

**IALIC 2023 Conference,
European University Cyprus, Nicosia 1-3 December**

**Rethinking intercultural communication beyond verbal language: affect,
materiality and embodiment in times of ‘crises’**

Western epistemologies have traditionally valued rationality and the verbal above other aspects of discourse and communication (Ahmed 2017, Mignolo and Walsh 2018, Phipps 2019). Verbal language has been primarily seen as the key instrument for developing rationality and the cornerstone of human thought. As a result, these ideas have dominated the field of intercultural communication, often silencing alternative visions of intercultural encounters and their semiotic entanglements, beyond the European male sensorium and a human-centred worldview (Jewitt et al 2016, Pennycook 2018, Thibault 2011).

However, recent social and political developments call for new ways of understanding social and political phenomena, including intercultural communication. Indeed, in the last few years, public and academic arenas have been inundated by discourses of ‘crises’ and threats forcing us to rethink both the notion of interculturality, as well as communication itself. Energy crises, ongoing wars and the (so-called) refugee crisis, climate change and ecological crises, financial crises, and of course, health crises, such as the covid19 pandemic – to name just a few – bring to the foreground notions such as precarity (Phipps 2014), marginality, transition and liminality (e.g. Garcia Sanchez & Figueroa eds 2022) and raise questions such as:

- What other ways of communicating (or failing to) do discourses and experiences of threat bring about?
- How are discourses of crisis and threat semiotically constructed and circulated?
- What is the role of affect/emotions in times of crises and threats, and what new openings do they create in the study of intercultural communication? (e.g. how are they enregistered as part of crises-discourses and what are their communicative dynamics across and beyond languages and cultures?)
- What kind of subjectivities do crises and threats produce, and how are these embodied (e.g. the embodiment of fear, the “contaminated” body etc.)?
- What is the role of technology, and more generally, materiality in intercultural communication in times of crises?

All these call attention to a variety of semiotic repertoires and semiotic resources that are not restricted to language and discourse (Phipps 2014), and which often require working across disciplines. The affective turn, the material turn, and posthumanism in the social sciences and humanities indicate the ongoing efforts to make sense and theorise social reality and communication beyond verbal language. Besides, the increasing use of the notion of (in)securitisation outside the field of security studies is an example of scholarly attempts to capture the ways in which discourses and experiences of threat permeate everyday spaces and interactions (e.g. McDonald & Hunter 2019, McCluskey & Charalambous 2022, Khan 2022, Rampton et al forthcoming), calling for methodological innovation and interdisciplinarity.

Responding to current challenges, and in line with contemporary discursive and academic developments in the social sciences and humanities, this conference aims to foreground different ways of making sense of cultures, languages, social relations and intercultural communication in an anxious and constantly changing world. At the same time, it calls for a critical examination of the notion of 'crisis' and its impact on intercultural communication.

We invite proposals for individual papers or panels (up to 4 people and a discussant) around any of the following topics:

Theme 1: Affect/emotions in intercultural communication

Theme 2: Intercultural communication & materiality

Theme 3: Migration trajectories, (re)bordering and place-making

Theme 4: Linguaging and language practices in intercultural communication in times of crises

Theme 5: Language, embodiment and multisensoriality

Theme 6: Intercultural communication & (in)securitization

Theme 7: Language education & language policy in moments of crisis and transition

Theme 8: Social and multisensory research approaches and methodologies in times of crises and transition

Theme 9: Disability, agency, and semiotic repertoires

Theme 10: Crisis discourses and their impact on intercultural communication

The conference will be held at the **European University of Cyprus**, located in Nicosia, from **Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd of December 2023**. The conference will include plenary talks by well-known scholars such as Prof. Karen Risager and Prof. Michalinos Zembylas, symposia, parallel sessions, poster sessions, and data workshops.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS (in alphabetical order):

Prof. Elisabetta Adami, Leeds University, UK

Prof. Zhu Hua, UCL, UK

Prof. Karen Risager, Roskilde University, Denmark

Prof. Michalinos Zembylas, Open University Cyprus

WORKSHOPS:

The conference will also host **data workshops** for researchers that wish to share research experiences and discuss methodological issues on the conference themes. The final titles and descriptions of the workshops will be available later.

Papers and Posters

Participants wishing to present a paper or poster should send an abstract (max 300 words) to IALIC2023@euc.ac.cy by **10th June 2023**. Your submission should clearly indicate all authors' names, titles and affiliations, and the abstract should include a) the field of study in which your work is situated; b) whether your presentation/poster will be theoretical or empirical; c) the theoretical, methodological and analytical frameworks employed; d) a list of 3-5 keywords; e) short bios (max 150 words).

IMPORTANT: Make sure that you mention the theme in which your presentation is submitted for, **both in the email subject as well as in the file name**. File names should also include the surname of the participant. Please see the following examples.

Email subject: Abstract for theme 3

File name: Smith_theme3.docx

All presentations will be 20 minutes long and will be followed by 10 minutes discussion.

Symposiums/panels

Each Symposium/panel session should include 3-4 presenters including the discussant (1X90mins slot).

The symposium organiser should send a short proposal (max 300 words) including: a) title of the symposium, b) a list of the presenters, c) a description of the topic and the symposium's general theme.

The symposium leader/coordinator should also send in the same email the abstracts of the presentations to be included in the symposium on behalf of the presenters. Abstracts (max 300 words) should clearly indicate a) name, title and affiliation; b) the field of study in which the author's work is situated; and c) the theoretical, methodological and analytical frameworks employed.

Symposiums proposals should be sent to IALIC2023@euc.ac.cy by the **10th June 2023**.

LANGUAGE: The language of the Conference will be English.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Deadline for abstract submission: **10th June 2023**

End of abstract approval process: **20th July 2023**

Early bird Registration: From **1st September –10th October 2023**

REGISTRATION FEES

	Early Bird Registration (until 10 th October 2023)	Late Registration (after the 10 th October 2023)
IALIC Members	210 €	250 €
IALIC non-members	270 €	300 €
Master's and PhD students; schoolteachers	100 €	130 €
Undergraduate students	50 €	70 €

IMPORTANT: If you would like to take advantage of the fee for IALIC members, you should first pay for the IALIC membership fee, as indicated below.

IALIC Membership Fee

The conference **fee does not include** IALIC's membership fee. The membership fee will be paid separately and directly to the Association. Please, check the procedures [here](#).

To benefit from the IALIC member fee at the event, please send proof of membership payment to IALIC2023@euc.ac.cy.

PROGRAMME *(The detailed programme will be announced later)*

Friday 1st December 2023

Starting at 16:00, Including Conference Registration, Plenary talk, Parallel Sessions & Posters

Saturday 2nd December 2023

Starting at 8.30, Including Conference Registration, Plenary talk, Data workshops Parallel Sessions & Posters

Sunday 3rd December 2023

Starting at 9.00, Including Conference Registration, Plenary talk, Data workshops Parallel Sessions & Posters



OPTIONAL

- 1. Dinner:** A gala dinner will be organized for conference participants which will be in addition to conference fees. More information will be announced soon.
- 2. Trip:** Depending on participation a social activity may be organized on Sunday afternoon. More information will be announced soon.