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EDITORIAL

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It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the eight issue of the Journal of Intercultural Management and Ethics (JIME). This issue marks the end of the second year of JIME.

The four issues of the second year presented contributions from different fields of science dealing with the nexus between culture, ethics and different socio-economic areas. These issues emphasized the cross-disciplinary vocation of the journal and the positioning towards the international and the cross-cultural areas of society.

I am grateful to all the authors that contributed to the journal and made it already possible to index the journal in international databases. Next year we will continue to submit the journal for evaluation in international databases that require a minimum of two years of publishing.

This year we had also three special issues “Culture and Healthcare” edited by Beatrice Ioan, “Culture of Quality and Ethics in Higher Education” edited by Liviu Warter and “Culture and Democracy” edited by Huib Wursten. Special thanks to the three special editors for their great work and for their support during this year. Next year (2020) we will have other three special issues. The first two are edited by Beatrice Ioan and are dedicated to papers presented in the National Conference of Bioethics, Iasi, Romania, 2019. The third special issue will be on “Culture and Innovation” edited by Huib Wursten.

The current issue contains very interesting articles from various fields and from many countries. This issue of JIME depicts the multicultural composition of the research community and the cross-disciplinary approach of this journal.

Paulo Finuras suggests that cultural differences are important to understand how social trust is produced in a different way, considering mainly the dimensions of national culture designated power distance and individualism. He presents how evidence suggests different types of impact resulting from the association between social trust and these dimensions of national culture and how the production of trust is also associated with social inequalities that are also a characteristic of these same dimensions.

Rachel Calipha and David Brock investigate the correlates of merger and acquisition (M&A) success, focusing on the crucial pre-M&A stage and identify the relevant success factors, and link each success factor to a specific phase. Their findings reveal seven phases to the M&A pre-stage, each matched to discrete success factors. For example, in the strategic planning phase, relevant factors included specific knowledge, training in cultural differences, financial power of the acquirer, and market analysis.

Thomas Zweifel suggests that leaders and managers (and people in general) benefit from viewing their organizations (and ultimately life itself) as networks of conversation. Such a constructivist model of reality—while not “true” in the conventional sense of the word—enables effective action and change. The model implies that effective leadership does not depend primarily on financial resources, authority or position in the hierarchy—the corner office—but rather of language: what comes out of our mouth and into our ears. His article offers a methodology for what those effective conversations consist of, and how to conduct them.

Anton Carpinski shows that the concept of "human security" enjoys academic recognition, being used in the vocabulary of political science, international relations theories, strategic security studies etc. He reveals that as a predicate of human security, the "interpersonal securitization" offers a semantic clarification, a conceptual foundation, a deepening of reflection and, through all these, an discursive-pragmatic finality. By rethinking human security as inter-personal securitization, we can obtain a non-formal, personalized and operational under-standing of human security.

Hershey H. Friedman and Linda Weiser Friedman highlight that while humor can perpetuate and preserve stereotypes, it also can redress a wide variety of prejudices and preconceptions. Their paper offers several examples of positive humor. Humor can serve as a teaching tool to reduce stress and make people receptive to serious subjects that range from statistical analysis to social justice. The authors underline that the wrong kind of humor can be a negative, causing irreparable harm to people.

Melentina Toma presents a brief analysis of the main types of social inequalities manifested during the transition period of the Romanian society towards democracy and a competitive economy, the causes of these social differences and the possible remedies. She mentions that the differences in social coexistence thus reflect the deficiencies of institutional regulation, at a macro-social level, deficiencies of political management at national level, doubled by deficiencies in the continuity of moral regulations, the absence of ethics. To these are added deficiencies in individual behaviors, generated by their attitudes, beliefs, worldviews, types of actions. The author concludes that a society based on ethics and the protection of the human being and life is inconceivable outside a thorough education.

Oana Isailă and Hostiuc Sorin reveal that underprivileged populations, a constant component of society, face distinct medical issues. The main aim of their paper is to perform an ethical analysis of the problem of access to dental healthcare (both prophylactic and therapeutic) in underprivileged patients (from a socio-economic point of view), depending on the type on the model dental practitioner-patient relationship.

George Simons reviews and recommends two interesting books on challenging themes: cross-cultural management with insights from brain science and mutual intercultural relations.

I am confident that you will enjoy reading this issue of the Journal and I am looking forward to receiving and publishing your next article.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all my friends and colleagues who contributed to this journal.