

A special issue proposal for the [*Journal of Multilingual Theories and Practices*](#)

Topic: "Multilingualism and Intercultural Dialogues: Creative and Reflexive Approaches to Identity and Belonging in Migration and Digital Spaces"

Guest Editors: Professor Anastassia Zabrodskaia ([CV](#)), Associate Editor for the [*Journal of Multilingual Theories and Practices*](#), and Professor Zhu Hua ([CV](#))

This special issue will focus on multilingualism as a critical dimension of migration experiences, digital transnationalism, and intercultural communication. It will draw from themes presented at the [*conference 'Beyond Borders: Creative Methods and Reflexive Approaches to Migration, Media, and Intercultural Dialogue'*](#), addressing how multilingual practices shape and are shaped by the intersections of migration, media, and intercultural dialogue. This special issue will aim to explore innovative and reflexive methodologies, along with empirical studies that highlight the role of multilingualism in fostering (or hindering) social cohesion, identity formation, and ethical engagement in global migration contexts. This special issue will contribute to understanding multilingualism not merely as a linguistic phenomenon but as a socio-political and cultural practice deeply intertwined with migration and media. It aligns with the journal's mission to showcase rigorous, theory-driven, and methodologically diverse research that resonates globally.

Contributors to this special issue may choose to participate in the special issue only or engage in both the conference and the special issue. Submissions are welcome from those presenting at the [*conference 'Beyond Borders: Creative Methods and Reflexive Approaches to Migration, Media, and Intercultural Dialogue'*](#) as well as from researchers who wish to contribute solely to the special issue.

The special issue will welcome articles that could be:

- Empirical studies: Case studies on multilingual communication in migration crises, border zones, or diasporic communities.
- Theoretical papers: Reflections on multilingualism as a lens to understand migration and intercultural dialogue.
- Methodological contributions: Innovative methods for researching multilingualism in migration and digital contexts.
- Practitioner perspectives: Working papers from activists, educators, and policymakers engaged with multilingual migrant communities.

This special issue will include one or two **book reviews**. Please feel free to contact Professor Anastassia Zabrodskaia at anastassia.zabrodskaia@tlu.ee to **suggest a book** relevant to the topic and published no earlier than 2025 or 2026.

The special issue will encourage exploration of the following key topics:

1. Multilingualism and migration dynamics:
 - How multilingual communication unfolds in border zones, detention centers, and spaces of exclusion.

- Language use as a tool for both empowerment and control in migration narratives.
- 2. Digital multilingualism and social cohesion:
 - How multilingual practices in digital spaces facilitate (or impede) intercultural dialogue and diasporic activism.
 - The role of digital counterpublics in promoting diverse linguistic identities and resisting monolingual ideologies.
- 3. Creative and reflexive methodologies in multilingual research:
 - Participatory methods (e.g., digital storytelling, ethnographic film) to study multilingual lives and narratives.
 - Arts-based approaches to exploring multilingual identity formation and belonging.
- 4. AI and platform affordances in multilingual digital spaces:
 - The impact of artificial intelligence and digital infrastructures on multilingual communication and identity representation.
 - Linguistic inclusivity and exclusion in algorithm-driven platforms.
- 5. Ethical dimensions in multilingual migration research:
 - The ethical challenges of researching multilingual subjects in vulnerable, migratory, or diasporic contexts.
 - Reflexive practices in studying the linguistic aspects of migration and intercultural communication.
- 6. Transnational multilingualism and identity:
 - How multilingual individuals navigate and negotiate their sense of belonging in transnational and intercultural settings.
 - The impact of multilingualism on identity redefinition and cultural dialogues in migration contexts.
- 7. Other innovative topics:
 - Any other innovative topic is welcome. Please feel free to contact Professor Anastassia Zabrodskaia at anastassia.zabrodskaia@tlu.ee to confirm its relevance to the special issue and alignment with the main topics of the journal.

Important deadlines

- **Abstract submission** – April 30, 2025

The abstract (approximately **250 words**) should summarize the article's scope, objectives, methodology, main findings, conclusions, and implications. It must clearly convey the research's purpose and significance while highlighting its central theme and relevance to educators, policymakers, or other audiences. Following the abstract, include 5–8 keywords. Submit your abstract to anastassia.zabrodskaia@tlu.ee.

- **Abstract review notification** – May 15, 2025
- **Article submission** – October 15, 2025
- **First round of reviews** – December 15, 2025
- **Revisions** – February 15, 2026
- **Second round of reviews** – March 15, 2026
- **Final revisions and editing** – May 1, 2026

By **May 15, 2026**, the articles will be ready for submission as a complete special issue.