

MODERN LANGUAGES WITH PROFESSOR STEPHEN HUTCHINGS

TALKING POINTS

KNOWLEDGE & COMPREHENSION:

1. What are some of the questions that the Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community programme seeks to answer? Why is it important to answer these questions?
2. Explain what each of the three research strands aims to cover.

APPLICATION & ANALYSIS:

3. How might this programme contribute to the standing of modern languages within academia?
4. In what way does globalisation transcend national boundaries?
5. What experiences do you have of different nationalities and backgrounds coming together within a community? For example, have you migrated from another country and learned another language as a result? Do you have friends who can speak another language? Do you have a heritage language different to what you use in school? Are you part of multiple communities and, if so, to what extent do these communities mix with each other?

SYNTHESIS & EVALUATION

6. How would you go about learning another language? How important do you think it is to be within a country that speaks the language you want to learn? If you are multilingual, what advice can you give someone aiming to learn another language?
7. Has this article made you reflect on your own sense of community? What does community mean to you?
8. The Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community programme relies heavily on the input of early-career researchers. What do you think about their different projects and experiences? Which would you like to have been involved with and why?
9. In what ways has this article developed your understanding of the opportunities modern languages can lead to?

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

Imagine you are a researcher on the Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community programme and you are devising a community workshop to bring speakers of different languages in your community together.

Decide whether you will design your workshop for adults, children or families.

You need to devise activities that are creative, engaging and that celebrate people's differences as well as what they have in common.

Think about activities that:

- encourage people to talk to each other
- enable people to share their heritage language skills
- enable people to share their experiences within your community and beyond
- could be led by multilingual guest speakers, such as community volunteers, local business people, university staff, etc.

You could:

- design a flyer or invitations for the event
- present your aims for the workshop to your class
- lead your peers through one of your workshop activities
- write a newspaper report recounting the success of your event.

EXPLORE THE FUTURE

Imagine you are writing about your own experience as an early-career modern languages researcher.

- What would you be studying?
- Why would you be studying it?
- What would your hopes for the future of your research be?
- What would you like to achieve throughout the course of your career?

MORE RESOURCES

MULTILINGUAL MATTERS

Stephen recommends www.multilingual-matters.com for an interesting balance of theory and practice in multilingualism and language learning.

BRITISH ACADEMY

For interesting information about the importance of modern languages to the UK, including in the post-Brexit era, visit: www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/publications/language-matters-more-and-more and www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/documents/61/Languages-UK-2019-academies-statement.pdf

VOLUNTEERING

If you are interested in offering language support for migrants or refugees, visit actionfoundation.org.uk/projects/action-language or www.refunet.co.uk to find out more.

BRITISH COUNCIL

This website is worth exploring for anything related to language learning: www.britishcouncil.org/