

## International Communication Research Journal (ICRJ): Special Issue

### Call for Papers: Media and the Refugee Crisis

**Guest Editor: Mohammed Al-Azdee**

The waves of refugees fleeing the war zones in Syria and Iraq have been one of the crucial global issues over the past few years. Syrian and Iraqi refugees have moved into the West in unprecedented numbers. This has been among the most complicated news stories in media coverage, especially that the arrival of all those Arab and Muslim refugees into the West has motivated local politicians to consider how many they can accept, reacting under fear that the incoming refugees would not be integrated into Western cultures.

Mixed cultural identities involve the blending of two or more different cultures through contacts that may occur across either national boundaries, which are called international communication, or cultural boundaries, which are called **transcultural communication**. International communication is predominantly driven by strategic or commercial goals, occurring primarily through the mass media. But, international communication is usually defined in broader terms. As a branch of international communication, transcultural communication is understood as taking place via the movement of people, in this case refugees driven by war, repression, poverty, and/or dreams of a better life.

The transcultural impact of the Syrian and Iraqi refugee exodus has been felt in Europe, the Americas, East Africa, Southwest Asia, and elsewhere. With the availability of social media and the relatively affordable tools, refugees have been able to produce media texts, attracting millions of audiences in both origin and host countries, building bridges of cultural hybridity between homeland and new home. This represents the latest trend in refugee media, where various cultures play off one another; yet, there is a hybrid order in the resulting transcultural texts, simultaneously moving through spaces and across borderlines, creating cultures that are inherently mixed.

This special issue of the *International Communication Research Journal (ICRJ)* focuses on transcultural communication in the context of the current refugee crisis. We are looking for studies that: (1) focus on transcultural links between institutions, texts, and experiences; (2) explain the role of cultural exchange between different participating entities, leading to cultural integration; (3) put media in their broader cultural contexts, illuminating what sociopolitical forces shape transcultural communication; and (4) move above and beyond the bipolar paradigms of “us against them” and “local versus global,” toward the analysis of complex processes surrounding transculturalism.

Although we are especially interested in submissions focused on transculturalism vis-à-vis the refugee crisis, we will consider all submissions on the relation between media and refugees, regardless of theory, research design, and method. All submissions will be considered equally, regardless of authors' academic rank.

The deadline for submitting complete manuscripts is **11:59 P.M. (Eastern Standard Time), Monday, May 14, 2018**. We will try to make editorial decisions on submitted manuscripts within three months of this deadline. Each manuscript will be peer-reviewed anonymously by at least two reviewers. This special issue of the *ICRJ* will be published in summer 2019.

To facilitate prompt action on your submission, please ensure that your manuscript complies with the guidelines below herewith. *Manuscripts that do not comply with the following guidelines will not be sent out for peer-review:*

- All submissions must be made via email to [scrippsij@ohio.edu](mailto:scrippsij@ohio.edu), as MS Word (.docx) files.
- Use the following subject in your submission email: Manuscript Submission | ICRJ Special Issue | Media and the Refugee Crisis.
- Manuscripts are accepted for peer-review on the understanding that they are not already submitted or under review for other journals or conferences, and that they have been submitted to only the *ICRJ*.
- The length of the manuscript should be around 7,000 to 8,000 words, using 12-point font for texts and one-inch margins for pages, but no more than 25 pages of double-spaced texts, excluding notes, references, appendices, tables, and figures.
- Your manuscript should include an abstract of 100 to 150 words and up to 5 keywords.
- For style and referencing, use the APA Stylebook, 6th Edition, exclusively.
- Author identification should appear only on title page and should include academic rank or professional affiliation, applicable university and department affiliation, and full contact information.
- Please remove all author identifications in the main document and the files for your figures and tables.
- A running head with page numbering should be used on the main document and all other files, including title page.
- Authors are responsible for providing copyright permissions for any work previously published in any form and reproduced in the submitted manuscript.
- Manuscripts reporting research on human subjects should include documentation confirming that the research was approved according to standard procedures.
- Please send all inquiries regarding this special issue of the *ICRJ* to the guest editor:

Mohammed Al-Azdee, PhD  
Associate Professor of Mass Communication  
University of Bridgeport (UB)  
College of Public and International Affairs (CPIA)  
Global Media and Communication Studies (GMCS) Program  
Carlson Hall, R227  
303 University Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Phone: (203) 576-4521  
Fax: (203) 576-4967  
Email: [malazdee@bridgeport.edu](mailto:malazdee@bridgeport.edu)