Preface

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This first issue of Volume XXXII contains five research articles, which represent three thematic areas: Education, Linguistic Landcape, and Migration Studies.

In the first article in the thematic area of Education, WANG Lina, WU Xiaoyan, LEE S. Peter and Jiro TAKAI investigate the effects of language competence and self-regulatory focus on intercultural communication apprehension. They compare cohorts of students in Japan, China and the US. Language competence is operationalized as "self-perceived competence in the English language". Self-regulatory focus is subdivided into "promotion focus" and "prevention focus". "Self-regulatory focus refers to our needs to promote ourselves or to avoid negative evaluations of ourselves from others". Communication apprehension "is related to fear of being negatively evaluated while conversing with others". The researchers found the highest levels of communication apprehension among Japanese, then Chinese, then Americans. Also, American students were promotion-focused, whereas Japanese and Chinese were prevention-focused. The level of self-reported language competence contributed significantly to the students' extent of intercultural communication apprehension. The study also found that promotion focus, but not prevention focus, mediated between the other two variables, "implying that students' security orientated motivation does not boost language proficiency's effect on their anxiety". In the second article on Education, Ourania KATSARA investigates Greek university students' Intercultural Sensitivity profile. The researcher administered the Intercultural Sensitivity Scale to students in Greece, and also reports the students' opinions and intercultural experiences from their responses to an open-ended question. The study finds that while Greek students have a positive foundation for intercultural competence, there are areas for improvement, including self-esteem, perceptiveness, attentiveness, and adaptability. The article aims to offer "preliminary pedagogical insights for developing a language policy emphasizing intercultural sensitivity in Greek universities, contributing to broader education internationalization".

The article that follows can be classified in the thematic area of Linguistic Landscape, and is also highly relevant to Tourism Studies. The author, Yoshinori NISHIJIMA, conducts a sociolinguistic analysis of public signs in Japan, from the perspective of tourism for an economically and culturally sustainable future. The author presents a typology of signage in Japan, and the reasons behind the predominant use of four languages: Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and English. Potential problems with English signs expression are discussed, including grammatical errors, cognitive linguistic errors, and sociolinguistic errors. The author then proposes a template of a sign format that is easy to understand, containing Japanese kanji, Japanese furigana and romanized furigana, English and a pictogram, as a new recommendation for public signage in alignment with the spirit of English as a lingua franca. The research aims to improve the linguistic user-friendliness for international visitors who do not read Japanese.

The issue closes with two articles in the thematic area of Migration Studies. In the first article, Siqi LI examines the intercultural adaptation of Chinese people in the UK on the eve

of the COVID-19 pandemic, including both sojourners (students and migrant workers) and immigrants. The study uses questionnaire survey, focus group and semi-structured interview methodology to find out the circumstances of intercultural adaptation, as well as the support offered to Chinese people by Chinese-language media in the UK. "This study finds that the process of Chinese people learning the culture and skills of the UK may be impacted by the reasons they chose to come to the UK, the length of time they have lived in the UK, their individual intercultural competences, and their subjective desires." Specifically, while sojourners tend to cluster together in the Chinese community, immigrants who intend to stay in the UK are able to shift between the two cultures, to eat British food and to integrate into British institutions, but they also preserve Chinese traditions. In the second and final article, Youqi YE-YUZAWA researches the development of vocational identity of skilled Chinese migrants in Japan with and without previous educational experience in the host country. The study employs the construct of vocational identity, "an individual's subjective assessment of their professional aspirations, capabilities, motivations, and values". The construct is operationalized as consisting of the following six clusters based on dimensions of identity status: achieved, searching moratorium, foreclosed, moratorium, diffused, and carefree diffused, according to a modified Chinese version of the "Vocational Identity Status Assessment" scale. "The study's results indicated that among the former international student population, six vocational identity statuses emerged: achieved, searching moratorium, foreclosed, moratorium, diffused, and carefree diffused. The migrant worker group was found to have only four identified vocational identity statuses: achieved, foreclosed, moratorium, and diffused." Interestingly, the author also found that "more than half of skilled migrants exhibited the less favorable pattern of vocational identity, job performance, career satisfaction, and turnover intention," which has implications for human resource management of skilled international migrant workers. The perspective of vocational identity status contributes to the literature on human resources within a globalized intercultural context.

The five papers in this issue of *Intercultural Communication Studies* are written by eight authors representing seven universities in China, Japan, Greece, the United Kingdom, and the United States: California State University at Fullerton (USA), Kanazawa University (Japan), Kanda University of International Studies (Japan), Nagoya University (Japan), University of Glasgow (UK), University of Patras (Greece), and Zhengzhou University (China). This diversity of authors and thematic areas represents the geographic and interdisciplinary vitality of the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies.