

SPEAKING THE WORLD

Multilingualism and Cultural Fluency
in the Professional World



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(Editors)



PRAISES

In the ever-evolving tapestry of global interaction, *Speaking the World: Multilingualism and Cultural Fluency in the Professional World* is a pivotal exploration of the intersection between language, culture, and professional success. It unravels how multilingualism extends beyond mere communication while unlocking diverse cultural perspectives and fostering international collaboration. This work is essential for professionals and academics, offering a comprehensive understanding of the indispensable role of linguistic and cultural skills in today's world.

– Professor Teboho Moja, New York University and University of South Africa

With artificial intelligence now doing our translations easily and virtual meetings in English giving a superficial – and wrong – impression that we are all similar, it has never been so tempting to avoid language learning. *Speaking the World: Multilingualism and Cultural Fluency in the Professional World* makes a compelling and timely case for the importance of language beyond the immediate practical needs of communication as a gateway to a more profound sensitivity to culture. The book takes us on a stimulating journey to explore different perspectives on how language ability and cultural fluency are complementary skills to improve our understanding of our international partners. This understanding is the precondition to integrating across differences, turning those differences into professional opportunities, and countering the divisive tendencies of our times. A thought-provoking and important book.

– Claudia Mueller, Affiliate Professor for Intercultural Leadership, ESCP Business School

Navigating the intricacies of our globalized society requires more than just linguistic ability; it demands a deep cultural understanding. *Speaking the World: Multilingualism and Cultural Fluency in the Professional World* masterfully captures this essence, exploring how multilingualism and cultural acumen shape the modern professional landscape. This book is an invaluable resource for anyone seeking to comprehend the multifaceted role of language and culture in our increasingly interconnected world.

– Dr. Jane Flatau Ross, International Educator and Author of *Two Centuries of French Education in New York*

Speaking the World: Multilingualism and Cultural Fluency in the Professional World is a beacon in exploring global communication and cultural dynamics. It delves into the heart and shapes our understanding of the world and how cultural fluency becomes a bridge to new opportunities in the professional sphere. This book is not just an academic achievement; it is a crucial guide for navigating the rich tapestry of our global society.

– Darcey H. Hale, Former Head of School, The International School of Boston

We live in a time defined by global interconnectedness. *Speaking the World* stands out as an essential guide for navigating the complexities of today's international landscape. This book masterfully highlights the importance of multilingual communication and cross-cultural understanding as critical assets in our global economy. Insightful analysis and practical recommendations highlight how the journey toward cultivating these competencies must begin early, extending beyond the classroom to include rich, immersive cultural experiences, ultimately contributing to building a better world. Multilingualism and cultural competencies are no longer luxuries for the well-traveled; they are essential for our survival as a species.

– Noumane Rahouti, Ph.D., Lecturer at Sultan Qaboos University

Born and educated in Germany, I moved to France over a decade ago to start working as a professor of Entrepreneurship at a French business school. When my children were quite young, I developed a deep interest in how learning languages and new cultures impact kids and young adults. *Speaking the World: Multilingualism and Cultural Fluency in the Professional World* is an invaluable resource, addressing many of my questions and prompting me to consider new ones. Chapters 3 and 11, which explore multilingualism's intersection with neurodiversity and artificial intelligence, are particularly insightful. I highly recommend this book and hope it sparks widespread discussion, innovative ideas, and meaningful policy development in this vital area.

– Professor Martin Kupp, ESCP Business School

Speaking the World: Multilingualism and Cultural Fluency in the Professional World is a compelling “call to action” on the imperative of multilingualism in our increasingly interconnected global landscape. Almost 50 years since Edward Said’s seminal work *Orientalism* critically examined Western perceptions of non-Western cultures, this volume adeptly navigates us through the complexities of cultural competence in the face of rapid globalization. Using a broad and impressive body of evidence on the benefits of multilingualism, the authors present a cogent argument for reevaluating our approach to education, multiculturalism, and the intricate interplay of language and culture in daily life. This work not only challenges readers to develop multilingual proficiencies but also advocates for their application in fostering cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration. It stands as an essential contribution to the discourse on global communication and understanding. I, for one, say thank you, merci, zikomo.

– John William Bray, Educator, Director of Learning,
iArticulate

Brilliant and a must-read! *Speaking the World: Multilingualism and Cultural Fluency in the Professional World* is indeed a masterclass for anyone seeking to understand and navigate the complexities of our globalized economy. It is a revolutionary guide for entrepreneurs and professionals to develop the critical assets of multilingual communication and cross-cultural understanding.

– Ashish Jaiswal, DPhil (University of Oxford), educationist and author of *Visionary Thinking*

Although I arrived “late” to international education, in the past decade, I have been fortunate to experience firsthand, across contexts and continents, how learning and communicating through more than one language shapes children's developing understanding of, connections to, and engagement in the world. *Speaking the World: Multilingualism and Cultural Fluency in the Professional World* provides invaluable insights from varied disciplines and regions into how language acts as a bridge for building intercultural competence. Its critical and richly-referenced exploration of global competencies and bilingual education offers essential guidance for educators (and parents) preparing young people who will become global leaders and professionals to act on and thrive in an undeniably interconnected world. This collection offers compelling reading for anyone committed to helping develop the next generation of culturally fluent global citizens.

– Shelley Paul, Founder & Lead Consultant, Second Circle

About TBR Books



TBR Books is a program of the Center for the Advancement of Languages, Education, and Communities. We publish researchers and practitioners seeking to engage diverse communities on education, languages, cultural history, and social initiatives. We translate our books into various languages to further expand our impact.

