

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910460985703321
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Titolo	Culture and identity through English as a Lingua Franca : rethinking concepts and goals in intercultural communication // by Will Baker
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, [Germany] ; ; Boston, [Massachusetts] : , : De Gruyter Mouton, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	1-5015-1588-8 1-5015-0214-X 1-5015-0216-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (296 p.)
Collana	Developments in English as a Lingua Franca, , 2192-8177 ; ; Volume 8
Disciplina	306.442/21
Soggetti	Intercultural communication - Social aspects Identity (Philosophical concept) - Social aspects Lingua francas English language - Foreign countries English language - Social aspects Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Acknowledgements -- Table of contents -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. Intercultural communication and ELF -- Chapter 3. Understanding culture through ELF -- Chapter 4. Culture and identity through English as a lingua franca -- Chapter 5. Re-examining intercultural communicative competence: intercultural awareness -- Chapter 6. ELF and intercultural awareness: implications for English language teaching -- Chapter 7. Putting it into practice: A study of a course in ELF and ICA for language learners in Thailand -- Chapter 8. Conclusion -- Appendices -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The use of English as a global lingua franca has given rise to new challenges and approaches in our understanding of language and communication. One area where ELF (English as a lingua franca) studies, both from an empirical and theoretical orientation, have the potential for significant developments is in our understanding of the

relationships between language, culture and identity. ELF challenges traditional assumptions concerning the purported 'inexorable' link between a language and a culture. Due to the multitude of users and contexts of ELF communication the supposed language, culture and identity correlation, often conceived at the national level, appears simplistic and naïve. However, it is equally naïve to assume that ELF is a culturally and identity neutral form of communication. All communication involves participants, purposes, contexts and histories, none of which are 'neutral'. Thus, we need new approaches to understanding the relationship between language, culture and identity which are able to account for the multifarious and dynamic nature of ELF communication.
