



Call for papers Issue 2/2027

Widespread and Embedded Intercultural Mediation

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The current context. Over the past decade, intercultural mediation has undergone profound transformations that raise questions about its role, working conditions and future development. The Covid-19 pandemic exposed the fragility of its institutional and professional recognition: mediation interventions were suspended or treated as secondary, while inequalities in immigrant populations' access to information, services and rights were growing. At the same time, restrictive migration policies, pressure on reception systems and the spread of anti-immigration rhetoric have reduced resources and opportunities for intervention. Mediators have increasingly been called upon to manage critical situations through control and containment, rather than support and inclusion. Yet the need for mediation has not diminished. The speed and proliferation of communication channels, together with the circulation of ambiguous or manipulated information, make mutual understanding, access to services and democratic participation all the more essential.

Our proposal. This issue of *Mondì Migranti* aims to examine *intercultural* mediation as a transformative relational and communicative practice, and as a potential organisational principle, moving beyond on-demand interventions and specialist services. It focuses on mediation that does more than address immediate communication problems: it can also foster dialogue, mutual recognition, access to rights, and the prevention of discrimination and violence, by taking account of the perspectives of those involved and helping transform relationships and potential power imbalances. From this perspective, mediation is relational, as it concerns reception, conflict management and the building of social ties, and communicative, as it involves verbal and non-verbal languages, symbolic meanings, access to information and civic participation.

The issue will also explore practices of *widespread* and *embedded* mediation. Mediation is widespread when it is distributed across actors, relationships and everyday activities, beyond the boundaries of a formally defined professional role; it is embedded when it becomes part of an organization's ways of working and values, shaping practices oriented towards coexistence, equity and participation. Understanding mediation as diffuse and embedded does not mean replacing professional work with informal activities or taking skills and availability for granted. Rather, it means examining how these dimensions interact, reinforce one another and sometimes come into tension.

An invitation to interdisciplinary research. This issue builds on around two decades of research into the reception, mediation and integration of migrants (Santagati, 2004); transformations in mediation work and its emerging professional configurations (Torre and Lagomarsino, 2009; Santagati, 2017); the role of intercultural mediation in new local and global contexts (Colombo and Gilardoni, 2021, 2022; Colombo and Santagati, 2025); inclusive training pathways for mediators in higher education (Colombo, 2025); and the professional and non-professional contexts in which mediation practices develop (Santagati, Ferrari and Barzaghi, 2026). It seeks to renew scholarly debate more than a decade after issue 1/2012 of *Mondì Migranti*, dedicated to "Cultural Mediation" and edited by Lorenzo Luatti and Andrea Torre.

We invite scholars, researchers and practitioners to submit theoretical and empirical contributions on the multiple forms of diffuse and embedded intercultural mediation. Contributions are welcome from a range of disciplinary perspectives - including sociology, anthropology, law, political science, psychology, education, socio-educational studies, and linguistics and communication - and may adopt different methodological

approaches, including qualitative and quantitative research, case studies, comparative analyses and theoretical reflections.

Possible topics

- The work of mediation “in context”: everyday practices, contradictions and achievements.
- Professional competencies and emerging as well as longstanding training needs.
- Facilitating encounters, negotiating differences and the social construction of otherness.
- The relationship between mediation and inclusion in theoretical analysis, linguistic interaction and different social spheres (family, education, housing, work and healthcare).
- Teachers and educators responding to explicit and implicit requests for mediation, including those involving students with special educational needs.
- Civic and urban mediation, democratic participation and collaborative conflict management.
- Community work, conflict prevention and urban safety policies.
- Recognition and enhancement of the human capital of people with a migration background in universities, organisations and career pathways.
- Mediation in residential services, care settings and closed or total institutions, including prisons.
- Cultural welfare, museums, cultural centers and other institutions as spaces for encounter and participation.
- Intersectional and anti-racist approaches, interreligious dialogue and the management of cultural plurality.
- Young people, second generations, youth groups and changing urban contexts.
- Mediation in the workplace, including issues related to religious diversity and the timing and provision of spaces for prayer.
- Ageing among migrant populations, home-based welfare and residential care services for older people.
- Media, social media and public communication: misunderstandings, narratives, disinformation and practices of facilitation.
- Prevention of domestic and gender-based violence, labour exploitation and human trafficking.
- Human rights and recent applications of mediation in legal and prison settings, as well as in international cooperation and migrant reintegration projects.

This list is broad but not exhaustive. We particularly welcome contributions that critically examine the boundaries between professional and diffuse intercultural mediation, document less visible practices and discuss the conditions required to recognise, support and sustain these activities.

Deadline

Original contributions, accompanied by a short biographical note, must be submitted by **28 February 2027**.

Articles may be written in Italian, English or French and must not exceed 35,000 characters, including spaces, notes and references.

Submissions should be made through *Mondi Migranti* page on the FrancoAngeli publisher's website:

<https://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/sommario.asp?idRivista=149>

Select “Propose an article” and follow the instructions provided. All submissions will undergo anonymous peer review.

Only manuscripts that comply with the journal's editorial guidelines will be considered. The guidelines are available at: <https://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/NR/Mm-norme.pdf>

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