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Intercultural Communication Studies (ICS) began in 1991 with the goal of publishing research related to the study of intercultural communication in the many areas involved in the field. The interdisciplinary nature of the journal can be seen in some of the fields scheduled for publication:

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Preface

Joanna RADWAŃSKA-WILLIAMS
Macao Polytechnic Institute, Macao S.A.R. China

This third and final issue of Volume XXIII contains nine articles grouped in four thematic areas, and also, as an additional category of publication, a book review.

The issue begins with four articles investigating issues of identity and society. John BURTON and Kenneth YANG conduct a quantitative study of language preference for Spanish, English or mixed code among Hispanic audiences of television commercials. Kimie OSHIMA discusses the perception of the identity of mixed-race Japanese (*hafu*) in Japanese society, based on in-depth focus sessions. Vivienne LEUNG uses an innovative methodology of drawings in a role-play cloning exercise to investigate the perceptions of body image among young Chinese in Hong Kong. In the fourth paper in this section, Ng Chin Leong reports on social attitudes towards the Speak Mandarin Campaign in Singapore among speakers of Chinese dialects.

The second thematic section contains three papers on intercultural and interpersonal competence which all combine a close investigation of data with novel theoretical perspectives. Xizhen QIN explores instances of intercultural misunderstanding as ultimately facilitative rather than negative phenomena in foreign language education. Qiufen YU applies a relevance theoretic approach to understanding the impact of culture on discourse interpretation. Satomi NAKATSUGAWA and Jiro TAKAI use a quantitative causal design to investigate the relationship between interpersonal competence and salient and non-salient conflict strategies of Japanese students, thereby extending our intercultural understanding of conflict and relationship management.

The issue continues with two specialized articles. In a contribution to the research methodology in Macao Studies, Zi-yu LIN uses data-mining methodology to construct a bibliometric profile of library materials about Macao that are searchable worldwide through the Online Public Access Catalog. Contributing to the pedagogy of intercultural communication, Monica LAKHWANI and Robert ST. CLAIR discuss the difficulties learners face when communicating with baseball metaphors in English, and offer materials which will be useful to intercultural instructors and language teachers.

The issue concludes with a book review by Sabie SURTEE, of the training handbook *Creating Mental Health across Cultures: Coaching and Training for Managers*, edited by Claude-Hélène Mayer and Christian Martin Boness (Pabst Science Publishers, 2013). The handbook introduces the training model MEHTO (Managing Mental Health in Transcultural Organisations), which is theoretically grounded and evidence-based, and is a valuable addition to the literature for trainers and managers.