



**Call for Papers, DiscourseNet Congress 4 in Budapest, Hungary, October 20-22, 2021**

**conference theme: The Impact of Discourse Studies on the Contemporary World - Making a Difference Inside and Outside the Academia**

**main organizer: Péter Furkó, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary**

**co-organizers: Jan Krasni (Tyumen, Russia), Benno Herzog (Valencia, Spain), Jens Maesse (Giessen, Germany), Johannes Angermuller (Open University, UK)**

**local organizers: Dóra Tóth (KGU), Csilla Dér (KGU), Ágnes Abuczki (KGU), Nóra Csontos (KGU), Judit Nagy (KGU), Ildikó Vaskó (ELTE)**

The field of Discourse Studies (DS) is an expansive, dynamic, and rapidly developing academic field which is especially equipped for dealing with broader social / societal concerns illustrated by the diversity and expanse of its methods and concerns (cf. Angermuller et al. 2014: 2):

- DS scholars belong to a variety of *disciplinary fields*, e.g. (socio)linguistics, sociology, (social) economics, philosophy, literary criticism, anthropology, psychology, political science, etc. and *intellectual traditions* (rule-based, experience-based, poststructuralist, hermeneutic, semiotic, psychoanalytical, etc.);
- DS scholars apply a variety of *research methodologies*, with the appropriate *data-sampling and analytical* tools: here we can mention corpus-based and corpus-driven approaches, sociolinguistic and ethnographic interviews, matched-guised techniques, thought experiments and discourse completion tasks as well as the emerging importance of triangulation and approaching the data from different plausibility contexts, i.e. thoroughness in terms of sampling as well as analysing data; Some methodologies, like participatory research and action research, are explicitly aimed at triggering change in a problematic situation during the research process and considering the effects and outcomes of the researchers' intervention.



- the *goals and aims* of Discourse Studies also display a vast expanse of approaches and focuses, especially in terms of the theoretical-descriptive-applied-critical dimensions: most linguistic analyses inspired by discourse-theoretical considerations lend themselves to social criticism, while applied research and critical analyses are also ultimately geared toward effecting social change.

The primary aim of the congress is to explore ways in which the theory and practice of Discourse Studies can bring about social change. We invite participants to share ideas about how to help individuals and communities who are marginalized, discriminated against or disenfranchised (in the broader sense). We will also aim at co-creating opportunities with a variety of non-academic groups, including political decision makers, political activists, journalists, publishers, social and technological influencers, etc. A secondary aim and proposed practical outcome of the congress is to develop an active network (a possible sub-network / working group of DiscourseNet) comprising individual researchers, representatives of academic and other research producing organizations, publishing organisations, activists, and cultural practitioners interested in coordinating and streamlining their activity towards effecting social change for disenfranchised individuals and groups.

Possible project and paper proposals for the conference include but are not limited to the following:

- collaboration between DS scholars and non-academics (e.g. journalists, political/human rights activists, artists etc.) who share the concern for helping disenfranchised individuals and groups;
- flagging social issues and societal concerns the handling of which can particularly benefit from the methodology, theory and practice of Discourse Studies;
- exploring the social, economic, political, legal, behavioural, institutional, historical, cultural or linguistic dimensions of a given disenfranchisement / discrimination issue;
- identifying processes and actors in bringing about marginalization, isolation, discrimination or disenfranchisement;



- identifying processes and actors in bringing about social / technological / political change that would reduce / eliminate the disenfranchisement / marginalization of a particular social group;
- the immigration policy of particular political actors as a disenfranchisement / human rights concern;
- ensuring independence, impartiality, objectivity and consistency in the evaluation and / or criticism of social / technological / political processes of discrimination;
- (critical) discourse analysis of discursive strategies and social figurations associated with discrimination / disenfranchisement;
- the role of discursive strategies and value judgements in perpetuating discrimination / disenfranchisement;
- strategies of disseminating research findings on disenfranchisement to a broader, non-academic public;
- the relation between symbolic and material order of discourse;
- the impact of emancipatory and anti-discriminatory discourse;
- authoritarian discourses and discourses of neo-authoritarianism.

Other topics targeting the social utility of Discourse Studies in less politicized settings might include but are not exclusive to the contribution of Discourse Studies / discourse analysis to (the study of):

- language acquisition inside and outside institutional settings (first and second language acquisition, EFL, TESL, etc.);
- cross-cultural communication;
- institutional discourse, organizational culture, dispositif, apparatus analytics;
- business communication (as both cross-cultural communication and institutional discourse);
- interviewing techniques (e.g. with a view to providing advice for gatekeepers);
- the theory and practice of translation and interpreting;
- psychology and psychoanalysis (e.g. the contribution of narrative discourse analysis);
- literary theory and literary analysis;
- gender studies;
- discourses of technology and design.



**Confirmed plenary speakers:**

Elizabeth Peterson, University of Helsinki

Lauren Hall-Lew, The University of Edinburgh

**Deadline for the submission of abstracts:** December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**Notification of acceptance:** January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Registration closes:** June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Abstracts of no more than 200 words should be submitted in English by December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The submission Web page for DNC4 is <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=dnc4>.

Notifications of acceptance are expected to be communicated by January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If accepted, applicants will have to pay the DiscourseNet Association membership fee of EUR30 (<https://discourseanalysis.net/DN>) before registering for the DNC4 congress to confirm their participation.

In case of an on-site conference, a registration fee of EUR 80 will apply (in addition to the DN Association's membership fee) and a reduced registration fee of EUR 50 for enrolled students without access to institutional funding. The congress registration fee will include catering, a conference package and access to all talks and panels. There is a limited number of places. Registration will be closed when full.

After the conference, a book proposal for a thematic volume (or possibly two) based on selected conference papers will be submitted to Palgrave Macmillan for the "Postdisciplinary Studies in Discourse" series.

**Conference format**

We are planning DNC4 as a physical event. However, we are aware of the impact that the global pandemic may have on our event. We are monitoring the situation and we will flexibly respond to any challenges arising. We will be working towards appropriate solutions once the situation changes and may consider the possibility of an online event. We will regularly post the latest news on our conference homepage (<https://discourseanalysis.net/DN/DNC4>) and update the call for papers accordingly. In case of an online event, a reduced registration fee of EUR 30 will apply (in addition to the DN membership fee).



## Registration

Please wire the DN membership fee and the registration fee to the following bank account:

NAME: DiscourseNet

IBAN: DE61830654080004194489

BIC/SWIFT: GENODEF1SLR

Bank address:

Deutsche Skatbank

Zweigniederlassung der VR-Bank

Altenburger Land eG

Altenburger Straße 13

04626 Schmölln

Germany

Please include your name and "DNC4 registration fee + DN membership fee"

In case of an on-site conference, a registration fee of EUR 80 will apply (in addition to the DN Association's membership fee) and a reduced registration fee of EUR 50 for enrolled students without access to institutional funding. The DiscourseNet Association membership fee of EUR30 (<https://discourseanalysis.net/DN>) needs to be paid before or while registering for the DNC4 congress, in the latter case it needs to be added to the registration fee (80+30=110 EUR in case of regular registration, 50+30=80 EUR for reduced registration).