

# PUBLIC LECTURE

Thursday, 22 April 2021, 5:15 – 6:45 pm

Institute of Multilingualism | University | HEP Fribourg  
online

## Intercultural Competence in Second Language Pragmatics Research

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### Abstract

With the recent surge of multiculturalism and lingua franca communication, the field of second language (L2) pragmatics in the last decade has seen a process of epistemological expansion, methodological diversity, and re-configuration of the construct of pragmatic competence (Taguchi & Roever, 2017). As an example of this process I will discuss the concept of *intercultural competence* and its influence in recent L2 pragmatics research. Within the framework of intercultural communication, the goal of language learning has shifted from approximating native speaker norms to becoming an intercultural speaker who can mediate across linguistic and cultural boundaries (Byram, 1997, 2012). Successful intercultural speakers are considered to possess two competencies—communicative competence and intercultural competence—which jointly contribute to the ability to navigate communication in intercultural encounters (Byram, 2012). In this presentation, I will first present definitions, theoretical models, and key characteristics of intercultural competence. Then, I will propose a relationship between intercultural competence and pragmatic competence by drawing on the construct of *adaptability*. This relationship will be illustrated with findings from my past research (Taguchi, 2015; Taguchi, Xiao, & Li, 2016). I will conclude my presentation with directions for future research.

↪ **Lecture in English** .

### Access to the event

The lecture will be held online, on Zoom, at 5:15 pm.

To obtain the link to the event:

Please send an e-mail to Susanne Obermayer before 22 April 2021, 4 pm:

[susanne.obermayer@unifr.ch](mailto:susanne.obermayer@unifr.ch)

## References

- Byram, M. (1997). *Teaching and assessing intercultural communicative competence*. Clevedon, UK: Multilingual Matters.
- Byram, M. (2012). Conceptualizing intercultural (communicative) competence and intercultural citizenship. In J. Jackson (ed.), *The Routledge handbook of language and intercultural communication* (p.85–98). New York: Routledge.
- Taguchi N. (2015). Cross-cultural adaptability and development of speech act production in study abroad. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 25(3), 343–365.
- Taguchi, N., & Roever, C. (2017). *Second language pragmatics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Taguchi, N., Xiao, F., & Li, S. (2016b). Development of pragmatic knowledge in L2 Chinese: Effects of intercultural competence and social contact on speech act production in a study abroad context. *Modern Language Journal*, 100, 775–796.

## Short bio statement

Naoko Taguchi is Professor in the English Department at Northern Arizona University, where she teaches courses in applied linguistics. Her primary research interests include second language pragmatics, intercultural competence, technology assisted learning, and English-medium education. Her recent books include *The Routledge Handbook of SLA and Pragmatics* (Routledge, 2019), *Second Language Pragmatics: From Theory to Research* (with Jonathan Culpeper and Alison Mackey; Routledge, 2018), *Second Language Pragmatics* (with Carsten Roever; Oxford University Press, 2017), and *Developing Interactional Competence in a Japanese Study Abroad Context* (Multilingual Matters, 2015). She is the co-editor of a new journal, *Applied Pragmatics* (John Benjamins). She serves/has served on the editorial board for numerous journals, including *Modern Language Journal*, *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, *Language Teaching*, *Contrastive Pragmatics*, *Study Abroad Research in Second Language Education in International Education*, *Studies of Chinese Language Teaching Journal*, and *Japanese SLA*. She also serves on the Executive Board of AAAL (American Association of Applied Linguistics).