudden and genuine paradigm shift. This presentation will provide a report of this EDUCAUSE Annual Conference 2021 just few weeks after its scheduling on late October, outlining and discussing its key trends and perspectives, and focusing on the lessons learned from the pandemic regarding the middle and long-term forecasts of the Teaching and Learning practices and the academic IT.

2 Conference and Delegations key facts and figures

2.1 Conference contents

The EDUCAUSE Annual Conference, is known to be one of the most important yearly community event related to IT and ICT in Higher Education. Counting more than 7.000 practitioners, stakeholders and researchers, it proposes during three days more than 300 plenary sessions, breakout sessions, community group meetings and posters, as well as an exhibit hall gathering key actors and startups of the IT industry. These moments and contents cover current stakes through surveys, experiences and feedbacks focused

sessions, and discusses middle and long-term perspectives through forward looking workshops. The conference also marks the announcement of the traditional EDUCAUSE Top-10 IT issues [2], that lists key challenges and matter for the upcoming year.

2.2 Japanese and French EDUCAUSE Delegations

The audience of the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference, historically centered on North America, showed a significant enlargement during the last decade. Formal delegations have been progressively constituted by some countries, among which the French and the Japanese ones appear to be some of the biggest and the most active ones.

The Japanese delegation, held by AXIES, holds a community event during the conference [3] that allows its members to have exchanges with EDUCAUSE stakeholders, and with other delegations' and organizations' key members. Several fruitful Japanese/foreign collaborations have been initiated through this event.

This French delegation, on its side, ensures since 2013 a coverage of the conference whose outcomes are a public presentation given to the French Higher Education community, and a yearly written report, published in French and English [4], and that benefits of an international diffusion.

Alongside the connection they constantly maintain with EDUCAUSE board on the behalf of their respective countries, the Japanese and French

Delegations have settled since 2014 formal and regular collaborations and cooperations between themselves, that produced tangible outcomes. Among these outcomes, the joint coordination of the Japanese and French translations of the EDUCAUSE Learning Space Rating System [5], research projects, and joint communications during the EDUCAUSE and EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative Annual Conferences.

3 EDUCAUSE Annual Conference 2021 joint coverage

The cooperations we mentioned led two key members of the Japanese and French EDUCAUSE Delegations to schedule a joint coverage of the 2021 conference, that will be held on late October in a hybrid way, considering the pandemic still on-going.

The session proposed for the AXIES Conference 2021 consists of a report of this joint coverage, that will present the traditional EDUCAUSE Top-10 IT issues for 2022, alongside outcomes of key community groups meetings and significant sessions. It will also discuss key trends detected from the industry through the analysis of the Exhibit Hall activity. This report will especially address the post-COVID perspectives of the academic IT and of the Teaching and Learning practices, this latter topic also being enlightened by an on-going French/Japanese comparative study [6]. These different topics will be addressed through complementary and articulated Western and Japanese angles.

The report proposed through this AXIES Conference session will precede the publication of a new edition of an English language written full report, that will occur early 2022.

4 Speakers profiles

The joint coverage of the conference, alongside to this session, will be led by two main speakers, both of them being widely involved in EDUCAUSE related activities.

Shoji Kajita is Professor at Kyoto University, and belongs to the IT Planning Office of the Institute for Information Management and Communication (IIMC) and the Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies (ACCMS). He's a core member of the Japanese EDUCAUSE Delegation, regular speaker at the EDUCAUSE and EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative Conferences, and member of the EDUCAUSE Horizon Report Experts panel since 2021. He's also member of the board of Apereo.

John Augeri is Program Director and Researcher at Ile-de-France Digital University, and currently staying at the Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies (ACCMS) of Kyoto University as visiting researcher. He's co-organizer of the French EDUCAUSE Delegation, Editor in chief of the French Delegation EDUCAUSE Annual Report, 12 times speaker at the EDUCAUSE and EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative Conferences, and was member of the EDUCAUSE Horizon Report Experts from 2018 to 2020. He published the French and the Japanese translations of the EDUCAUSE Learning Space Rating System.

References

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- [3] AXIES@EDUCAUSE website: https://axies.jp/educause/educause_top/ (last access: Oct 1st 2021)
- [4] Ile-de-France Digital University French Delegation EDUCAUSE Reports website: https://unif.fr/educause/Rapports_Educause (last access: Oct 1st 2021)
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