

**LEARNING THROUGH SHARING :
OPEN RESOURCES, OPEN PRACTICES, OPEN COMMUNICATION**

**Human voices in transnational online forums
in distance language learning**

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Abstract

This article used Karen Risager's proposals for a transnational language and culture pedagogy as a starting point to analyse task based forum contributions in an advanced German language and culture distance education course in the Department of Languages at the Open University, UK. The data is based on postings to 12 themed forums from a pool of some 120 students, and statistical data from VLE log entries. The forums are highly integrated with the course and largely participant led. Both course and forum discussions correlated with the 'organisational and discursive traits' of Risager's transnational paradigm (2007: 193). The socio-cultural composition of the participant group appeared to support the emergence of transnational discourse spaces which reinforced and enhanced the courses intercultural objectives. The decline in posting activity over time, and the suitability of some forum themes within the overall strategy remain areas for further investigation.