

JIIC Convention Podcast

Speaker: Welcome to the National Communication Association Convention, taking place, here, in Chicago on 16th November 2007.

We're here today to talk about an exciting new publishing venture, the launch of the *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, published on behalf of the National Communication Association by Routledge, Taylor and Francis.

I'd like to introduce the Chair of today's podcast, Tom Nakayama, of the Arizona State University.

Tom Nakayama: I'm Tom Nakayama and I'm the Founding Editor of this new *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*.

Todd Imahori: Hi I'm Todd Imahori; I was the original proposer of the Journal.

Bill Starosta: I'm Bill Starosta. I was book review editor for the first 3 years of the predecessor of this Journal and been connected with it since.

Judith Martin: I'm Judith Martin. I'm a Professor at Arizona State University and I am a reviewer for some of the articles in the Journal.

Mary-Jane Collier: I'm Mary-Jane Collier, Professor at University of New Mexico and I'm also a reviewer for the articles.

Tom Nakayama: Why don't we start with discussing a little bit about the history of the International and Intercultural Communication Annual; how it got started and how it developed?

Bill Starosta: Perhaps I can say a few words about that. Fred Casmir from Pepperdine University and Nemy Jain from the Arizona State, among others, thought that there ought to be a Journal that dealt with cultural issues and Fred was one of the persons who acted on what he believed and it was only a matter of time before he started an Annual that went on for some 12 years, mostly under his tutelage or his directorship, but it dealt with national level cultural issues and some book reviews, but the Annual went on for a little over 20 years and then eventually morphed into the Journal that we're talking about now.

Mary-Jane Collier: What I would add is that when Bill Gudykunst became involved, I think his vision was to make the Annual, the International and Intercultural Communication, an Annual that would include theorising and move beyond cross-cultural comparisons and extend the scholarly rigour of the work, so that it would be more widely available.

Judith Martin: And I know, I was really excited to discover that we were going to have a new Journal in Intercultural Communication because

I think, prior to this, the Annual was a fine publication, but it didn't have as much access and didn't have as wide an audience as the Journal is going to have and I think prior to that there wasn't a Journal, except for the *International Journal of Intercultural Relations* and that was pretty much focused on a particular kind of methodology and particular topics and so, I know I was very happy that we have this new Journal.

Todd Imahori: I think it really reflects the growth of the field itself and the Annual was definitely instrumental in a lot of ways. It capstoned major theories at a time, or methodologies at a time. I remember clearly a couple of volumes on theory and at least one volume on method and those really instigated almost the directions to which the field of Intercultural Communication was going in at that time, and an Annual made sense because there weren't maybe enough scholarship out there to form a Journal, so once a year publication was enough and they, in the division, became very diverse and the scholarship really kind of grew into different methodologies, different ontologies/epistemologies and we really kind of couldn't capture all of that in one Annual publication and it made sense to move on to a Journal.

Tom Nakayama: So let's talk a little bit about that transition to the Journal and the discussion in the International and Intercultural Communication Division about proposing the Journal.

Todd Imahori: I was at the time probably exiting President or the Chair of the Division and I at least asked the body if they were willing to consider a possibility to create a new Journal, rather than try to save the defraying Annual at that time, unfortunately, and the taskforce was created then, in 2002. The first report was made in the annual meeting in 2003 and then eventually the proposal was written and submitted to the Pub Board in 2005, August, and I think it was approved; therefore, we have this Journal.

Bill Starosta: I think one of the things that was maybe corrective in having this Journal is that the Annual used to be topical and that meant that persons would be asked to submit and things would be published, in so many cases, by invitation. I do think that some of the top scholars who would know about that subject were asked, so that it wasn't that I thought the quality of the work, but how the Journal, of course, is going to be open to, not to topics, but to peer reviewed scholarship and that's a big departure.

Mary-Jane Collier: I do think some of the volumes of the International and Intercultural Annual were filled with articles with full reviews. Other editors, I think, did at least follow a review procedure.

Bill Starosta: It's over a 20 year venture.

Judith Martin: But the fact that the Journal isn't topical really means that it's open-up to a great many more opportunities for scholars to get

their work out there, where the Annual was limited to a certain amount of that topicality.

Todd Imahori: I think the quality of scholarship or at a peer review is not so much the issue that it became topical, that it did not really represent the diverse interests and ontology/epistemologies you know, present in the field and, in fact, I was becoming one of those people who felt alienated by some of the last parts of the volumes, that I didn't feel like I had a voice in that publication, to be honest with, and for that, I mean personally I was motivated into having this Journal that would be multi-ontological, multi-epistemological, multi-methodological that it does not just limit to any kind of a particular approach to research.

