

## Special points of interest:

- IAIR is an interdisciplinary organization.
- There are currently 269 members.
- The next IAIR conference will be in New York, USA, June 25th-29th, 2017.

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## From the President's Desk

Intercultural relations remains on the front pages of newspapers, blogs and trending in twitter feeds. Most of it is not good news. Increases in world-wide immigration have unleashed latent xenophobia and economic protectionism, as evidenced by the recent "Brexit" referendum in the UK. Now, more than ever, research by members of the Academy that improves intercultural communication and relations needs to be shared with the public as well as with national and international policy makers.

But there are always examples of successful immigration, the development of bicultural individuals and changes to host societies in which immigrant cultures are respected and appreciated. Take Harnarayan Singh, a turban-clad second generation Canadian who is a play-by-play commentator for the much



*Nan Sussman,*

beloved national sport of ice hockey. Not that impressive? His broadcasts are in Punjabi. Members of his family arrived in Canada in 1908 although his parents immigrated from India in the 1960's and he grew up in the 1980's in southern Alberta, a sparsely populated region of Canada.

As one of very few minority families, he instinctively knew that fitting in meant becoming a hockey fanatic. And he did. He has now brought the nation together through his Punjabi broadcasts, the third most commonly spoken language in Cana-

da, after French and English. The broadcast by him and his team have helped the Sikh community learn to enjoy the game, bringing three generations of Sikh families around the television to enjoy it. He has invented terminology that combines English and Punjabi and has named the puck "aloo tikki", a potato pancake that he enjoyed as a child. It also enables Punjabi speakers to find common ground with neighbors and co-workers as they gather around the water-cooler. His commentary has also influenced the wider Canadian community as it has brought non-Punjabi speakers to the games he calls.

Known for his entertaining broadcast style, he has won legions of fans to his broadcasts and social media. As Singh has noted, "...it's a great way to show how multiculturalism works."

## IJIR Editor Update

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**Dina Birman**



Dear Members of the Academy

I am pleased to provide an update on IJIR. We are receiving a growing number of submissions, 377 last year, and a similar rate this year. Our rejection rate is approximately 85%. While we have faced some challenges over the past year working through the bugs of Elsevier's new online submission system – EVISE, we have also been able to grow the editorial team. We now have four associate Editors: Inga Jasinskaja-Lahti; Shuang Liu, and Lily Arasaratnam-Smith joined us in January, 2016; and Kim Noels in April, 2016. We continue to rely on members of the Academy to review manuscripts, and are very grateful to you for completing reviews. We welcome your ideas for special issues, and look forward to your submitting your work to the journal.

Dina Birman, Ph.D.

Editor in Chief

*International Journal of Intercultural Relations*

## Anna Kwiatkowska

I was born in a small town near the Polish-Belarussian border, in a culturally diverse community: among ethnic Poles there were Belarusians, Russians, Ukrainians, Tatars, and the memories of Jewish inhabitants were still vivid. It was an unusual experience, considering how culturally homogeneous Poland is. I believe that growing up in such a heterogeneous neighborhood gave me a strong impetus to develop an interest in relationships between people of different cultural backgrounds, especially religious and ethnic minority groups.

I studied psychology at Warsaw University, and after graduation I worked in a rehabilitation center for the physically disabled. My doctoral dissertation research was based on the psychological adjustment of paraplegics. Then I switched my research interests to social psychology, mainly to identity and gender issues,



**Anna Kwiatkowska,  
IAIR Member**

including gender-based violence. I discovered cross-cultural and cultural psychology during my job as a teacher and researcher in the Warsaw University of Social Sciences and Humanities. Since 2010 I've been working at the Polish Academy

of Sciences as a researcher.

I am interested in a variety of issues within the context of intergroup relations, including the role of stereotypes on attitudes toward immigrants and refugees. Current research foci include the role of self-construal as a mediating factor between culture and individuals, and acculturation processes of Polish immigrants in Western and North European countries. My first encounter with IAIR was in 2007 during the conference in Groningen. I was honored with the Academy membership in April 2016. In addition to social and cultural psychology I enjoy reading contemporary literature, listening to classical music, watching movies, and cycling.

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## Anouk Smeekes

After obtaining a Research Master's degree in Migration, Ethnic Relations and Multiculturalism at Utrecht University (the Netherlands) I completed my PhD in 2014 at the Interuniversity Center for Social Science Theory and Methodology (ICS) and at the European Research Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations (ERCOMER) at Utrecht University.

I am currently employed as an Assistant Professor at ERCOMER. ERCOMER conducts and promotes research in the fields of international migration, ethnic relations and cultural diversity. The aim is to conduct state-of-the-art (comparative) research that contributes to theory development and provides empirical knowledge that is relevant for societal debates, social interventions and policies.



**Anouk Smeekes,  
IAIR Member**

My research, in the field of social psychology, is mainly quantitative in nature, and addresses attitudes towards immigrants and feelings of

national belonging among native majority members, with a focus on perceptions of national history and identity. My PhD thesis titled "*The presence of the past: Historical rooting of national identity and current group dynamics*" focused on historical understandings of national identity and intergroup relations in the Netherlands and it was awarded with the Academy's Rae and Dr. Dan Landis Outstanding Dissertation Award in 2015.

