

Ten Years of Cross-Cultural Studies: Education and Science

From Modest Beginnings to a Global Scholarly Platform

Ten years and still going strong. With the first issue of Volume XI (2026), *Cross-Cultural Studies: Education and Science* (CCS&ES) reaches an important milestone—one that invites both celebration and reflection. What began in 2016 as a modest, experimental journal has, over the course of a decade, matured into a stable, international, bilingual scholarly platform representing hundreds of authors, scores of institutions, and a truly global community of researchers across the humanities and social sciences.

Anniversaries are moments not only to take stock of achievements, but also to recall origins. In our case, the beginnings were humble—marked more by conviction than by resources—and rooted in a belief that geography, politics, or disciplinary silos need not constrain scholarly exchange. That belief continues to define CCS&ES today.

Десять лет — и журнал по-прежнему уверенно развивается. С выходом первого номера XI тома (2026) *Cross-Cultural Studies: Education and Science* (CCS&ES) достигает важного рубежа — такого, который располагает и к празднованию, и к осмысленному подведению итогов. То, что начиналось в 2016 году как скромный экспериментальный журнал, за десятилетие превратилось в устойчивую международную двуязычную научную платформу, объединившую сотни авторов, десятки учреждений и по-настоящему глобальное сообщество исследователей в области гуманитарных и социальных наук.

Юбилей — это не только повод оценить достигнутое, но и возможность вспомнить истоки. В нашем случае начало было скромным — определяемым скорее убежденностью, чем ресурсами, — и основанным на вере в то, что научный обмен не должен быть ограничен географией, политикой или узкими рамками дисциплинарных границ. Эта вера продолжает определять облик CCS&ES и сегодня.

Origins: Before the First Issue

Although the journal itself was launched in 2016, its intellectual genealogy reaches back several years earlier. The true prehistory of CCS&ES can be traced to the first virtual academic conference organized in 2008 in Yerevan, Armenia: *Educational and Cultural Space of the CIS and Europe: Information Technologies in Teaching Russian in Non-Language Universities*. At a time when large-scale virtual collaboration was still experimental, these conferences demonstrated the potential of digital technologies to connect scholars separated by borders, time zones, and institutional barriers.

What followed was an unbroken sequence of annual and biennial virtual, hybrid, and in-person conferences originating from Yerevan, Middlebury, Bologna, Moscow, Kyoto, Istanbul, Cheonan, and elsewhere. These gatherings—under banners such as *Planet “Russian Language”*, *Educational Technology in Virtual Linguistic Space*, and *At the Crossroads of Cultures*—generated a growing body of high-quality research that urgently required a stable, peer-reviewed publication venue. The journal was not conceived as an abstract ambition, but as a practical solution to a concrete scholarly need.

The final spark came, appropriately enough, over coffee at a café in Seville, Spain, where Professor Svetlana Minasyan and I discussed how to give permanence to this expanding intellectual network. CCS&ES was the result.

The First Issue: A Modest Beginning

The inaugural issue of CCS&ES appeared in 2016. It consisted of 98 pages and included 11 scholarly articles and reviews by 13 contributors from Armenia, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Türkiye, and the United States. The linguistic balance—six articles in English and five in Russian—set the tone for what would become one of the journal’s defining features: genuine bilingual parity rather than token inclusion.

The thematic range of that first issue was already ambitious. Articles addressed literature and literary analysis, linguistics and sociolinguistics, ethnography, migration studies, and what were then broadly termed “smart technologies” in education. From the outset, CCS&ES positioned itself not as a narrowly specialized journal, but as an interdisciplinary intellectual platform responsive to cultural, linguistic, and pedagogical change.

Equally important was an early institutional milestone: registration with the Library of Congress, ensuring both international visibility and long-term archival stability. The principle that “manuscripts do not burn” guided our approach from the beginning—embracing digital dissemination while safeguarding the durability of the scholarly word.

Growth and Continuity: 2016–2025

Over the next ten years, CCS&ES demonstrated a rare combination of growth and stability. The journal maintained a steady publication rhythm—three issues per year—each averaging between 100 and 150 pages. Across thirty issues, we have published more than 400 articles by authors representing dozens of countries.

