

Why Discourse Matters?

Graduate Conference on Theoretical and Methodological Practices of Discourse Approaches

April 25-26, 2014 Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany

Call for Applications

Since the seventies, different theories on discourse and subject-identity positions have been extensively reflected and elaborated as methodological and theoretical approaches in the social sciences. Choosing and following a specific *discourse milieu* becomes one of the crucial academic interests for scholars looking into changes, heights, and dimensions of discourses in societal forms. In fact, each milieu has established understandings and interpretations of key concepts such as “discourse”, “hegemony”, “power”, “knowledge”, and even the meaning of employing a “discourse analysis” in research. Worth noting is also the interplay between and influence of these categories in the studies on gender, race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, justice, and nation, and the extending of inquiry into further subject positions.

The conference will focus on the theoretical and methodological implications of the discourse approaches in interdisciplinary social science academic research. We are interested in discourse analysis tools of inquiries and their intersection with other techniques of qualitative research such as biographical, narrative analysis, ethnography, or case studies. Therefore, we also call for contributions that examine the traveling nature and deployment of discourses in international arenas, as well as the inherent changing structure of discourses, emphasizing its mutations and flow in a synchronic and diachronic way.

The conference is scheduled as a two-day graduate students’ workshop. In each session, participants working in the relevant thematic field will be allotted 10 minutes to give their contribution (based on their application abstract; a paper is not required). The presentations will be followed by questions and a discussion.

The Conference will be accompanied by [Prof. Dr. Johannes Angermüller](#) (University of Warwick), who will kick-off the workshop with a presentation and discussion on discourse and positioning in the academic practice. Prof. Angermüller will also participate in the ensuing sessions on the specific thematic fields.

All conference proceedings and discussions will be held in English. The conference will take place at the Goethe University in Frankfurt a.M., Germany.

Conference Sessions and Relevant Themes:

Boundaries of Discourse? Thinking Continuity and Discontinuity in Discourse Analysis

- Conceiving continuity and discontinuity in/of discourses across time and space (e.g. intertextuality, re-articulation...)
- Same discourse but different fields of enunciation? How to take into account different contexts (national, regional, institutional, media, political) in discourse analysis?
- On the boundaries between discursive and non-discursive practices

Power and Resistance. On the Relation between Discourses and Counter-Discourses:

- The relationship between discourses and counter-discourse, both in theoretical and practical approaches
- How meanings are subverted, changed or re-appropriated by subjects
- The intrinsic relation between power and resistance
- The relation between racism and anti-racism discourse

Discourses in International Relations: the Interpretation and Appropriation of International Rules, Concepts, and Norms:

- Interpretation of rules, concepts, and norms in the international arena
- Discourses on compliance and implementation in international relations
- Questions of power and legitimacy in international organization and global governance
- Discourses on justice, legitimacy, and equality in the global setting

Narrated and Embodied Discourses: Exploring Connections between Narrative and Discourse Analysis:

- The intersectionality of differences, discrimination policies, feminisms, nationalisms, racisms and sexism and colonialities
- Open approaches to narrative, analyzing speech acts as loci of performativity
- The *spoken* identities, biographies and narratives and their relations toward the discursive power formations
- Identity debates and the interpretative and reconstructive methodological strategies in the qualitative research (in particular narrative, biographical and ethnographical)
- Discursive analyses of individual social positioning and the politics of belonging

Application:

Please complete the [online application form](#) for participation. Upon submission, you will receive a confirmation email.

A *limited number* of places are reserved for non-presenting participants. To apply, please complete the [online application for non-presenting participants](#).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at da.conference.2014@gmail.com.

Timeline:

Applications due: March 21, 2014

Notification of acceptance: March 28, 2014

Conference dates: April 25-26, 2014

Costs and travel stipends:

Participation in the conference is free of charge.

A *limited number* of travel stipends will be available for participants. To apply for one of the travel stipends, please add a letter of motivation and a short CV to your application.

Conference organizers:

The conference is organized by the doctoral students members of the [Doc-AG "Discourse Analysis"](#) in the framework of the International Postgraduate Center (IPC) and the IPP Transnational doctoral program of the Faculty for Social Sciences at the Goethe University in Frankfurt a.M.

Discourse Analysis Doc-AG members:

Beatriz Junqueira Lage Carbone

Luis Manuel Hernández Aguilar

Marija Grujić

Aviv Melamud

Kristina Nottbohm

Contact: In case of any questions regarding the conference and the application process, please contact us via email at da.conference.2014@gmail.com.