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BOOK REVIEW



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***Cambridge Handbook of Intercultural Communication. Guido Ringes and Sebastian Rasinger. Cambridge University Press (2020). XIV + 538 pp, ISBN: 978-1-108-42969-6 (Hardback).***

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This state-of-the-art handbook on intercultural communication, with its thirty-two chapters written by well-known figures, provide a comprehensive overview of the field to the audience. Surveyed topics include 1) deep association of important concepts, 2) related explanation of theoretical approaches, 3) overview of effective methods and methodologies, 4) recent research in different areas of implementation and application, and 5) note-worthy issues related to the assessment and evaluation of intercultural communication and competence. All in all, the handbook offers a thorough exploration of the relationship between intercultural communication and power as well as a contextual investigation of contrastive, imagological and ethical dimensions. The intended readership is wide and can include anyone with an interest in the field.

In chapter one, various definitions of culture are provided historically, i.e., from the Roman colere to the linguistic turn to the present day. Chapter two describes intercultural communication as a whole through investigating the interaction of five different theoretical and methodological approaches. In chapter three, action competence is discussed as forming intercultural competence in uncertain contexts. Chapter four describes different notions with social and political consequences of culture from anthropological and psychological to hybridity and trans-culturality in contact situations.

In chapter five, critical approaches to intercultural communication are defined and developed with regard to the digital environment and how these influence intercultural communication. Chapter six comparatively reviews different approaches to intercultural communication, noting conceptual and methodological value perspectives. The topics include shared values as building blocks of societies, identifying value orientations, and creating a landmark breakthrough. In chapter seven, integrative intercultural communication as a multidisciplinary approach and an ongoing process of learning in exchange is explored. Different concepts and tools for research in this field are also provided. The next chapter explains in detail how literature affects intercultural communication. In this concern, representations of intercultural encounters as well as the limits

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of intercultural communication are described. In chapter nine, psychoanalytic approach (memory studies) to intercultural communication is presented. The next chapter is on silent zones studied in intercultural communication from a sociological point of view. Consequently, sociological approaches, including but not limited to the discussions of intergroup contact, conflict and attitudes, sojourner adaptation and immigrant integration along with critical theorists are also explained in detail. Studying migration and intercultural communication is more complex than what appears on the surface, as noted by DeTurk (2020). In chapter eleven, how ethical issues and norms affect intercultural communication at three levels of personal, intergroup and international are dealt with. A variety of approaches to studying ethics, e.g., methodological, descriptive, normative, meta-ethical and moral realism as well as constructivist approaches to ethics are clearly defined and explained.

In chapter twelve, in line with movements in decolonizing and intercultural communication knowledge (Chasi & Rodney-Gumede, 2018; Gunaratne, 2010), the authors see empowerment in history through theorizing the decolonization of epistemology, perspectives, subjectivities, and methodologies through collaborative knowledge. How digital world affected intercultural communication as regards migration is presented in the next chapter. The chapter that follows defines politeness as one of the core principles in studying the links between languages, cultures, and communication. This chapter deals with contrastive and intercultural aspects of politeness and provides recent revisions of this concept. The next chapter analyzes intercultural communication through the lens of contemporary literature and offers accounts on language learning, didactics and intercultural literature as well as communication theory and literary studies as regards intercultural communication. In chapter sixteen, after describing the place of storytelling in different cultures, the author highlights the significance of storytelling (e.g., individual and cultural memories) in improving intercultural communication skills. Chapter seventeen deals with how cinema or watching 'foreign' films can affect intercultural communication through presenting counterbalances to the notions of national belonging and social cohesion. In chapter eighteen, Jewish migration to new countries is analyzed through the perspective of narrative power and intercultural memories. In the next chapter, intercultural communication is discussed in the context of social work place and social care studies together with some examples from theory to practice and recommendations for social workers are presented. Chapter twenty explains shifting concepts of culture and interculturality and cultural norms followed in relationships between people at different levels. Chapter twenty-one *ordre public* doctrine as a dynamic notion in legal pluralism and religion, and migration from Islamic states are discussed with regard to enhanced international relations at both personal and social levels.

Intercultural communication as a requirement for refugee students is explained in chapter twenty-two from different perspectives. In this regard the status of mobility, approaches to education, organization of schooling, policies, and the role of teachers and parents as relates to these students' intercultural communicative competence are discussed. The next chapter moves from positivist approaches to interpretive, postmodern and critical approaches in studying intercultural communication as regards culture and management along with the role of language. In the consequent chapter, the topic of language tolerance considering intercultural relations and the associated fear and suspicion, populism and resentment of incomes regarding linguistic acceptance are elaborated with a focus on language as human rights, language rights as well as language testing and the social impact of migration policies. Indeed, the topic of mediation in intercultural language education has become so central that the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (North, Goodier, & Piccardo, 2017) has incorporated mediation activities and strategies in its revisions. In chapter twenty-five, Black British poetry is considered to approach intercultural communication from a narrative perspective. In this regard, both instructive and consequentialist views are put into focus within the contexts of cultural reality, situation, communicative system, and finally, the individual and the institutional contexts. The

next chapter deals with the intersections of trans-nationality through studying case studies from contemporary Latin American cinema. In chapter twenty-seven, religion as an object of intercultural knowledge is studied by analyzing it as a source of creative intensity in a non-representational approach, the chapter also seeks the picture of Islam and Christianity in German-language texts, working in which areas is really hard if not impossible (e.g., Hernández-Campoy, 2016; Qassem, 2020). Chapter twenty-eight draws on qualitative data from discussion groups to explore Irish-English cultural encounters in Diaspora as well as the importance of family and sociability. The authors in chapter twenty-nine, study the effect of academic mobility on students' intercultural competence.

Chapter thirty, presents some principles of intercultural communication competence as well as the changing assessment paradigm. Chapter thirty-one explains the adaptation of new comers to a new culture and how it affects the dominant culture; the role of media is highlighted in terms of social capital, acculturation, social support they can provide. The final chapter of the handbook overviews intercultural communication competence assessment; however, the main focus is on discussing the assessment of this skill through the constructivist perspective.

It happens to read, learn, and love the interesting multidisciplinary topic of intercultural communication as nicely discussed by the authors in this handbook from its history to the most modern environment. They provide a reader-friendly account of different dimensions of this topic and offer practical examples of pedagogical interventions aiming to construct not walls but bridges among cultures. In addition, noting challenges and solutions to them as well as offering potential areas for a new wave of researchers working in today's increasingly poly-cultural societies is what makes the volume a must-read. While most intercultural communication books currently on the market have a linguistic focus, the present handbook is comprehensive and interdisciplinary which looks at intercultural communication from the perspective of power structures that govern cultural encounters. Approaches, contrastive, interactive, imagological and inter-lingual aspects are all investigated. The link between these aspects has been to-date overlooked. A small drawback would be that some chapters lack introduction section and some others the conclusion/ final remarks part.

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