The geographic expansion of the journal is particularly striking. In the early years, contributors came primarily from Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, China, Slovakia, Türkiye, and the United States. By 2025, the author pool and editorial board had expanded to include scholars from Finland, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, South Korea, India, Georgia, Croatia, Spain, Belgium, Austria, Romania, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, Scotland, and beyond. Few journals of comparable size can claim such consistent international diversity.

Throughout this growth, the journal has remained genuinely bilingual. While the inaugural issue leaned slightly toward English, later volumes demonstrated flexibility rather than prescription. Some issues featured near parity; others reflected the linguistic needs of particular scholarly conversations, such as Volume X, which included eight Russian-language and four English-language articles. This adaptability has been a strength rather than a liability. Professional recognition followed. CCS&ES is now indexed in major international databases, including WorldCat, DOAJ, ROAD, Armenian Researchers, CyberLeninka, and the Russian Electronic Library. Over time, the journal has also established partnerships and visibility alongside major international publishers and scholarly ecosystems, reinforcing its credibility and reach.

Thematic Evolution and Intellectual Reach

While quantitative growth tells one story, the evolution of the journal's thematic profile tells another. From the beginning, CCS&ES rested on four core pillars: literature; linguistics and translation; pedagogy; and cultural studies. These remain central today. What has changed is the depth, sophistication, and methodological diversity with which these themes are addressed.

Early discussions of educational technology have evolved into rigorous analyses of digital pedagogy, online learning environments, and, most recently, the implications of artificial intelligence. Articles now examine the use of large language models such as ChatGPT in language instruction, digital platforms tailored to specific linguistic communities, and the ethical and methodological challenges posed by AI-assisted learning.

At the same time, the journal has sustained a long-standing interest in migration, demographic change, and academic mobility—topics that have only grown more urgent over the past decade. Recent issues have expanded into related areas, including gendered framing in political translation, ethnopsychological approaches to therapy, neurodiversity in inclusive classrooms, and applied coaching models in education.

Methodological innovation has been another hallmark. CCS&ES has published work on flipped classrooms, SWOT analysis in academic management, and hybrid pedagogical models that integrate traditional humanistic inquiry with data-driven tools. This openness to innovation has allowed the journal to remain intellectually agile without abandoning its humanistic core.

Recognition and Validation

The journal's trajectory has also been marked by external recognition. In its early years, CCS&ES received the Gold Medal of VDNKh at the Moscow International Book Exhibition and was named Laureate of the International Exhibition of Educational Technologies—important affirmations at a formative stage.

More broadly, the journal's sustained presence, international indexing, and expanding partnerships serve as ongoing validation of its relevance. CCS&ES has become not merely a repository of articles, but a multi-layered ecosystem of scholarly exchange.

Acknowledgment: The Driving Force Behind the Journal

No account of the journal's first decade would be complete without recognizing the individual without whom none of this would have come to fruition: Svetlana Minasyan, Managing and Associate Editor from the very beginning.

It was Svetlana who fostered the earliest conferences, who insisted on technological openness when it was still met with skepticism, and who has tirelessly worked to bring together scholars across continents, languages, and academic traditions. Her vision—marked by intellectual rigor, organizational discipline, and genuine collegiality—has torn down barriers of space and time. Hundreds of scholars and educators have participated in this ongoing experiment in collaboration because of her sustained, often invisible labor.

CCS&ES is, in many ways, the institutional embodiment of her belief that cultural and linguistic competence can—and must—be strengthened through shared scholarly effort.

Looking Ahead

As we enter our second decade, we do so with gratitude and confidence. We thank our authors, reviewers, readers, and institutional partners who have “journeyed with us,” often repeatedly, over many years. But anniversaries are not endpoints. The continued success of CCS&ES depends on new voices, critical engagement, and the willingness of scholars to test ideas across disciplinary and cultural boundaries.

We therefore invite you—as readers and contributors—to continue shaping this platform. Send us your articles, reviews, suggestions, and, yes, your criticisms. Share the journal with colleagues, departments, libraries, and institutions. In doing so, you help ensure that the next ten years are as intellectually vibrant as the first.

Ten years ago, CCS&ES was a new beginning. Today, it stands as a durable, international scholarly community. The work continues.

Thomas R. Beyer, Jr.
Editor-in-Chief
C.V. Starr Professor emeritus