



## Will Baker

Centre for Global Englishes, Modern Languages and Linguistics, University of Southampton, UK

### English as a lingua franca and transcultural communication

Many everyday contemporary social spaces, from superdiverse urban environments to globally connected digital communities, are highly multilingual and multicultural with a correspondingly dynamic and variable range of communicative practices. Links between linguistic resources, other modes, identities, and cultures are frequently emergent and created in situ. This complexity, seen in both intercultural communication and ELF research, raises difficult questions about how we understand concepts such as identity, culture, and language in communication; thus, challenging pre-established, taken-for-granted notions of the connections between them. In response to these fluid communicative practices both applied linguistics and intercultural communication research are experiencing a 'trans' turn (Hawkins & Mori 2018; Baker 2021). From trans perspectives linguistic and cultural borders, while still exerting powerful ideological influences, can be transcended and transgressed and in the process transformed. Transcultural communication research explores the complexity of communication in which participants make use of diverse repertoires of multicultural, multilingual, and multimodal resources. In transcultural communication, we see emergent cultural practices and references that are neither part of any one culture nor, crucially, in-between cultures but rather moving through multiple scales from the local to the global simultaneously. To support this argument, I present examples from recent studies of ELF use in multilingual and multicultural digital communication. I will conclude with implications for research and pedagogy, suggesting that to account for the complexity of many everyday communicative practices, we need holistic, transcultural, and transdisciplinary approaches to understanding and teaching language, communication, identity, and culture.

Hawkins, M. R., & Mori, J. (2018). Considering 'Trans-' Perspectives in Language Theories and Practices. *Applied Linguistics*, 39(1), 1-8. <https://doi:10.1093/applin/amx056>

Baker, W. (2021). From Intercultural Communication to Transcultural Communication *Language and Intercultural Communication* (20th Anniversary Issue). <https://doi.org/10.1080/14708477.2021.2001477>

### Bionote

Will Baker is an Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics and Director of the Centre for Global Englishes at the University of Southampton, UK. His research interests are Intercultural and Transcultural Communication, English as a Lingua Franca, English Medium Education, Intercultural Education, Intercultural Citizenship and ELT, and he has published and presented internationally in all these areas. Recent publications include 'Intercultural and Transcultural Awareness in Language Teaching' (2022 Cambridge University Press), Baker, W., & Ishikawa, T. 'Transcultural Communication through Global Englishes' (2021 Routledge), Tsou, W., & Baker, W. (Eds.). 'English-medium instruction translanguaging practices in Asia' (2021 Springer), co-editor of the 'Routledge Handbook of English as a Lingua Franca' (2018), author of the monograph 'Culture and Identity through English as a Lingua Franca' (2015 DGM), and co-editor of the book series 'Developments in English as Lingua Franca' (DGM) and 'Cambridge Elements in Intercultural Communication' (Cambridge University Press).