

Preface

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This first issue of Volume XXXII is the second of two issues celebrating the online 27th conference of IAICS, organized by the University of Toledo, Ohio, United States. This successful conference included a total of 120 papers in parallel sessions, as well as stimulating keynote presentations by Melissa Chimera, Dany Doueri, Lixian Jin, James W. Neuliep, and Christopher Witulski, and a presidential address by Joanna Radwańska-Williams. The participants represented academic institutions from 27 countries and territories: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Macao, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies expresses heartfelt thanks to the conference conveners, Gaby Semaan and Kasumi Yamazaki; and also Linda Rouillard, the Chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures; the leadership of the University of Toledo, including the President, Gregory Postal, and the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Melissa Gregory. Special thanks go also to Charlene Gary for administrative support, Youmna Karim for logistics support, Raj Nagisetty for technical support, as well as the faculty, staff and students, and all other persons involved in the organization of this historic 27th conference. The overall theme of the conference was “Life and Communication Interrupted: Challenges and Opportunities for Intercultural Communication beyond Pandemic”. Many of the papers therefore contained discussion of the pandemic of COVID-19. Due to the large number of high quality presentations, this first issue of Volume XXXII in 2023 complements the second issue of Volume XXXI and includes several papers from the 27th conference, two of which deal with the impact of COVID-19. The papers in this current issue fall into four thematic areas: Education, Gender Studies, Intercultural Communication, and Media Studies.

The Education section contains two articles. Tianying YUN and Tong DUAN investigate the impact of the pandemic on the cross-cultural adaptation of Chinese students in the United States. They find that international students from China who were already acculturated to their academic life in America, nevertheless experienced considerable stress during the pandemic, for various reasons including the negative attention to China in the media, social isolation, financial difficulties and travel restrictions. The authors recommend that universities in the US should provide more support to international students, especially in such times of public health crisis. Kolawole Waziri OLAGBOYEGA examines Japanese students’ willingness to communicate in a foreign language and its implications for English language teaching in EFL contexts. The author explores the relationship between psychological factors such as extroversion-introversion, international posture, and confidence, and the students’ willingness to communicate. Interestingly, the study finds that extroversion-introversion do not have a significant influence on willingness to communicate; however, in the context of the foreign language classroom, pedagogical methodology and classroom atmosphere can greatly impact other psychological factors, such as students’ confidence in communicating in English. The author recommends that instructors should praise students’ communication to build up their confidence; build up a good atmosphere and reduce the amount of error correction; “give students a lot of successful experiences by

employing an eclectic mixture of methods and approaches which include using task-based activities”; “use interesting themes and topics [...] to motivate communication activities”, and “use pair and group activities as much as possible in English classes”.

The next section in this issue, Gender Studies, contains an article on the history of literature, namely, the British literary figure of the early 20th century, Vita Sackville-West. Jiuquan HAN examines Sackville-West’s gender identity and its impact on her personality and her writing, within the constraints of the society at that time. Being a woman, she could not inherit her family’s wealthy estate; being LGBTQ+ (*avant la lettre*) and married to a man, she had a complex sexual identity in her relationships to other literary figures, e.g., Virginia Woolf. The author argues that Sackville-West’s “Otherness” came to be expressed in her quest for perfection in life, and influenced her poetry and prose, as well as her other means of expression, which included gardening.

The article that follows can be classified in the thematic area of the theory of Intercultural Communication. Adopting the approach of philosophical reflection, David BALOSA develops a “critical radical humanistic theory” of Global Intercultural Citizenship. He advocates five pragmatic principles for global intercultural citizenship, namely, “*sustainable existential intercultural mindset* (SEIM)—a mindset that believes that we are interconnected beings, hence, our survival and prosperity depend on our collective effort and empowerment”; “*global intercultural solidarity*—honestly working together for the common good”; “*the knowledge of self*—the consciousness of one’s human qualities in navigating intercultural relations”; “*existential justice*—the moral obligation to foster equitable application of national and international laws in building more humane relationships or existence for all”; and “*community diplomacy*—equitable treatment of urban and rural sociocultural, politico-economic, and sustainable development by diplomatic missions within international relations across the Global North and the Global South”. The article is a stimulating contribution to reflection on the nature and scope of intercultural communication and its implications for psychological mindset and social action.

The issue closes with two articles in the section on Media Studies. Yunying ZHANG investigates the issue of cross-cultural adaptation through a content analysis of two Chinese online media – Mitbbs and Wenxuecity. These media both target overseas Chinese. The study is guided by the theoretical frameworks of Carbaugh’s (2007) theory about cultural discourse analysis and Bennett’s Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity (DMIS). The author finds that the percentages of U.S. related topics or themes found among the posts in the “living abroad” columns of the two target media show that intercultural sensitivity on the site of Wenxuecity has a greater ripple effect than Mitbbs. In the second article in this section, Chenyu SHEN and Jirong GUO examine government-media communication at Chinese press conferences during the COVID-19 pandemic in their investigation of political accountability during the public health crisis. They analyze the variation of “adversarialness” contained in journalists’ questions before and after the outbreak of the pandemic. The results show that the intensity of the indicators of adversarialness “turns out to be different before and after the outbreak of the pandemic. Journalists indeed transform the press conference into a formidable instrument of political accountability under such special context.”

The six papers in this issue of *Intercultural Communication Studies* are written by eight authors representing educational institutions in China, Japan, and the United States: Austin Peay State University, USA; Hebei Agricultural University, China; Jilin University, China; Penglang Central Primary School, China; the School District of Philadelphia, USA; Tsuru

University, Japan; and Xi'an Jiaotong University, China. The wide scope of authors and research topics represents the geographic and disciplinary diversity of the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies.