

Beyond Borders: Creative and Reflexive Approaches to Intercultural Communication Research

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In a global context increasingly marked by border closures, migration criminalization, and the rise of far-right ideologies, intercultural communication research faces significant methodological and ethical challenges. This keynote address critically examines how creative methods and reflexive approaches can be employed to study the complex intersections of migration, media, and intercultural dialogue, focusing on empowering migrant voices and fostering human dignity.

Building on the methodological themes of the conference, I will explore participatory media projects, generative AI tools, and arts-based research as avenues for addressing exclusionary practices and the criminalization of mobility. These methods not only enable nuanced analyses of diasporic experiences but also serve as tools for amplifying counter-narratives that challenge hegemonic ideologies. By integrating digital storytelling, AI-enhanced ethnography, and other creative methodologies, this keynote presentation highlights how innovative approaches can produce actionable insights into practices of inclusion and belonging.

The discussion will also emphasize reflexivity in research, particularly the ethical considerations of studying migration in contexts of surveillance, exclusion, and precarity. I will argue that by co-creating knowledge with migrant communities and reflecting on the researcher's positionality, we can develop methods that are both rigorous and transformative.

This keynote speech invites participants to engage with pressing questions about the ethical dimensions of researching migration and media, the role of creative methodologies in intercultural communication, and the potential of digital tools to reimagine boundaries and foster dialogue in a fragmented world. Through this exploration, I aim to contribute to ongoing discussions on the intersection of migration, media, and intercultural communication, while offering practical strategies for researchers working in this critical field.



Dr. [Diyako Rahmani](#) is a senior lecturer specializing in data analytics and communication. He earned his Ph.D. in Intercultural Communication (University of Jyväskylä, 2017), a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching and Learning (Massey University, 2022), and a Master of Data Analytics with First Class Honours (Massey University, 2024). Diyako teaches data analytics in marketing and communication, with research focusing on online communication, analytics, and Kurdish studies. He frequently publishes in top communication and information systems journals and serves as editor of the *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*. He is also a fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA).