

A MORE COMPLETE EXPERIENCE

Revisiting Digital Production as *connexions*

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connexions issue 2.1 reflects a move toward greater teamwork on a publication now led by coeditors Rosário Durão and Kyle Mattson. As the editorial *we* of *connexions*, we seek dynamic focus in international professional communication, including a richer multimedia experience for our readers. Thus, we draw on our strengths of published peer-reviewed articles and add to it *connexions* Interviews, a new section of the journal. In collaborative spirit, we continue to rely on an editorial board that has helped *connexions* publish on emerging trends in the field and offer groundbreaking understandings of established theories and perspectives of international professional communication.

The inaugural section—*connexions* Interviews—is really an event for us! It represents a collaborative first with Quan Zhou, one of our two new section editors. Together, Quan Zhou and Han Yu will continue to interview, on recorded video chat, many IPC practitioners and scholars of note. In this first issue, we are indeed proud of our interviews with these leaders from across industry and academia in the world: Scott Abel, Kit Brown-Hoekstra, Ricardo Muñoz Martín, Anne Surma, and Kim Yangsook.

This issue represents a first effort, one we sense our readers will value—particularly for its professional, yet vibrantly raw portrait of the workaday worlds of industry leaders and scholars from across the world. In so doing, it reveals what has been left unattended across the scholarly publications of international and intercultural professional and technical communication practice; namely, an integration of sorts.



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While print-friendly digital distribution formats have been well served, digital video has too long been overlooked in the publishing quarters many of our ilk visit. The availability of inexpensive screen recording technologies and video chat options, alongside our commitment to transcribe videos, means we can integrate digital video and print-friendly digital content in meaningful ways. In short, valuable articles alongside recorded and transcribed f2f video interviews of leaders of industry and academia helps set us apart.

Adding to this issue's Research Articles, Grinnell and Hill see value in technical communicators engaging communities of skilled amateurs, whose contributions need not be seen as a zero-sum game for technical communicators working toward professionalizing practice. Instead, they argue, technical communicators should value futures where TC professionals manage the worthwhile contributions of knowledgeable amateurs. In research quite timely in this year of centenary events about "the Great War," Leasum Orwig historicizes the format conventions of certain WWI battlefield reports and memos, arguing that new genres emerged as conditions of war—including a more cohesive administrative history of prior communication practices—took root as organizational memory.

Contributing to *connexions'* Focused Commentary and Industry Perspectives, Ludwig's article weighs advanced social media skills of today's most recent generation of students against that generation's apparent lack of critical thought about how students' online lives often inhibit future career success. Thus, Ludwig identifies avenues for teachers to increase students' awareness of how social media skills can work for, not against, potential career goals. The issue's Teaching Cases includes Mitchell's study of metaphor as vehicle for ESL teachers to help their ESL students build linguistic connections between first and second languages. Findings conveyed emerge from data collected from surveys completed by participating teachers and students. Rounding out the articles and placed in the Literature Review section, Brumberger's article reviews the literature on visual communication, drawing numerous perspectives into a single resource for readers interested in the ways visual communication practices and IPC intersect. Importantly, Mitchell and Brumberger bring published perspectives that, together, portray spoken and visual expression as quite relevant to successful IPC. Enjoy the issue!