



Call for participation

DiscourseNet Winter School No 8

Discourse studies and power from the margins

Tuesday 16 until Friday 19 January 2024
Universitat de València, Spain

Discourse studies is an academic field that has gained interest by several disciplines over the last three decades. Even though the theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches in doing discourse studies seem to broaden and to become more diverse, the most current approaches applied all over the world are originated in western traditions. The absence of epistemologies of the South has been questioned by post-and decolonial thinkers, as well as by feminist scholars. The critiques concern the epistemic and conceptual legacy of discourse studies as well as its contextual applicability. Discourse studies emerged in a research system deeply connected with colonial and imperial ways of 'world-making'. By using terms, theories, methods and languages evolving from this (Western) system they reproduce structures of power and knowledge and the colonality of being within global power relations.

Our aim here is to re-think discourse theory and analysis not only regarding methodologies and methods, but also in the context of its interconnectedness with economic, social, political and cultural power relations on a global level. More precisely, we encourage research where questions about the situatedness of knowledge of researchers and research subjects are critically examined. Is it possible to argue from the South (and with Southern theories) by using research methods developed in the West? What does it mean to provincialize European knowledge systems in discourse studies, to dissolve the centre-periphery-dichotomies, and to argue from (or with) the margins, i.e., non-dominant, subalternised traditions? Can we establish some kind of 'border thinking' by examining bifurcations between different forms of power and knowledge?

The core interest of the DiscourseNet Winter School No 8 lies in

- rethinking Discourse Studies from the structuring conditions of doing research within global power relations,
- understanding contemporary societies and their social phenomena at local and global levels, and
- peripheralizing discourse studies from a Southern perspective: decolonising (in)visibilities in discourse studies.

The aim of DiscourseNet Winter School is to bring together MA as well as PhD students across disciplines (social sciences, linguistics, cultural studies, humanities, etc.). Advanced BA students with their own research project are also welcome.

In different, topic-related workshops we will collaboratively address theoretical, methodological, and practical challenges of re-thinking (and decolonizing) Western hegemonic structures in discourse studies. Both initial ideas and more advanced thesis projects are welcome.

Please send your proposals for participation (max. 250 words) to dns8@discourseanalysis.net until September 5th, 2023. The abstract should include the problem statement, the (preliminary) object of study and research question(s), as well as ideas and questions about the methodological approach of the research project.

We will inform you on October 10th, 2023 whether you have been accepted or not. The DiscourseNet Winter School is free of charge for members of DiscourseNet. There will be places for up to 20 participants.

The common workshop language will be English. To accommodate participants with different levels of English skills, we will try to assist with peer-to-peer translations into Spanish and German.

In case of acceptance, each participant will be asked to send in a 10-page version of the research project by December 15th, 2023. These longer texts should delineate the research object, lay out the research questions, situate the project in the field, and reflect on the preferred methods. These versions will be circulated among the participants prior to the event and will be used by the commentators. Each participant will get two comments on their paper by experts/participants.

The workshop setting is informal and aims at discussing the methodological, theoretical and practical challenges of the students' theses projects or first ideas.

DiscourseNet is an interdisciplinary and international network of discourse researchers existing since 2007 (see <https://discourseanalysis.net>).

The Winter School is supported by the University of Valencia, the Mar del Plata University, Florida Universit aria, The Open University as well as by the "Grupo de investigaci n de Teor a Cr tica y Escuela de Frankfurt de la Universitat de Valencia."

The activity can be recognized within the Doctoral Program of Social Sciences at the University of Valencia (actividad de formaci n espec fica – c digo 50030)

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