

# Discourses of War and Peace: reflections on and around the aggression against Ukraine

14 April 2022

## DiscourseNet ad-hoc workshop

In the light of the ongoing campaign of the Russian government against the Ukrainian people, DiscourseNet, the international association of discourse researchers, expresses its deep solidarity with all the people who suffer (directly and indirectly) from the military conflict — especially our friends and colleagues from Ukraine directly affected by it. We are fully aware of the fact that the current situation will dramatically worsen the life and work conditions of our Russian colleagues, too.

Facilitating the academic exchange of different communities, beyond language boundaries, discriminatory categories and social hierarchies as well as using our research to foster democratic decision making, civic rights, various forms of informed activism, academic freedom, and peace are constituent parts of our network's mission.

We observe the war in Ukraine with great concern. DiscourseNet encourages critical research to monitor the invasion and its effects on Ukraine, Russia and all the countries involved. In this mission, we expressly want to strengthen our relationship with Ukrainian as well as Russian scholars.

In the next few weeks, DiscourseNet will promote further discussions and host events about what discourse researchers can do in order to provide non-violent and democratic spaces for conflict prevention and resolution. We will discuss especially the power of words in armed conflicts as well as the power of discourses for peaceful dialogue.

The first ad-hoc workshop will take place as an online event on 14 April 2022.

We invite researchers *from all around the world* to get in touch with us and to debate this pressing question in order to prevent further militarisation and war. Please send your abstracts (title + 50 words) to:  
jens.maesse@sowi.uni-giessen.de

**Deadline: 7 April 2022**

Please submit your abstracts only as pdf or text copy in email.

We will inform you within two days about the programme of the ad-hoc workshop.

For further information visit:  
<https://discourseanalysis.net/en/discourses-of-war-and-peace>

**We invite ad-hoc contributions including the following topics:**

- War and propaganda
- War on words and words of war
- War reportage in national and supranational media
- Censorship and freedom of speech
- Discursive political economy of war
- Peace, communication and diplomacy
- Ethical positions derived from discourse theory
- The materiality of belicistic discourse production
- The possibilities of truth in situations of war
- Casus belli (the discursive justification of war)
- The racialised construction of “European” vs. “Non-European” refugees
- War as a constant state of affairs in neoliberal capitalism post-1991
- The reheating of the Cold War
- The discursive construction of liberal democracy and authoritarianism
- Minoritised populations and linguistic injustice
- Right-wing extremism and neofascist ideologies
- Antisemitism, Racism, and Hate Ideology
- The discourse of the borders of “Europe”, the EU and NATO
- Imagining post-Putin Russia
- Kiev or Kyiv? Understanding and reversing the coloniality of language
- Language bans as casus belli
- Discourses of war, gender and sexuality
- Digital Conflicts – Hacking the Discourses

