Visiolinguistics:
Panoramas of languaging and visuality.

13-15 September 2023, online

The Open University

DiscourseNet

DN 29

Call for papers

As ocularcentric animals, humans engage with the world primarily through our eyes. Using language, i.e. languaging, is deeply mediated by the visual modality. Although linguists since Saussure have traditionally regarded the auditory channel of speech as primary in the study of language, in more recent times we have also recognised the importance of visuality in languaging, for example in our attention to computer-mediated textual communication, multimodality, semiotic landscapes, embodied sociolinguistics, matched-guise testing, sign language, translanguaging and raciolinguistics. Either in the form of printed letters on a page and digital text-signs on a screen or in the form of signifiers inscribed on and through our bodies, visuality plays an important role in how we communicate with each other. And indeed, visuality also seems of utmost importance as a methodological tool in the analysis of languaging, when we think of phonetic symbols and spectrographs, transcripts of interaction or graphs used in quantitative analysis of variation, for example. In a word, we hear with our eyes, as much as we see with our ears.

With this online conference, we aim to understand the intersections between languaging and visuality. We take both a historical and a future-oriented perspective to unite a wide range of engagements with language and visuality under a new panorama that could be called visiolinguistics. This is an approach that conceptualises our visual sense as deeply interconnected with our auditory and articulatory organs.

We invite individual pre-recorded paper contributions that can provide novel insights into understanding visiolinguistics. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

Language and racialisation • Language and gender identities • Gerontolinguistics • Crossing • Multimodality and transmodality • Visual discourse analysis • Visual anthropology • Visual sociology of knowledge • Language and materiality • Visualising languages through national flags • Body language, facial expressions and gestures • Sign language • Captions and text-image interfaces • Written literacy • Graffiti • Calligraphy • Linguistic and semiotic landscapes • Geosemiotics • Audiovisual surveillance • Visual narratives • Computer-mediated communication • Visual methods for analysing languaging (e.g. concordance lines, spectrographs, quantitative graphs, diagrams, tables and transcripts) • The language of maps and mapping languages and dialects • Media aesthetics • Translanguaging • Books and print media • Television • Language in art • Logos and symbols • Iconicity • Scripts and writing systems • Statistics, numbers, mathematics and economic figures

Keynote speakers

Jonathan Rosa, Stanford University, USA
Korina Giaxoglou, The Open University, UK
Jan Krasni, Technical University of Berlin, Germany
Lauren O'Hagan, The Open University, UK
Birgül Yılmaz, University of Reading, UK

Organisation

DN29 Visiolinguistics will be fully online (details can be found under **Format** below). The conference is organised by DiscourseNet in collaboration with the School of Languages and Applied Linguistics at the Open University UK.

Academic committee
Jaspal Naveel Singh, The Open University, UK (lead organiser)
Johannes Angermuller, The Open University, UK
Susanne Weber, Philipps University of Marburg, Germany
Leandro Paolicchi, National University of Mar del Plata, Argentina
Ben Evans, The Open University, UK
Jan Zienkowski, Free University of Brussels, Belgium
Annette Knaut, Augsburg University, Germany
Stefanie Schneider, The Open University, UK

Abstract submission

- Please submit your 300-word abstracts by **17 April 2023**, including title, main argument and methodological orientation (and references, if any) to the email address: dn29@discourseanalysis.net
- The main conference language will be English. Please get in touch with the organisers, if you would like to present in another language.
- Paper presentations should be no longer than 15 minutes, plus 10 minute Q&A.
- The academic committee will vet the abstracts and acceptance/rejection letters will be sent out in early May 2023.

Registration fees and DN membership

The conference is free of charge, but we expect all participants to be fee-paying members of the DiscourseNet Association (the annual membership fees are 30 Euros). More information can be found here: https://discourseanalysis.net/DN

Format

DN29 Visiolinguistics will be held as a virtual conference. However, we do not want to simply emulate an offline conferencing experience, so we have decided to experiment with alternative formats. We hope that our ideas will facilitate discussion and interaction among you and help you engage with each other's work in mutually productive and non-hierarchical ways.

Pre-recorded presentations by 15 July 2023
In order to give you more control over the way you want to present your work, and to accommodate participants from all time-zones, we invite all presenters to pre-record their presentations and upload them to our virtual platform by 15 July 2023. We will assign each presentation to a thematic panel of four and publish them on our website in mid-August 2023, one month ahead of the conference. In this way, all participants will be able to view all pre-recorded presentations in a time convenient to them.

Live discussions on 13, 14 and 15 September 2023
During the conference days, we meet online to discuss your presentations. We will invite each presenter to become a respondent to another presentation and deliver a five-minute commentary on your colleague's work. We will then open up a question-and-answer session with all panel audiences. Invited speakers and other scholars will act as discussants for each panel.

Publications

We are planning to compile an edited volume or a special issue in a journal on the theme of visiolinguistics. We will invite selected presenters to write up their paper into a full-length article or book chapter. Moreover, all accepted papers are automatically invited to write up their paper as a short DiscourseNet Collaborative Working Paper.

Tentative outline of programme (Note: All times are British Summer Time.)

Wednesday, 13 September 2023
11.00-11.30 Welcome to the conference
11.30-13.00 Parallel sessions 1, 2, 3
13.00-14.30 Parallel sessions 4, 5, 6

Thursday, 14 September 2023
11.00-11.30 General discussion forum
11.30-13.00 Parallel sessions 7, 8, 9
13.00-14.30 Parallel sessions 10, 11, 12

Friday, 15 September 2023
11.00-11.30 General discussion forum
11.30-13.00 Parallel sessions 13, 14, 15
13.00-14.30 Parallel sessions 16, 17, 18
14.30-15.00 Closing