

1st International Conference on Intercultural Dialogue through the Arts: Community Development, Education and Policy

**NPO Tiempo Iberoamericano, Fukuoka, Japan
21-24 September 2017**

Call for Submissions

*NPO Tiempo Iberoamericano*¹, a non-profit organization in Fukuoka, Japan has engaged in pioneering intercultural exchange over the past 20 years, promoting cultural diversity at the grassroots level through the arts, by exploring intercultural dialogue through verbal and non-verbal dynamics, especially in relation to Ibero-America. Tiempo, interestingly, emphasizes non-verbal communication first through the arts opening the way to verbal communication later, recognizing the stress often caused when speaking a foreign language with people from other cultures for the first time. This alternative trend is different from foreign language education which tends to prioritize verbal communication over non-verbal communication, but often also serves as a training ground for intercultural dialogue. Specifically, UNESCO defines intercultural dialogue as “equitable exchange and dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based on mutual understanding and respect and the equal dignity of all cultures, is the essential prerequisite for constructing social cohesion, reconciliation among peoples and peace among nations.”²

Although the activities of *Tiempo* reflect the rich intercultural history of the Iberian peninsula and historically connected areas in Latin America, *Tiempo* is open to all kinds of exchanges that enhance the overarching goal and vision of promoting intercultural dialogue through language learning, the enjoyment of music and dance classes, exhibitions as well as international music festivals and programs in Fukuoka, Japan and abroad.

Within this spirit, *Tiempo* has been collaborating with the *Multicultural Fitness*

¹http://www.tiempo.jp/index_english.html

² <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/dialogue/intercultural-dialogue/>

*Community*³ since 2015 to promote intercultural communication and community development through physical fitness and the arts, through the creation of academically-oriented, dance-based intercultural communication programmes to develop the intercultural communicative competence of Saga University students. Themes explored to date include verbal and non-verbal communication, personal and social identities (including gender and group identities), and the development of creativity through dance.

Further, these multicultural experience programmes also aim to connect university students from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, engaging them in new and dynamic intercultural communities, enhancing on-campus university internationalization, as well as linking art and regional design through intercultural community development to reflect the goals of a new *Faculty of Art and Regional Design*, which was established at Saga University in April 2016.

To commemorate *Tiempo's* 20th anniversary, we are collaborating with the *Multicultural Fitness Community* in the organization of this inaugural international conference entitled *Intercultural Dialogue through the Arts: Community Development, Education and Policy* from 21-24 September 2017. This event is supported by the *Faculty of Art and Regional Design* and the *Faculty of Culture and Education* at Saga University. It is supported by *Cultnet*, a group of researchers who exploring the cultural dimension of language teaching⁴, which is also celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2017.

Through this event, we aim to promote intercultural dialogue through the arts as a means to deepen respect for others' ideas and cultures across social boundaries of various kinds, taking the view that this mutual understanding can become a channel for true international exchanges whether at the individual, community, corporate or national level now or in the future. And in an increasingly digitalized, automatized and politicized world, this understanding is vital.

Social boundaries may rise and fall in response to the competing forces of globalization. Modern transport and social media may increase opportunities for intercultural contact and communication in everyday life. But people can easily become isolated, and lack opportunities for heart-felt communication if they become separated in increasingly digitalized, automatized, politicized shifting socio-cultural landscapes. Further, by creating the illusion that community boundaries can be delineated at will by including or excluding people at the click of an icon, social media can undermine the development of

³<https://www.facebook.com/stephaniesensei1/>

⁴<https://cultnetworld.wordpress.com/about-us/>

the kinds of intercultural attitudes that help people respond constructively to different others who inhabit the various communities in which we already reside in everyday life. Moreover, in ageing societies, many individuals face the challenge of reinforcing their bodies, and reinventing their identities, to meet increased life expectancy in increasingly intercultural, multilingual communities. Thus, through intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding needs to actively shape community development, and new educational and policy initiatives across areas by taking an inter-disciplinary approach.

Intercultural dialogue can be enhanced by nurturing intercultural communication processes that can benefit greatly from arts engagement aimed at fostering community development. Mutual understanding and respect can be promoted through joyful, lively human communication enhancing self-expression, verbal and non-verbal intercultural communication, the development of intercultural communicative competence through critical engagement with different others, and action in the world. All of these things can both enable, and result from, community-based social interaction in dynamic intercultural spaces oriented towards the promotion of health, fitness and lifelong learning in ageing societies through new educational and policy initiatives based upon informed visions of the future.

But what does this mean - in the present - in practice? How can it happen through artistic engagement? And to what effects? This international conference will explore such themes, related to intercultural dialogue through the arts, by focusing on community development, education and policy. Scholars, educators, practitioners and community stakeholders from different fields will be invited to participate in this inaugural event.

Conference Objectives

- To provide scholars, educators, practitioners and community stakeholders from different backgrounds with opportunities to interact, network and benefit from each other's practical expertise and research related to the development of intercultural dialogue through the arts
- To stimulate discussion about the development of intercultural dialogue between conference participants from different backgrounds through practical art and/or dance-based workshops with professional artists.
- To examine intercultural communication through the arts
- To promote intercultural communicative competence (Byram, 1997)
- To deepen understanding about arts-based intercultural community development
- To bring together academics and leaders in the community to exchange ideas about intercultural dialogue, education and policy

The organizers and supporters of *Intercultural Dialogue through the Arts: Community Development, Education and Policy*, which includes academically-oriented practical arts-based workshops as well as academic presentations, aim to generate wide-ranging forms of intercultural dialogue through which interconnected global and local issues can be explored within the spheres of education, language, culture, and society through the arts. Scholars, educators, practitioners and community stake-holders from different fields will be invited to participate in this event to further promote intercultural exchange, community development, and educational and policy initiatives through the arts.

Guidelines for Submissions

Topic areas connecting intercultural dialogue and the arts may include, but are not limited to:

Community Development

- Arts-based community development in intercultural spaces
- Body, art, identity, expression and intercultural exchange
- Virtual arts-based community development online
- Intercultural institutions and community development

Education

- Arts-based (non-)verbal intercultural communication in foreign language education
- Cultural diversity, expression and social empowerment through language arts
- Translating art interculturally and multiculturally
- Exploring cultural expressions in linguistics and the arts

Policy

- Art, intercultural citizenship and global action
- Regional design, intercultural communication, cultural tourism and public policy
- Intercultural dialogue about tangible and intangible heritage management, public policy and the arts
- Ageing, lifelong learning, social connection, health, disability and public policy in intercultural communities

Proposals: 150-200 words in English, Japanese or Spanish with a title and author information, including positions, affiliations, email addresses and mailing addresses (for all authors). Times New Roman 12 pt

font size, single spaced.

Panel proposals: Panel proposals should include a 150-200 word abstract of each panelist's paper (as above).

Review: Submissions will be subject to peer review. Papers presented at the conference will be published in conference proceedings

Language Policy: Multilingual. Oral presentations may be made in English as a Lingua Franca, Spanish or Japanese, but participants are encouraged to provide linguistic support in other languages where possible. For example, written presentations (Powerpoint, Prezi etc.) should be bilingual in 2 of those 3 languages if possible. Other multilingual approaches are also welcome. Simultaneous interpretation will not be provided.

Venue: 21-22 September 2017: Saga University, Saga
23-24 September 2017: NPO Tiempo Iberoamericano,
Fukuoka

Deadline: 1st May 2017
Please submit proposals to Stephanie Ann Houghton:
houghton@cc.saga-u.ac.jp