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Negotiation of L2 Identities in the Age of Transnational Mobility: Enactment, Perception, Status, and Language Development

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Preface

The idea for the current Special Issue was conceived in summer 2019 when the three guest editors were members of the EU-funded COST Action SAREP.¹ The objective of the Action was to bring together scholars interested in exploring the benefits and limitations of one of the biggest catalysts of transnational mobility globally – i.e., international student mobility. Although the Action was largely focused on Study Abroad (SA) and language acquisition, collaboration with colleagues from fields such as migration studies, sociology, cultural studies and psychology facilitated the emergence of multiple foci of investigation, and it was soon realised that the traditional parameters of SA research had been too confining. SA could be viewed as a significant subsection of a much larger phenomenon which incorporates crossing borders and negotiating identities in multiple languages as quotidian and exceptional; long-term and short-term; voluntary and forced; and unidirectional and circular. It was an exciting time for research focusing on mobility, and the decision was made for a Special Issue exploring the multiple and variegated forms of transnationalism, including SA, as a space for identity processes via a second or subsequent language.....