I furthermore teach various courses in psychology at the bachelor's level, such as Introduction to Psychology and Social Psychology, and I also supervise bachelor thesis projects as well as research internships.

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## Members in the News & Announcements

The 2017 Asian Association of Social Psychology's biennial conference is being held in Auckland, New Zealand, August 26-28. The theme of the conference is on Applications of Social Science towards resolving Social Issues. See <http://asiansocialpsych.org/> for AASPs website- the conference website will be up in late July so please reserve a spot in your busy schedules for this important event. Culturally oriented approaches to acculturation, adaptation, and intergroup relations are very much a part of AASP members' central interests, so we look forward to a lively interchange between AASP and IAIR members.

**George Simons** has been involved in an international cooperation aimed at supporting newly arrived refugees in Finland (JAMK United for Refugees) that has resulted in the development of an interactive game designed to build cultural competence. The project is being conducted in partnership with the Cross-cultural Management Programme at the JAMK University in Finland. The goal of the project is to connect migrants with the local community and engage both in mutual cultural understanding, resettlement, and inclusion at the local level. The project team invites other universities in areas affected by the migrant crisis to contact them for information on how to collaborate or develop similar materials adapted to their own contexts: <http://diversophy.com/collections/europe/products/finland>

**Dina Birman** gave a talk at the United Nations in April as part of the American Psychological Association Psychology at the UN Day. She participated as part of a panel on Children, Youth and the Migration Crisis. Coverage of the event is available at: <http://www.unpsychologyday.com/press-release/>

### Call of Applications for the Rae and Dr. Dan Landis Outstanding Dissertation Award

The purpose of International Academy for Intercultural Research is to promote and facilitate intercultural research in the areas of psychology, communications, education, management, and other areas of specialization in the social sciences. The Academy encourages high quality intercultural research at the doctoral level, which is usually the starting point for independent research. The Rae and Dr. Dan Landis Outstanding Dissertation Award is intended to recognize and honor outstanding research by aspiring intercultural researchers. Support for the award is provided by the Academy and Elsevier Sciences, Ltd.

The award carries a US \$1000.00 prize, one year membership in IAIR and free registration at the IAIR Biennial Conference when the award is conferred. Submissions must be received by the chair of the Review Committee by January 31 of the Conference year. Please consult the IAIR Website for criteria and submission details.

## New Books by Academy Members



*Intercultural Communication: Adapting to Emerging Global Realities* (First Edition). Edited by Wenshan Jia, Cognella Academic Publishing.

The selected readings focus on significant, new players in the global political economy, most notably the BRICS nations, to enhance knowledge and communicative competence of all parties at stake. The first several units of the text are geared to specific countries and geographical regions. In addition to extensive material on Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the material addresses communicative issues related to the Middle East, Europe, and Africa as a whole. The final units are dedicated to exploring challenges confronting the United States as a global power, global communication theory, and specific training and consulting for global communicative capabilities.



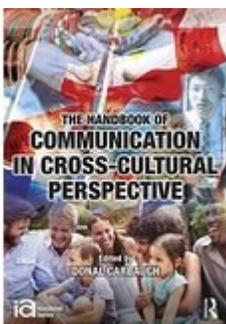
*Crossing Boundaries and Weaving International Work, Life, and Scholarship in Globalizing Universities*. Edited by Adam Komisarof and Zhu Hua, Routledge.

The book generates a fresh, complex view of globalization by examining how work, scholarship, and life inform each other among intercultural scholars as they navigate their interpersonal relationships and cross boundaries physically and metaphorically. Divided into three parts, the book examines: (1) the socio-psychological process of crossing boundaries constructed around nations and work organizations; (2) the negotiation of multiple aspects of identities; and (3) the role of language in intercultural encounters, in particular, adjustment taking place at linguistic and interactional levels.



*Purple Jacaranda: Narrations on transcultural identity development*. Edited by Claude-Helene Mayer and Stephan Wolting, Waxmann.

This book presents 19 narrations of authors about their own experiences as migrants. Coming from different parts of the world, they tell stories about struggles, development, doubt, challenges, hope and empowerment; sometimes amusing, other times saddening, but in each case inspiring tributes to transcultural identities.



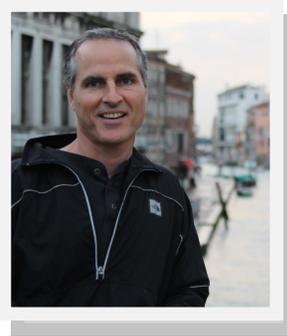
*The Handbook of Communication in Cross-cultural Perspective*. Edited by Donal Carbaugh, Routledge.

This handbook brings together 26 ethnographic research reports from around the world. Together, the studies examine a diverse set of communication practices from a broad range of cultural traditions. The focus of the handbook is two-fold however, in that it brings into view both communication as an academic discipline and its use to unveil culturally situated practices.

