



**Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem**  
Corvinus University of Budapest

# AGE TALKS?

Communicating Ages in  
the Communication Age

Book of Abstracts

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## **Communicating Ages in the Communication Age**

### **Book of Abstracts**

Edited by Eszter Deli, Márton Gergely Rétvári  
and Judit Sebestény

The Institute of Behavioural Science and Communication Theory  
& The Institute of World Economy

Budapest 2019



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World Economy

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### ***Generation-specific linguistic features in student-teacher e-mail communication***

Written communication between university teachers and students presents a host of inter-generational communicative difficulties. Based on the results of an empirical study of how social deictic operations and addressing conventions are employed in higher education, and assuming the perspective of cognitive pragmatics (Verschueren, 1999), we discuss the ways in which traditional forms of written linguistic interaction are transformed in the text types of digital communication. Our point of departure is that teachers and students used to resolve organizational matters primarily during contact hours and office hours, but with the spread of digital communication, email and chatting opportunities enhanced the role and share of written exchanges (cf. Bloch, 2002; Chejnova, 2014; Dürscheid & Frehner, 2013). Our research is based partly on data from interviews conducted with teachers and students, and partly on a database of university teachers' correspondence (including chat logs) with students. Our main focus was on the initiation and closing of exchanges (cf. Bou-Franch, 2011; Spilioti, 2011; Valdwogel, 2007). In addition, we also studied pragmatic operations bearing on the construal of the discourse partners' relationship, hypothesizing that customs and expectations in this area display characteristic inter-generational differences. The results suggest that the e-mail communication of university students manifests the following innovative tendencies: (i) use of greeting formulae traditionally restricted to oral communication; (ii) among linguistic devices related to politeness and the construal of the discourse partners' relationship, a significant role is played by those presupposing an expectation of continuous online presence; (iii) formulaic leave-taking devices also increasingly involve situativity, foregrounding transient aspects of the discursive situation.



**Keywords:** e-mail communication, inter-generational communicative difficulties, interactions in higher education, initiation and closing of e-mails

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***Children talk – Talking with pre-school kids about childhood***

Childhood can be seen as a social construction (James and Prout, 1997). Childhood researchers usually examine Childhood only from the adult's viewpoint. In our research, we aimed at understanding children's viewpoint about this stage of life through the investigation of their verbal consciousness (Tarasov, 1996). We furthermore attempted to understand their knowledge about some abstractions involved in their daily lives. As