

Annual Conference International and Intercultural Communication Division of the German Communication Association (DGPuK)

14th -15th November 2024 | Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg

Overcoming the Divides?

Towards Global Inclusivity in Communication Studies in Times of Uncertainty

In times of unprecedented challenges, communication scholars need to foster a more profound understanding of what global inclusivity in their discipline means. Calls for de-westernizing or de-centering the discipline are not new: imbalances in knowledge production are well documented, in structural tangible aspects as well as intangible aspects of power and capital. Communication studies is still Western-centric and needs to break free from the epistemic confines of one-sided normativity.

Communication scholarship is beginning a much-needed shift towards more inclusivity and equality: for example, through the #CommunicationSoWhite debates and its repercussions as well as the increasing efforts by academic associations towards more inclusion. Yet even beyond well-meaning logistic steps, the epistemic contours of the field need to be pushed further.

The Annual Conference of the International and Intercultural Division of the German Association of Communication Studies (DGPuK) is the suitable community to push these debates. International and intercultural communication research can push these conversations because it engages in a global conversation and contributed to the de-westernization and decentering the discipline. Scholarship in international and intercultural communication has multi-faceted and rich research traditions that range from a micro focus on individual and interpersonal dynamics to macro approaches that include investigations of politics, societies, and cultures. Critical, international, and intersectional scholarship can counter multiple exclusions and marginalization of voices in academia. In addition, comparative approaches have the potential to enable understanding in a meaningful way that fosters decentering the field.

The Annual conference in Salzburg seeks to push global inclusivity in multicultural and globalized environments by cultivating scholarship that helps individuals to respect and appreciate the many facets of diversity.

As we navigate these pressing issues, we invite you to join us in exploring new horizons in time of multiple uncertainties. Encouraging dialogue, the annual conference by the International and Intercultural Division by the DGPuK (German Communication Association) seeks to contribute to a more profound understanding of what global inclusivity means.

We welcome submissions that address - but are not restricted to - the following themes and lines of research:

Critical Theoretical Approaches and Methodological Innovations

Groundbreaking theories and innovative methods in communication studies advance our field. Theories and methods are two pillars that equip us with meaningful ways to understand our communication realities. International, and intercultural communication research has the potential to

transcend traditional methodological paradigms and bridge different epistemic worlds. The broad spectrum of critical theories and methodological approaches, albeit sometimes perceived as fragmented, can be viewed as a strength towards more openness in the discipline.

Public Spheres, and Inclusion and Exclusion Processes

Investigating public spheres and inequality globally on macro-, meso- and micro-levels, amid ongoing processes of globalization and digitalization, means paying attention to exclusion and inclusion: whose voices are articulated and who is being heard. Imbalances in power as well as silencing practices are still manifest in our societies. The scope is broad and ranges from global asymmetries and postcolonial theories, mediated forms of activism and protest communication as well as media and migration.

Global Journalism and Comparative Media Systems and Cultures

Comparative and globally informed approaches develop the field through comparison. This line of research advances the question about universalism versus particularism, by investigating different manifestations of journalism or dimensions of media systems and cultures around the globe. How can we understand different ways of doing the same profession around the world?

Polarization in Societies and/or Trigger Points

While globalization led to 'time-space compression' (Harvey 1989), and it seemed that the world would continue to shrink, more and more fractures (or trigger points according to Mau, Lux and Westheuser) mark our societies. These social disruptions cross geographical borders and exist beyond the global/local paradigm. Opposing worldviews and belief systems permeate societies and lead to ever-greater polarization. While the concept of intercultural competence is helpful in improving encounters between people from different cultures, in today's world socio-cultural resilience is required. How can socio-cultural resilience help to address fractures and polarization within and across societies?

Better Data Instead of Big Data? Improving Intercultural Communication Research

As we encounter ever greater cultural diversity in the era of neo-globalization, the analysis of intercultural relevant data becomes increasingly important to all professions. Especially in research, we need to dedicate more effort to the idea of obtaining high-quality data and not simply amassing vast amounts of socio-culturally and disciplinary biased data. Only recently, agnotology (i.e., the analysis of the making and unmaking of ignorance), has addressed the cultural production of ignorance and its academic study by challenging the established way of knowledge production. How can we improve data acquisition and analysis in intercultural communication?

Intra-personal and Interpersonal Communication Processes in a globalized world

Intercultural competence is essential in a globalized world, but it may not be sufficient to address the growing polarization within nations. While the scholarly emphasis has been on effectively navigating intercultural interactions, the importance of intra-personal communication (communication with oneself) is still often neglected. This type of communication is crucial for managing emotions triggered by opposing worldviews. The interplay between interpersonal and intrapersonal communication is essential for establishing resilient and successful communication with others. How can the integration of intrapersonal communication enhance intercultural competence to better deal with social polarization?

Inclusive Leadership: Fostering Uniqueness and Strengthening Belonging

Today's workplaces are littered with outdated management practices and outmoded organizational structures that are in desperate need of reinvention. In these uncertain times of disruption and ambiguity, leaders are beginning to realize that what got us here will not get us there. Core pillars of established leadership theories, such as 'equality', crumble when it comes to addressing differences in a meaningful way. However, attempting to understand how inequalities are manifested and exacerbated by organizations and workplaces involves openly addressing and challenging systemic failures. Inclusive leaders embark on this often uncomfortable and humbling journey and accept their responsibility to act to drive change. So how can we lead to help create the future we want to see?

PhD Workshop for Doctoral Students

The Annual Conference will include a **PhD workshop on the 14th November 2024** exclusively for doctoral students to share their work-in-progress with established scholars in a mentoring workshop. Open for PhD students in different phases they will have the chance to present and discuss their conceptual approaches, questions, and methodologies. Established scholars and members of the international and intercultural division at DGPuK will provide feedback in colloquium-like sessions. Submissions, grounded in communication and media studies, which focus on global, international, or intercultural aspects are encouraged. We welcome PhD projects in their different phases, where early career scholars interact with senior scholars and peers in a safe-space workshop style.

Early career researchers can apply for a conference fee waiver upon acceptance if their institution does not cover their expenses.

Submission of Papers and Reviewing Process

Kindly submit your submissions for paper contributions for a 20-minute presentation in a Word file, **no longer than 1200 words**, excluding references, connecting the submission to one of the specific themes or indicating if it is intended for the PhD workshop by **31st May 2024** (00:00 CET)

to DGPuK-Salzburg@plus.ac.at (see contact below).

Name and affiliation of the author should be named separately on the first page to allow for anonymous peer-review. The title of the submission and text should be on page 2.

The submissions for the conference should be ideally in English, but German is accepted (no simultaneous translation at the conference). All submissions will undergo an anonymous peer review, according to the following criteria: originality and innovation, theoretical foundation and research methods, clarity, and thematic relevance with the conference theme.

Timeline

08th April 2024	Publishing the CfP on the international and intercultural communication section of the DGPuK.
31st May 2024	Submissions Deadline
May - June 2024	Reviewing Process
31st July 2024	Informing applicants of the status of their submissions

15th September 2024	Announcement of Program and Opening Registration
14th- 15th November 2024	Annual conference of the International and Intercultural Communication Division of the DGPuK in University of Salzburg

Conference Registration and Venue

Conference registration will open on **15th September 2024**. The event will be hosted at Paris Lodron University of Salzburg. You will find updated conference details on the website of the Communication Studies Department www.kowi-salzburg.at

Organization

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