

GEM&L Newsletter no. 47

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Dear GEM&L colleagues and friends,

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at our recent GEM&L conference in Oslo. For those of you who missed out, GEM&L2026 received a record number of paper submissions: 46! In total, 39 of these papers were presented during our annual conference, which was held at BI Norwegian Business School, May 27th-29th.

As always, I'm grateful to the GEM&L administrative board for their dedication and support in planning and running the conference: Mike Szymanski; Danielle A Taylor; Philippe Lecomte; Michał Wilczewski; Hilla Back; Amy Church-Morel; Carlo Brighi; and Kristina Humonen; as well as Claudine Gaibrois and Komal Kalra who were also part of the Scientific Committee. Special thanks also to my colleagues at BI, and in particular Elisabeth Øiulfstad and Emilie Brauner, for their invaluable practical assistance.

Guided by this year's conference theme, "*The Power of Language(s): Communication Dynamics in Contemporary Organizing*," the papers looked into various aspects of language and power. We discussed structural dynamics, tackling crucial questions regarding team effectiveness, language governance, and justice both in the corporate world and within academia. Reflecting the world around us, a large portion of our program was dedicated to digital technologies and AI – exploring, for example, the role of large language models and digital transformation in professional communication.

This year, we experimented with a couple of new features in our conference program. We opened submissions to both full-length papers (up to 10,000 words) and short papers (2,000–4,000 words) to encourage a wider range of contributions. While full papers followed our classic presentation format at the conference, we tried a new interactive format for short papers, designed to provide feedback for authors in small discussion groups. Additionally, on the final day of the conference, we tried out a collaborative paper development workshop, led by Mike Szymanski. We're eager to see if this workshop started some new research collaborations; perhaps we may see the outcome already at next year's conference?

In addition to the paper presentations, our program featured two excellent keynote speakers. Nina Teigland from the Language Council of Norway presented on the Norwegian language policy and the role of the Language Council, and Markus Pudielko from the University of Tübingen gave a thought-provoking talk on multilingualism and multiculturalism. We also got to hear from Claudine Gaibrois, who in conversation with Michał Wilczewski, presented the second edition of *The Routledge Companion to Cross-Cultural Management* (edited by Natalie Wilmot and Claudine Gaibrois).

Beyond these inspiring talks, the conference was also a nice opportunity to recognize outstanding contributions to our field. Congratulations again to this year's award winners:

- Best Reviewer: Komal Kalra
- New Insight Award: DaJung Woo: *Whose expertise counts—and in what language? Rethinking expertise in multilingual organizational contexts*; and runner-up: Ina Celise Sortland: *How material and spatial conditions shape multilingual workplace practices in a Norwegian fish farming company*
- Best Doctoral Paper Award: Maria-Annikka Jakkula: *Translatorial hospitality. A moral compass for epistemic justice in a multinational corporation*

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- Best Paper Award (tie): Linyu Liu, Jo Angouri & Rebecca Piekkari: *Where smoke lingers: Cigarette smoking as a gendered practice from a discursive-spatial lens*; Tsehaye Haidemariam & Guro R. Sanden: *Algorithmic pragmatics: How large language models reshape professional communication*

Alongside these achievements by our members, we have another major reason to celebrate, which we announced at the conference in Oslo. This June, Philippe Lecomte, GEM&L founder and Honorary President, will become an Honorary Member of EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development) during EFMD's annual conference in Seville. This prestigious honor recognizes Philippe's, and by extension, GEM&L's, longstanding contributions to the EFMD community and management education at large.

There is a lot going on in the GEM&L community at the moment. In case you haven't already seen these calls for papers, please consider the following two publication opportunities (please see the two attached PDFs for more detailed information):

- The journal *International Management* is planning a special issue dedicated to reasoned multilingualism in international management research. Editors are Franck Barès, Jean-François Chanlat and Emmanuelle Dubocage. Submission deadline is July 30th, 2026.
- "Language in entrepreneurship across contexts": Editors Maria Ivanova-Gongne, Maria Hokkinen, and Wilhelm Barner-Rasmussen invite chapter proposals for an edited volume exploring how language functions as a fundamental resource in entrepreneurial and small business settings. Submission deadline is July 31st, 2026.

Please also consider the call for research participation from Michał Wilczewski regarding a study on higher-order thinking and work performance among international employees.

Looking ahead, next year marks a big milestone for GEM&L. Please save the date for GEM&L's 20th Anniversary Conference, which will be hosted by Danielle A. Taylor, at the University of Paris I: Panthéon-Sorbonne from May 26th–28th, 2027.

As always, remember to follow our updates and share your own language-sensitive research highlights on our LinkedIn Page <https://www.linkedin.com/company/geml/> using the hashtag #GEM&L.

On behalf of the GEM&L administrative board, I would like to wish everyone a pleasant summer.

All the best,
Guro

