

# Workshop: Discourse Analysis: Theory, Method, Philosophy

3<sup>rd</sup> Term, Academic Year 2021-2022

## Dates:

11th April, half-day, 10:00 - 12:00 – (hybrid mode), Refectory, Badia Fiesolana  
12th April, half-day 13:30 -17:30 – (hybrid mode), Theatre, Badia Fiesolana  
13th April, half-day 9:00 -13:00– (hybrid mode), Refectory, Badia Fiesolana

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**Workshop worth:** 10 credits

## Description

This workshop is an introduction to discourse analysis as a theory and method. The goal is to both equip researchers with the conceptual, theoretical and methodological tools to conduct discourse analysis in research. Moreover, a secondary and equally important goal is to teach researchers about how to identify the discourses they themselves, as well as scholars they agree and disagree with, subscribe to and articulate discourses in their own work. The main questions to address will all be part of the texts themselves. We will seek to discuss the ontological, epistemological and theoretical foundations of the specific discourse analyses we read, in order to enable debates about how different scholars deal with the same phenomena (like neoliberalism or populism) in different ways in practice. We will separate our classes into discussions of the texts themselves, what they can teach us to do (or not to do) methodologically in our own research, and into debates about how the texts themselves are discourses too, as we try to bridge theoretical, methodological and practical concerns.

## Format

The workshops will be organized based as such: We will first have an initial lecture for discussing what discourse analysis is and how it can be done – with a focus upon the ontological, epistemological and philosophical pluralism of the research tradition, as well as how it translates into practical work, with an invited lecturer (TBA). Second, after this introduction, we shall discuss different takes on discourse analysis in practice. We shall look into different research traditions utilizing discourse analysis, and how this translates into actual research. We will also cover different topics, like ideology, othering and populism. In these cases, we will have a split agenda. We will a) look into the method, ontology, epistemology, theory and empirics of the specific articles. The focus will be upon how the articles practically solve issues – like data selection – and how they present and analyse the data they show us. This methodological focus will lead us into a second ‘meta-discourse analytical’ topic – what discourses do the texts at hand channel/articulate? As we shall come to learn in the texts, no text can ‘escape’ discourse, and thus, those analysing discourses are themselves part

of the discursive terrain they investigate. While the former exercise is done to grant researchers tools to analyse discourses scientifically, the latter has a different, more universal goal – for researchers to become more sensitive to the discourses in the work they read, and in their own work. We then end the text with a more practical discussion of how the methodological, ontological and epistemological questions we answer in this text may benefit the researchers for their own PhD-theses.

## **Work requirements**

Active participation and engagement with the literature.

## **DAY 1**

### **Session 1: The ontology and epistemology of discourse analysis**

Our first session starts with a focus upon the plurality characterizing discourse analysis, on different aspects, like theory, philosophy, ontology, epistemology and methodology. It serves as an introduction to the field and opens for our more practical discussions in the coming sessions. It is planned to be organised as a lecture

**Lecturer:** Professor Vivien Schmidt (10:00-12.00)

#### **Readings**

Foucault, M., 1980. Power/Knowledge. New York: Pantheon books. : Chapter 6

Fairclough, N. (2001). The dialectics of discourse. *Textus*, 14(2), 231-242.

Wodak, R. (2015). Critical discourse analysis, discourse-historical approach. *The international encyclopedia of language and social interaction*, 1-14.

Hansen, Lene. Security as Practice: Discourse Analysis and the Bosnian War(London: Routledge, 2006) – Chapters 2 and 3.

Francisco Panizza, Yannis Stavrakakis (2020) Populism, Hegemony, and the Political Construction of “The People”: A Discursive Approach, in (eds) Pierre Ostiguy, Francisco Panizza, Benjamin Moffitt *Populism in Global Perspective: A Performative and Discursive Approach*. London: Routledge. Pp 21-46

Vivien Schmidt, V. (forthcoming) Philosophical underpinnings of discursive institutionalism in the philosophy of social science and society. In *Discursive Institutionalism: The Power of Ideas and Discourse in Political Analysis*

*We ask for a bridge from our speaker to move towards neoliberalism and ideology*

## **DAY 2**

### **Session 2: Discourse and Ideology**

In the second session, we enter an empirical field – ideology. We focus upon economically-oriented discourses analyses, especially texts which analyse topics related to neoliberalism.

