

Affectivity and Translatability in Intercultural Communication

Roger Nunn with Naeema Hann and Siva Sivasubramaniam

In this presentation we will develop the views of intercultural communication presented at last year's conference in Korea, and introduce a new research project in which we propose intercultural narrative to help us better characterize intercultural communication. Illustrated from our own narratives, we will suggest some non-definitional guidelines to frame the narratives which will provide our data, while allowing informants the option to frame their own narratives as a way of using their own preferred semiotic mediations. We suggest that episodes with known others tend to happen recurrently and skills in communicating develop across the recurrences. As suggested in Naeema's presentation in Korea, these developmental stages may be translatable to the journeys undertaken by sages in Attar's allegorical work *The Conference of the Birds* (Attar 1117). We also consider the ways in which affectivity may influence the narratives. We have assumed that participants in intercultural communication approach the situation based on affective predispositions influenced by their backgrounds. While many models of intercultural communication have been broadly discussed (see Fonchah et al., 2016

[\(PDF\) Investigating the Role of Language in the Identity Construction of Scholars](#)

), many of the models we identified are rational models that do not consider affectivity. We intend to revisit these models to consider non-rational aspects of communication such as the way we feel about communicating with people from different cultural backgrounds at different stages of our encounters. This, we believe will offer us space for proposing new/novel ways of perceiving and promoting intercultural communication.

Profile

I have been fortunate enough to be able to live and teach/lecture for 46 years in a variety of international locations (France, England, Germany, Ethiopia, Qatar, Japan, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah). I retired from salaried work in 2022, after spending the previous five years as Professor and Head of Department at the American University of Sharjah in the UAE. English Scholars Beyond Borders is now my main academic activity. During my career, I developed my own holistic approach to English scholarship and education, an approach which engages learners and colleagues as 'whole' people in life-long learning and openness to other cultures. I enjoy forming strong relationships with ESBB colleagues and have tried to publish and present in as many countries as possible and to engage in dialogue across borders. Founding ESBB (English Scholars Beyond Borders) with other international scholars and helping it develop over the years has always been my preferred academic activity. Since retiring from full-time work, I also enjoy creating, performing and recording as a singer/songwriter, which makes me feel young again.