

Interactive comment on “More than just translation: challenges and opportunities in intercultural and multilingual research” by L. G. Crane et al.

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The authors describe the process of intercultural and multicultural research, in light of the increasing attention this kind of research methodology has received in human geography, more recently. The paper nicely lays out some of the experiences and then based upon those experiences speak specifically to the issue of using a translator, interviewing in a second language and communicating academic terms.

By separating out the conundrums in this way, they provide the reader with a useful framework for approaching multilingual or multicultural research. The strength of the paper is that it demonstrates how research remains an open process, without a finite

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end. Rather, constant refinement and interactions between the researcher's language and that of the research subject demonstrates that the process of discovery is never quite done and always capable of refinement.

What I would have liked to have heard about more was the ways in which the authors had sought to publish the work and circulate the ideas in a language that was not their own. From the essay it sounds like they are also involved in the dissemination of results in a multicultural and multilingual context. The discussion of the translatability of theoretical terms, specifically when they emerge from culturally specific contexts was compelling.

I wondered if they authors, however, might consider that their research product would consider using the term "transcultural" or "translingual", suggesting that the product of their research was a third space - neither one nor the other, but rather a third product of the process.

I found the paper to be well-written and I think provides a useful discussion paper for researchers who are interested in working across and through languages and cultures that are not their own.

Interactive comment on Soc. Geogr. Discuss., 5, 51, 2009.

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