

## Call for chapters

### *Reinventing intimate intercultural relations*

Editors:

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&

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Deadline for abstracts (300 words): **1<sup>st</sup> October 2013**

In our era of accelerated globalisation, which is accompanied by hypermobility for some people, intimate intercultural relations are believed to proliferate. These relations are far from novel as history has witnessed many – sometimes famous – intercultural couples. In this collected volume, which sets as its goal the ambitious idea to ‘reinvent’ these relations, the phrase *intimate intercultural relations* refers to any type of sentimental but also sexual relations, short-/long-term relations, ‘un/faithful’ relations between individuals from different countries. The literature in English uses many and varied expressions to talk about intimate intercultural relations: *mixed couples, intermarriages, interracial couples, multilingual families, cross-border couples...* In this volume we are also interested in less canonical forms of intimate intercultural relations such as mail-to-order brides, online dating, Friends with benefits, prostitution, etc.

The word ‘intercultural’ in the phrase ‘intimate intercultural relations’ is problematic as it contains the concept of culture, which is increasingly rejected in the human and social sciences. This old and tired concept can easily lead to limiting, essentialising and homogenising discourses on self and other, the foreigner and the stranger. For Briedenbach & Nyíri (2009), “Today’s world is a world shaped by a consciousness of culture that penetrates everyday life as well as matters of state in an unprecedented way. Culture – or rather, cultural difference – is now held to be the main explanation for the way the human world functions”. Yet this explanation is often unjustified or it becomes some sort of “camouflage” or even an alibi. In the literature on intercultural couples – scientific as well as popular literature, culture is often used as a way of explaining what intercultural couples experience, especially in terms of problems. Many researchers have actually questioned the dichotomy between ‘intercultural’ and ‘intracultural’ couples by arguing that any couple or any kind of relation cannot but be intercultural (see e.g. Falicov, 1995; Dervin, 2013). Interestingly the theoretical frameworks that are used by researchers working on intercultural couples tend to oscillate between intercultural theories and general psychological perspectives on couplehood.

In this CFC the intercultural moves beyond ‘cultures’ and adopts a socio-constructivist and critical approach to intimate relations of individuals from different countries. As such the authors will be interested in examining how intimate intercultural relations are presented, co-constructed, ‘officialised’, put into scene in different contexts such as politics (immigration), the media, literature, cinema and even research. Intimate intercultural relations of any sexual orientation can be examined. Intimacy can be officialised (marriage, partnership...) or not (sex-dating,

extra-conjugal relations, prostitution, etc.). The following themes are of interest:

- Beyond culture and/or cultural differences as a ‘get-out-of-jail-card’ to view the other party as an individual involved in complex networks of meaning-making
- Child rearing
- Daily life
- Divorce, breaking up
- Sexuality
- Justice/law
- Language and Power (Lingua franca/native and non-native)
- Mobility
- Religion
- Therapy

### **Deadlines**

Abstract of proposed chapter (300 words): 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013

Full chapters to be submitted: March 10<sup>th</sup> 2014

Authors are invited to submit a 300-word proposal (including a few lines about the author(s)) in English to both editors by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 ([Noah.Mbano@usq.edu.au](mailto:Noah.Mbano@usq.edu.au) & [fred.dervin@helsinki.fi](mailto:fred.dervin@helsinki.fi)) – please no pdf!

The proposals should clearly explain the theoretical positioning and concerns of the proposed chapter, and include a short description of data (where applicable). A basic bibliography may also be added. Full chapters are expected to be submitted by March 10<sup>th</sup> 2014.

The proposed book will be submitted to Cambridge Scholars (Series: Post-intercultural Communication and Education, [http://www.c-s-p.org/Flyers/series\\_24.htm](http://www.c-s-p.org/Flyers/series_24.htm)).