



Call for applications

DiscourseNet Winter School No 9

Transformative discourse studies. Social and political struggle in a polarised world

Monday 19 until Wednesday 21 January 2026

Universitat de València, Spain

In-person event only; online or hybrid participation is not available

Discourse studies is an academic field that has experienced a growing interest amongst academics and researchers across different disciplines over the last three decades. In the frame of sociology, linguistics, political science, anthropology and many more disciplines, discourse studies have made possible the emergence of many innovative methodologies and approaches that we now use for studying, and trying to make sense of, social reality. These not only have nourished us with tools for analysing complex social phenomena. They have enabled us to understand how discourses change and how they influence social and political change, why this occurs, and why it is relevant in the context of a polarised world where many social and political struggles are taking place.

Maintaining a wide scope regarding the thematic, researchers that delve into 1) discourse's processes of transformation, 2) the transformative effects of discourses, and or, 3) methods and methodologies on transformative discourse studies, are welcomed at DiscourseNet Winter School No 9. Our aim here is to collectively re-think discourse theory and analysis from a transformative perspective. To re-think our practices as academics, researchers, professors and students that are interested in discourse studies, having in mind the real and material effects of discourses.

The core interest of the DiscourseNet Winter School No 9 lies in

- Transformation through and in:
 - o social and political struggles.
 - o de/post-colonial discourse studies.
 - o ecological and climate change discourses.
- The relation between social injustices and social transformation.
- The impact of transformative knowledge: tensions and opportunities in the production of knowledge.
- The analysis of cultures of remembrance.
- Reflections on actors and spaces of change.

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 discourse studies from a transformative perspective and evaluate the role of discourses on social and political struggles in a polarized world. Both initial ideas and more advanced thesis projects are welcome.

Please send your abstract for participation (max. 250 words) to dnwinterschool9@gmail.com until August 31st, 2025. 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 2nd, 2025, 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, 2025. 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. The submitted 10-page 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, as well as by the "Grupo de investigación de Teoría Crítica y Escuela de Frankfurt de la Universitat de Valencia."

In order to take part in the Winter School, you have to be or become a member of DiscourseNet.

Keynote speakers:

Susana Martínez (Berklee University)

Johannes Angermüller (The Open University)

Samuel Bennett (Adam Mickiewicz University)

Organizing team:

Annette Knaut, *University of Augsburg (Germany)*

Sabine Heiss, Arturo Lance, Benno Herzog; *University of Valencia (Spain)*