Institute of Germanic, Romance and Slavonic Languages and Literatures

Separation vs. Integration: Challenges of Bridging Cultural Contrasts.

20th NIC Conference on Intercultural Communication

28 – 30 November 2013 Tartu, Estonia

The conference is supported by European Social Fund and the Graduate School of Linguistics, Philosophy and Semiotics of the University of Tartu
One of the main focuses of the Nordic Network for Intercultural Communication (NIC) is to enhance cooperation among Nordic and Baltic researchers exploring the field of intercultural communication. The main NIC activity for the last two decades has been the organisation of the annual international conference on intercultural communication, open to participants from all over the world. The 20th NIC symposium is organised by the Institute of Germanic, Romance and Slavonic Languages and Literatures, University of Tartu and will be held on 28-30 November 2013 in Tartu, Estonia. The 2013 conference theme is **Separation vs. Integration: Challenges of Bridging Cultural Contrasts.**

This conference welcomes papers from all areas of intercultural communication but aims to focus on the issues of separation and integration that have always been on the agenda in the Baltic States but have become particularly acute and sensitive for the last twenty years, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Two cultures, Russian and Estonian have co-existed for more than two hundred years starting from the early 18th century when the Russian Empire gained control over Estonian lands by winning the war with Sweden. Since then, numerous generations have had the opportunity to deal with the issues of separation and integration. Unfortunately, mainly due to political reasons, the integration process has not been as successful as expected. This is where we
found our inspiration for the main theme of the conference. We believe that via cooperation and discussion among intercultural communication researchers and practitioners we may manage to find solutions to problems faced by culturally different communities living side by side on a daily basis in any part of the world. We also believe that power issues and negotiations over power are relevant to the problems involved in intercultural communication in such situations.

Therefore, we welcome contributions from all academic disciplines, including anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, political science, media and communication studies, business studies, organisational studies, educational studies, applied linguistics and sociolinguistics. We are particularly interested in case studies or theoretical papers which address issues of separation, assimilation, marginalisation and integration, as well as (discursive) power negotiations.

All areas within intercultural communication are welcome but particular subthemes of the conference are:

- Intercultural competence
- Role of historical, geographic, religious, and other factors in separation, assimilation, marginalisation and integration
- Living in “exile”: reasons for separation problems
- Problems of integration at various social levels
- Conflicts rooted in intercultural miscommunication
- Living close to a „big brother“: cultural undercurrents in the relations with the Russian Federation
- “Ethnic threat“ as a tool in the hands of the ruling elites
- Minority and majority discourse
- Role of the institutions in society
- “Who are we teaching and how?” – impact of politics on education
- The problem of language learning
In addition to the main theme you may also submit abstracts relating to any of the following themes:

- Values in multicultural communication
- Intercultural business communication
- Intercultural conflict resolution
- Intercultural verbal and nonverbal communication
- Managing cultural diversity
- Educational aspects of intercultural communication
- Theory-building for intercultural communication

The languages of the conference presentations are English, Estonian and Russian (parallel sessions in the Russian and Estonian languages will be held separately and not interpreted into English). We accept proposals in two forms: oral presentation (20 min) and poster presentation. We expect you to submit the abstracts of your proposals to the conference e-mail: NIC2013@ut.ee by 1 October 2013.

The abstracts requirements:

- Title
- Length: 200-250 words
- General information about the author(s): titles, affiliations, etc.
- Subtopic
- Type of proposal: oral presentation or poster presentation
- Language: the abstract should be in English, but the author should specify the language of the presentation (English, Estonian, or Russian)
- Type of the file: DOC or DOCX or compatible format

Organising committee

- Krista Vogelberg, Professor at the Department of English Language and Literature
- Irina Koksharova, MA, Member of the Conference Organising Committee

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact the organisers at NIC2013@ut.ee

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