Judith Martin: And it that way it really represents the diversity of the field of Intercultural Communication, which is a very diverse field.

Todd Imahori: Which is why this division does not need to exist. The Intercultural Division is the only one that can sort of gel together and move forward and this Journal, I think, for that matter, is really a nice outlet for and a place for dialogue of different methodologies, ontologies and so on.

Bill Starosta: I think what's happening to the field at this time too, in the early days of the field, which for convenience I'll say 1960, there were few persons who called themselves Interculturalists and there were few divisions that specialised in it and nobody else had any use for discussions of culture, but the time has come now, in the 2000s, where I'm going to believe that I could look at 50% of conference papers or panels and find something that could have been done for an Intercultural Division. So the idea of culture has spread throughout the organisation and the discipline.

Tom Nakayama: Well given that broad purview of the place of culture and how we study communication and culture, what do you see is the future for International and Intercultural Communication?

Judith Martin: I think it's that the diversity is definitely going to continue. I mean I think we're past the stage now where there's one way to do research and there's a certain limited number of topics.

Todd Imahori: Maybe it's time for Tom.

Tom Nakayama: Well in the first 6 months we've gotten about 60 manuscripts. They do represent a range, from quantitative to demographic interpretive to more critical. There are certainly no...

Todd Imahori: How about International versus the Intercultural domestic?

Tom Nakayama: I think we've gotten a good spread there too. My concern is that I think we've gotten a lot more Intercultural Communication stuff and not as much International Communication stuff. There isn't a lot of comparative media

analyses in some of those kinds of articles that I would like to see.

Todd Imahori: That would be a greater addition to that because when I thought to have, rather than having a Journal of Intercultural Communication and wanted to keep that International in it, to invite those scholars, you know, to work in that area, these kinds of diversity in manuscript submissions that you're getting is a proof of the fact that this idea was right.

Tom Nakayama: And I think when the first issue comes out people will see that there's a range of methodologies in there.

Judoth Martin: And the Editorial Board reflects that too. You have a number of scholars from all over the world and scholars who come from different methodological traditions and theoretical traditions.

Tom Nakayama: One article is on native Hawaiians and Tongans, from a critical perspective and their indigenous rights issues. One is a social scientific study of intercultural friendships and one is a pedagogical piece on using the film, *Crash* in classrooms.

Mary-Jane Collier: One of the things that I wanted to add, I think one of the strengths of this Journal is that it reflects the dynamic nature of the study of culture and it both, internationally, domestically, issues of context that are now being taken into consideration that weren't 20 years ago; the idea that we'll talk about cultures and culture is much more complex, it is, they're multiple, contested. This Journal, I think, provides a forum for bringing in those issues that can strengthen all types of perspectives and methods and that's really a strain.

Bill Starosta: And to add to Dr Collier, I think one of the things that can be done is that there was a day when international, some Mid-Western and a Great Plains thing, when international was the definition of intercultural and I think that somewhere along the way we saw that there was enough variation in a given city or in a given state; how could you talk about immigrant issues in Arizona or California and not talk about some domestic topics as well? So that the domestic has become really mixed up with what we now call the Intercultural.

Tom Nakayama: I think that's one of the exciting things about what we're doing, is that culture doesn't become defined by nation state anymore and because we know that cultures are very dynamic.

What are your hopes for the future study of International and Intercultural Communication?

Mary-Jane Collier: My hope is that the work is, first and foremost, relevant and relevant to people's lives, to changing material conditions, to changing structures that produce injustice, that open up dialogue – that would be my hope, that we look at that research and say, 'This is relevant.' That people can read this

and say, 'This is useful to me. It not only increases my knowledge, but I can apply it in important ways.'

Judith Martin: And I think that also means then that it has to be accessible, so that the audience for the Journal has to be seen as very broad based and not just a bunch of academicians sitting around and reading each other's work.

Bill Starosta: I've done a lot of editing over the years and I've come to believe that intercultural work almost needs collaborative authoring. I see, if we're talking of any kind of comparison in intercultural gravities towards comparison, I don't know how a single person can get enough perspective to speak authoritatively or credibly and I would like to see the future be more collaborative.

Mary-Jane Collier: I'd like to also see more reflexivity and acknowledgement of privileges, assumptions that ground the work, so some basic uncovering of the issues that drive the work, who benefits, those sorts of conversations.

Tom Nakayama: Well the first issue will be out in February 2008, with a beautiful red cover. It will be available to National Communication Association Members as part of their subscription. You can also get it through institutional library. Please lobby your librarian to subscribe to the *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*.

Speaker: Well I'd just like to thank everybody for participating in today's podcast. Thank you very much for your contributions. We're very much looking forward to the first publication, due out in February 2008.

Thank you all again and we'll see you next year.

[END 12:00]