## Newsletter Editor's Note

We are always on the lookout for newsletter content. If you would like to contribute a brief story (350 words), research insight from the field, or members in the news highlight that is relevant to our scholarly community, we will gladly receive them

New Members and Fellows: If you are new to the academy we would like to feature your profile in a future edition of the newsletter. If you will provide us with a 250 word biography/profile statement that describes your research



**Ripley Smith,**  
*IAIR Secretary and  
Newsletter Editor*

interests, personal hobbies or non-academic interests, and introduction/connection to IAIR along with a high resolution photograph of yourself we will introduce you to the membership in an upcoming newsletter. Please also provide us with a preferred email address and the URL of your institutional-affiliated personal website.

Submissions may be sent to:

[r-smith@bethel.edu](mailto:r-smith@bethel.edu)

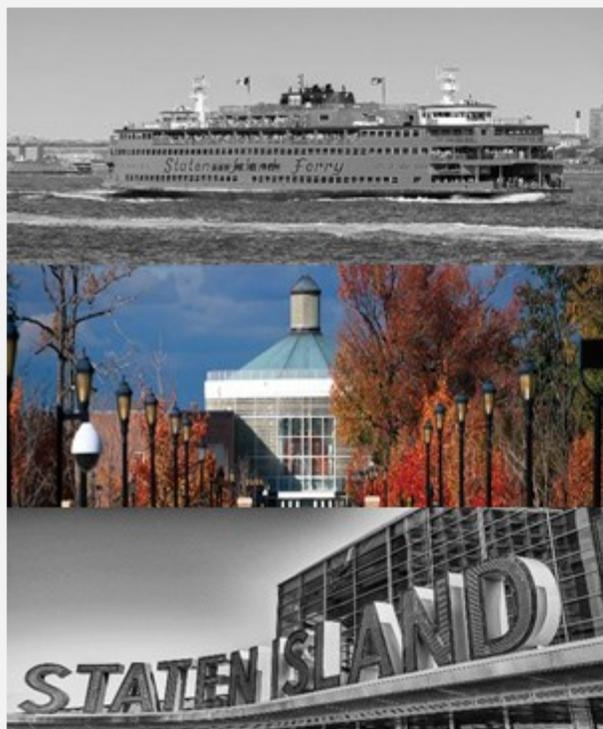
## Visit the IAIR Website for More Information

Thanks to our webmaster, Anand Chandrasekar, the Academy website has a page dedicated to archiving Newsletters as well as the Who We Are series issues (available at: <http://www.intercultural-academy.net/about-iair/who-we-are.html#download-pdf>).

In addition, as members' profiles are featured, they are added to a growing collection of individually clickable profiles listed by member name. Individuals looking for information about specific IAIR members can now easily browse and click on member profiles, while the Who We Are issues are archived for those

interested in viewing the profiles as a periodic compilation. The clickable list of member profiles is available at:

<http://www.intercultural-academy.net/about-iair/who-we-are.html>.



## Save the Date

### IAIR 2017

10<sup>th</sup> Biennial IAIR Conference to be held in  
Staten Island, New York, USA  
June 25-29, 2017

You are invited to join us for the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the International Academy for  
Intercultural Research. Our theme will be:  
**Applying Research to Improve Intercultural  
Relations**

For more information contact us at  
[iair2017@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:iair2017@csi.cuny.edu).

The conference Website is:  
<http://www.csi.cuny.edu/iair>

## International Academy for Intercultural Research



The primary purpose of the Academy is to promote intercultural understanding. Accordingly, it promotes and encourages research, theory, and practice in the field of intercultural relations. The Academy also strives to disseminate to the public information regarding intercultural relations and it encourages interchanges between people with an interest in intercultural relations. The ultimate goal of the Academy is to promote world peace and prosperity through applications of academic principles and research findings to the betterment of human realities.

In furtherance of the goals, the Academy is an explicitly interdisciplinary forum which promotes and facilitates intercultural research in the areas of Psychology, Sociology, Communication, Education, Anthropology, Management, Political Science, and other areas of specialization in the social sciences and practice.

Visit us on the World-Wide Web at:

<http://www.intercultural-academy.net/>

## Encourage Your Colleagues to Join

It is our mission to encourage the highest quality empirical research and practice aimed at understanding the ways in which cultures interact and the results, for good or ill, of those interactions. We invite all serious scholars of intercultural relations to join with us in this important enterprise—for we can have no greater purpose as scientists than reducing and, hopefully, eliminating intercultural conflict at all levels from individuals and groups to whole societies and nations. Please encourage your colleagues who are doing work in these areas to consider joining IAIR.

### Benefits of Membership

- Subscription to the *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, the official journal of the Academy either on-line or hard copy.



Information about membership in IAIR is available on our website at [www.intercultural-academy.net/](http://www.intercultural-academy.net/)

- Access to past issues of the Journal through Science Direct, a service of

Elsevier, Ltd.

- Significantly reduced fees for the biennial conferences
- Access to the member directory.
- Reduced subscription fees to many relevant Elsevier journals

### Levels of Membership

Three levels of membership are available: fellow, full member, and student member. Criteria and application procedures are available on the website at <http://www.intercultural-academy.net/membership/levels-of-membership.html>