BOOKS IN ENGLISH

Myths and Facts about Multilingualism by J. Franck, F. Faloppa, T. Marinis.

Mosaic of Tongues: Multilingual Learning for the Arabic-speaking World by C. Allaf, F. Jaumont, and S. Tahla Jebril

A Bilingual Revolution for Africa by A.C. Hager M'Boua, F. Jaumont

Bilingual Children: Families, Education, Development by Ellen Bialystok

The Heart of an Artichoke by Linda Ashour and Claire Lerognon

French All Around Us by Kathleen Stein-Smith and Fabrice Jaumont

Navigating Dual Immersion: by Valerie Sun

Conversations on Bilingualism by Fabrice Jaumont

The Hummingbird Project by Vickie Frémont

One Good Question by Rhonda Broussard

Can We Agree to Disagree? by Sabine Landolt and Agathe Laurent

Salsa Dancing in Gym Shoes by T. Oberg de la Garza and A. Lavigne

Beyond Gibraltar; The Other Shore; Mamma in her Village by M. Lorch

The Clarks of Willsborough Point by Darcey Hale

The English Patchwork by Pedro Tozzi and Giovanna de Lima

Peshtigo 1871 by Charles Mercier

The Word of the Month by Ben Lévy, Jim Sheppard, Andrew Arnon

Two Centuries of French Education in New York by Jane Flatau Ross

The Bilingual Revolution by Fabrice Jaumont

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN (available in several languages)

The Adventures of Zenzi and the Talking Bird by Fadzai Gwaradzimba
Biscotte and The New Kid by K. Cohen-Dicker and A. Angeles
Lapin is Hungry by Tania & Olivier Czajka
Uniquely You! by Bertrand Tchoumi
Franglais Soup e by Adrienne Mei
Morgan; Rainbows, Masks, and Ice Cream by Deana Sobel Lederman
Korean Super New Years with Grandma by Mary Kim, Eunjoo Feaster
Math for All by Mark Hansen
Rose Alone by Sheila Decosse
Uncle Steve's Country Home; The Blue Dress; The Good, the Ugly, and the Great by Teboho Moja
Immunity Fun!; Respiratory Fun!; Digestive Fun! By D. Stewart-McMeel
Marimba by C. Hélot, P. Velasco, A. Kojton

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About CALEC



The Center for the Advancement of Languages, Education, and Communities (CALEC) is a nonprofit organization that promotes multilingualism, empowers multilingual families, and fosters cross-cultural understanding. The Center's mission aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Our mission is to establish language as a critical life skill by developing and implementing bilingual education programs, promoting diversity, reducing inequality, and helping to provide quality education. Our programs seek to protect world cultural heritage and support teachers, authors, and families by providing the knowledge and resources to create vibrant multilingual communities.

The specific objectives and purpose of our organization are:

- To develop and implement education programs that promote multilingualism and cross-cultural understanding and establish an inclusive and equitable quality education, including internship and leadership training. [SDG # 4, Quality Education]
- To publish and distribute resources, including research papers, books, and case studies that seek to empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, focusing on language education and cultural diversity, equity, and inclusion. [SDG # 10, Reduced Inequalities]
- To help build sustainable cities and communities and support teachers, authors, researchers, and families in advancing multilingualism and cross-cultural understanding through collaborative tools for linguistic communities. [SDG # 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities]

- To foster solid global partnerships and cooperation, mobilize resources across borders, participate in events and activities that promote language education through knowledge sharing and coaching, empower parents and teachers, and build multilingual societies. [SDG # 17, Partnerships for the Goals]

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- Implement projects that advance dual-language education.
- Organize workshops for parents, conferences with large audiences, meet-the-author chats, and talks with experts in multilingualism.

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In today's globalized economy, multilingualism and cultural fluency have become essential, transforming how businesses and professionals navigate the increasingly integrated world. The importance of cultivating these skills is evident as they enhance personal and professional competencies such as multilingual communication and cross-cultural understanding. To develop these critical assets, both educational systems and workplace environments are emphasizing early language learning and cultural exposure, extending beyond traditional classroom settings to include immersive experiences like study abroad programs and community engagements. These efforts help ignite curiosity about diverse cultures and improve comprehensive cultural dynamics understanding.

Featuring insights from 30 expert contributors, *Speaking the World* offers a comprehensive exploration of multilingualism and cultural fluency across diverse fields, making it an essential resource for educators, professionals, and policymakers alike.

A compelling 'call to action' on the imperative of multilingualism in our interconnected global landscape.

– John William Bray, Director of Learning, iArticulate

A rich and timely exploration of the profound impact of language and cultural navigation on professional life, diplomacy, education, and beyond.

– Dr. Darla K. Deardorff, Chairholder, UNESCO Chair of Intercultural Competences, Stellenbosch University

A pivotal exploration of the intersection between language, culture, and professional success.

– Professor Teboho Moja, New York University and University of South Africa

An invaluable resource for understanding the multifaceted role of language and culture in our interconnected world.

– Dr. Jane Flatau Ross, Author of *Two Centuries of French Education in New York*

An essential guide for navigating the complexities of today's international landscape.

– Dr. Noumane Rahouti, Sultan Qaboos University

An invaluable resource, prompting new questions and ideas about the impact of multilingualism and neurodiversity.

– Professor Martin Kupp, ESCP Business School

A revolutionary guide for entrepreneurs and professionals to develop critical assets of multilingual communication.

– Dr. Ashish Jaiswal, Educationist and Author of *Visionary Thinking*

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