

Dear members of the WEAI community,

During these difficult times, we know that you are facing unprecedented disruptions to your daily lives and communities. Each of us has been affected by this situation in different ways. Those of us fortunate to continue our work from home are learning to juggle old responsibilities with new ones while adapting to the strange new world we live in. To those of you who have been directly impacted by the virus, please know that you are in our thoughts.

As we each find our own ways to cope, something more insidious has been fomenting under the surface. In recent weeks, misinformation about COVID-19 and about Asia itself has proliferated, at the expense of Asian peoples and communities. It is no coincidence that the misleading labeling of COVID-19 as a "Chinese Virus" has coincided with an [outbreak of bias incidents](#) against Asian-Americans. Our WEAI community is particularly susceptible and sensitive to the heartbreak and damage caused by this rash of anti-Asian discrimination.

At this critical juncture, we at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute are all the more committed to our mission to support research and spread knowledge about Asia at a time when such truth and facts are so desperately needed. Having just completed commemorations [marking the Institute's 70th anniversary](#), we feel emboldened to continue our work with a renewed sense of purpose.

With new technology and learning tools in hand, we are continuing with course offerings and other forms of academic work. Our publications, including the [Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute](#) series, remain active, and we continue to support the dissemination of important new research from promising young scholars and established experts alike. The way we communicate has been inexorably changed, but our community is as real and strong as ever, even as we connect through virtual channels.

We know many of you were looking forward to our spring calendar of events, and we are working to reschedule as many of these lectures and conferences as possible. While our ability to produce content on a daily basis has been greatly impacted, we are working to organize new events and share new resources and interviews. Please stay tuned as we pursue these additional ways to connect with you. For insight concerning COVID-19 from members of our community, visit the [WEAI COVID-19 Updates page](#).

We also encourage you to continue to check Columbia's [Preparedness website](#) and [COVID-19 Resource Guide](#). They are the most comprehensive sources of information and updates for the Columbia Community.

Finally and most importantly, we hope that you and your families are staying healthy and well during this extraordinary time. Do not hesitate to let us know if you have suggestions on how WEAI can help support your work as we navigate this uncharted new terrain together.

Sincerely,

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