**Lecturer:** Dr Paolo Gerbaudo (13.30-15.30)

#### **Readings:**

Finlayson, A. (2012). Rhetoric and the political theory of ideologies. *Political Studies*, 60(4), 751-767.

Wodak, R., & Angouri, J. (2014). From Grexit to Grecovery: Euro/crisis discourses. *Discourse and Society*, 25(4), 417–423. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0957926514536967>

Türken, S., Nafstad, H. E., Blakar, R. M., & Roen, K. (2016). Making sense of neoliberal subjectivity: A discourse analysis of media language on self-development. *Globalizations*, 13(1), 32-46.

O'Dwyer, M. (2018). Making sense of austerity: the gendered ideas of European economic policy. *Comparative European Politics*, 16(5), 745-761.

Gjerde, L. E. L. (2020). Behind the veils of discourse: Analysing the connection between discourse and exploitation on the 'social 'internet. *Capital & Class*, 44(3), 423-442.

### **Session 3: Others and discourse**

In the second session on day 2, we start by focusing upon how discourses are utilized to create boundaries between 'us' and 'them', with a focus upon how this occurs in different settings, as different actors positioned differently in society utilize 'othering'.

**Lecturer:** Dr Mark Nartey (15:30 - 17:30)

#### **Readings**

Grove, N.J. & Zwi, A.B. (2006). Our health and theirs: Forced migration, othering and public health. *Social Science & Medicine* 62: 1931-1942.

Silva, D. M. (2017). The othering of Muslims: Discourses of radicalization in the New York Times, 1969–2014. In *Sociological Forum* (Vol. 32, No. 1, pp. 138-161).

Gümüş, B., & Dural, A. B. (2012). Othering through hate speech: the Turkish-Islamist (V) Akit newspaper as a case study. *Turkish Studies*, 13(3), 489-507.

Nartey, M., & Ladegaard, H. J. (2021). Constructing undesirables: A critical discourse analysis of othering of Fulani nomads in the Ghanaian news media. *Discourse & Communication*, 15(2), 184-199.

Nartey, M. (2021). Marginality and otherness: The discursive construction of LGBT issues/people in the Ghanaian news media. *Media, Culture & Society* 1-17.

## **DAY 3**

### **Session 4: Populism**

In our fourth session, we engage with discursive work covering the topic of populism, with a focus upon populism as a discursive practice, in various parts of the world.

**Lecturer:** Dr Giorgos Katsambekis (9:00-11:00)

#### **Readings**

Stavrakakis, Y., Katsambekis, G., Kioupiolis, A., Nikisianis, N., & Siomos, T. (2018). Populism, anti-populism and crisis. *Contemporary Political Theory*, 17(1), 4–27. <https://doi.org/10.1057/S41296-017-0142-Y>

Xu, B. (2001). Chinese populist nationalism: Its intellectual politics and moral dilemma. *Representations*, 76(1), 120-140.

Hawkins, K. A. (2009). Is Chávez populist? Measuring populist discourse in comparative perspective. *Comparative Political Studies*, 42(8), 1040-1067.

Stavrakakis, Y. (2014). The Return of "the People": Populism and Anti-Populism in the Shadow of the European Crisis. *Constellations*, 21(4), 505–517. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8675.12127>

Karakaya, Y. (2020). The conquest of hearts: the central role of Ottoman nostalgia within contemporary Turkish populism. *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, 8(2), 125-157.

Custodi, J. (2021). Nationalism and populism on the left: The case of Podemos. *Nations and Nationalism*, 27(3), 705-720.

## **Session 5: Practical discourse analysis**

(11:00-13:00)

In the last session, we engage with the methodological, ontological and epistemological questions we have worked through until now. We ask the researchers to bring with them some ideas about how these questions may be implemented in the researchers' own PhD-theses.

Each researcher gets 5 minutes to summarize what they learned