

Call for papers

The LAIC Special Issue 19.1 (to be published in Feb 2019): *Interrogating the 'Third Space': Negotiating meaning and performing 'culture'*

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This is the first call for the Special Issue related to the Annual IALIC Conference 2017 held in Edinburgh on 19th and 20th June. Following the IALIC publishing policy for special issues, only papers that were presented at the conference will be taken into consideration for publication.

We are accepting submissions of full research articles (8000 words maximum, all inclusive).

Theme of the special issue

Until the recent two decades or so, intercultural communication research has focused on constructions of 'cultural difference' that tend to fix communication behaviour to large-scale, monolithic collectivities, such as nation, class, and race. This essentialist tradition, which applies culture as an a priori explanatory framework, is now giving way to a research paradigm that construes culture as a complex, emergent phenomenon (Holliday, 2011) and highlights individuals' interactions in multicultural settings.

However, much of current intercultural research, policy and practice following this trend tends to manifest a neo-essentialist position that oscillates between a stated emphasis on 'cultural diversity' and an underlying essentialist legacy that different 'solid' cultures (Dervin, 2016) exist, can co-exist peacefully, and may be fused into a 'new culture' through equally negotiated compromises, e.g. in the form of strategic conflict resolution or collaborative partnerships around common tasks (Kramsch and Uryu, 2014). This liberal relativist perspective (Rutherford, 1990) has been critiqued for its normative stance and oblivion to the power asymmetries and political struggle between dominant and marginalised groups, which were particularly stressed in Homi Bhabha's (1994) seminal work on the 'location' of cultures.

In the current scholarship of intercultural communication, concepts developed for addressing the 'location' of cultures are increasingly cited, such as 'thirdness', 'hybridity', 'liminality', 'in-betweenness', and 'interstices'. However, the ways in which these terms are used sometimes reflect very different philosophical stances. Furthermore, these terms are often mentioned to signpost the ontological and epistemological positions underpinning the main inquiry, yet the very phenomena denoted by the concepts themselves, i.e. the complexities of the locales of intercultural communication, are less commonly studied as the research focus (MacDonald and O'Regan, 2014).

This conference thus draws on Bhabha's (1994) concept of 'third space' and foregrounds intercultural communication as a site of struggle, where established orders become unstable and ambivalent. It aims to explore how, in this site, 'cultural difference' is

articulated, 'culture' and 'cultures' are performed, and the space for the creation of new meanings opens up (or is suppressed).

References

Bhabha, H. K. (1994). *The location of culture*. London: Routledge.

Dervin, F. (2016). *Interculturality in Education: A theoretical and methodological toolbox*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Holliday, A. (2011). *Intercultural communication and ideology*. London: Sage.

Kramsch, C., & Uryu, M. (2014). Intercultural contact, hybridity, and third space. In J. Jackson (Ed.), *The Routledge handbook of language and intercultural communication* (pp. 211-225). Abingdon: Routledge.

MacDonald, M. N., & O'Regan, J. P. (2014). A global agenda for intercultural communication research and practice. In J. Jackson (Ed.), *The Routledge handbook of language and intercultural communication* (pp. 553-567). Abingdon: Routledge.

Rutherford, J. (1990). The third space. Interview with Homi Bhabha. In J. Rutherford (Ed.), *Identity: Community, culture, difference* (pp. 207-221). London: Lawrence and Wishart.

Guidelines on manuscripts

The submitted manuscripts should follow the [Instructions for Authors](#) on the journal website.

All submitted manuscripts, upon passing preliminary review and acceptance by the editors, will be blind peer reviewed. Please do not send partial drafts or outlines for Special Issue Editors' opinions on the feasibility for publication, only send completed articles.

Manuscripts must be written in English although data generated in other languages can be included, with a proper description and if possible, translation of the relevant content.

Criteria for selection

- Rigour of research
- Coherence of paper
- Well written in English (with an abstract in another language)
- Aligned with conference theme: *Interrogating the 'third space': negotiating meanings and performing 'culture'*
- Original contribution to field of language and intercultural communication
- Critical approach

Key Dates

- Authors should submit the full article to the email address ialic2017edinburgh@napier.ac.uk by **1 December 2017**.
- Contributors will be notified about their submissions by **1 March 2018**.

- Revised manuscripts should be submitted by **30 June 2018** (any further revisions requested by the editors to be carried out in July-September, 2018).