

Preface

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This second issue of Volume XXIII contains ten articles grouped in five thematic areas. Approximately half of the articles are selected from among the papers presented at the 19th International Conference of the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies (IAICS), held on 3rd-5th October, 2013 at Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok, Russia (to which Issue 1 of this volume was devoted entirely); and the rest comprise additional papers from among the members of IAICS.

This issue begins with two articles which express historical perspectives on intercultural communication. Joy CAREW investigates the travels of the African-American writers Claude McKay, Langston Hughes and singer Paul Robeson in the early history of the former Soviet Union, and their reception by the Soviet audience. In her meta-analysis “Arab Americans: Stereotypes, Conflict, History, Cultural Identity and Post 9/11”, Gaby SEMAAN provides a historical overview of the scholarly research about the Arab diaspora in the United States, including the problem of stereotyping Arab Americans.

The following two thematic sections include intercultural and comparative-cultural investigations, and leadership studies. Two of these articles offer qualitative empirical investigations: FAN Peng and Aparna HEBBANI study the experience of Taiwanese Working Holiday Makers (WHMs) in Brisbane, Australia; while Sherwyn MORREALE and Pamela SHOCKLEY-ZALABAK conduct a qualitative study of leaders’ perceptions of organizational trust in Poland and Russia. The article by Rita DANIELS and Alan GOODBOY assesses transformational leadership in the university classroom in Ghana, using several quantitative survey instruments, and concluding that teachers’ transformational leadership behaviors accounted for approximately 14-18% of variance in students’ learning outcomes. In a comparative-cultural study, Perry HINTON offers a thick description and analysis of the cultural context and intercultural interpretation (and misinterpretation) of Japanese ‘Lolita complex’ style *anime* animated films.

The issue continues with two articles in the field of intercultural linguistics and pragmatics. Yoshinori NISHIJIMA conducts a comparison of politeness in sign expressions in English, German, and Japanese. Diri TEILANYO compares idiomatic expressions in the Nigerian language Nembe (spoken in Bayelsa State) and English.

The issue concludes with two articles on media studies. Jacob PODBER describes his oral history research of community radio among Aboriginal Australians. In their investigation of fashion clothing involvement, Yanshu SUN and Steve GUO focus on the variables of media exposure, social comparison and self-discrepancy in a quantitative predictive model “that positions social comparison as mediator and self-discrepancy as moderator”, with the result

that “Individuals with high levels of self-discrepancy experience more negative emotions from comparison to thin-ideal image in fashion media than those with low levels.”

The articles in this issue represent a diversity of countries, reflecting the international character of IAICS, and the extent of intercultural collaboration among its members. Once again, the *Intercultural Communication Studies* journal expresses deep gratitude to Far Eastern Federal University for hosting the successful IAICS conference in 2013, and at the same time, congratulates the University of Rhode Island on the upcoming 20th International Conference of IAICS to be held on 31st July-3rd August, 2014.