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Role/Title:

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Title and abstract of presentation:

**How can interculturality support personal and professional success?  
'Success stories' of highly-skilled refugees in Europe**

**Key words:** professional intercultural communication; interculturality; refugee  
communities

In this paper, we draw data from a study conducted across three countries (UK, The Netherlands, and Austria) to investigate the linguistic and intercultural dimension of professional 'success' in the experiences of 12 highly-skilled refugees as they seek gainful employment in their adopted countries. Using a narrative framework, the paper gives an insight into participants' experiences of displacement and into their different understandings of concepts of professional and personal success, as they share beliefs about what other skilled refugees need to support their transitions into their professional roles.

As the findings discuss challenges and opportunities encountered by professionals from different fields (e.g., doctors, engineers), the paper argues how being and becoming 'good interculturalists' played a fundamental role in supporting all participants to re-built their lives and careers in Europe.

Thus, this paper addresses the point listed in the call concerning the role of language in shaping a 'good interculturalist' with a focus on contexts of migration and displacement.

**Biodata**

Dr Sara Ganassin obtained her PhD in Education from Durham University in the UK with a study on the intercultural dimension of Chinese community schooling. Sara currently works as a Research Associate at School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences of Newcastle University. She researches in intercultural education and communication, with a particular interest for migrant and refugee communities. Sara has also worked for seven years in the voluntary sector as project staff and researcher with migrant women and young people.

Dr Tony Young is a Reader in Applied Linguistics and Communication at Newcastle University in the UK. His research interests focus on intercultural and intergroup communication, both broadly defined. He's currently involved with projects investigating the language needs refugee professionals in the EU; 'internationalisation' in Thai Higher Education, and medical education on communication and living with dementia in Malaysia and the UK.