

Call for papers

Multidisciplinary Approaches to Political Discourse ‘Responding to New Challenges’ 25-26 June 2020, University of Liverpool, UK

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We invite submission of abstracts for a panel entitled: *‘Transdisciplinarity in critical discourse analysis: developing language critique for complex times’*, for inclusion in MAPD (Multidisciplinary Approaches to Political Discourse) Conference, 25-26 June, 2020, at the University of Liverpool, UK.

This panel seeks to explore the future directions of critical language scholarship in the light of current challenges to the global geopolitical order. Discussion will probe how critical discourse analysis, in dialogue with social theory, can further our understanding of, and ability to challenge, the particular features of neoliberal capitalism which place limits on the possibilities of social justice. Critical discourse analysis, in its various forms, traditionally draws on dialogue with social theory in order to support empirically grounded critique of social inequality, discrimination and power. There are clear analytical strengths born of this interdisciplinary dialogue. However, there can also be a lack of clarity in the precise meaning and application of such fundamental concepts as ‘social structures’ and ‘social practice’, and in understandings of precisely how these are realised in language and other semiotic forms. This symposium asks some fundamental questions about how well critical discourse analysis is fitted to its core aim of bridging close textual analysis and macro level social critique. In short, what conceptual tools do we need to adequately diagnose social injustice in the current context: its aetiology, complicating factors, and obstacles to counter-hegemonic resistance?

Papers are invited which address any aspect of contemporary politics and/or policy, and which explicitly reflect on the benefits and challenges of working with other disciplines. Drawing insights from the diverse methodological challenges thus identified, this panel takes a reflective ‘step back’, asking how well critical discourse analysis bridges the conceptual gap between the analysis of texts and macro level social critique. Questions for reflection include:

- What kind of theoretical synergy do we actually need to achieve explanatory adequacy in the current social order and how might we best achieve theoretical and conceptual coherence?
- How can meso-level analytical concepts be developed or refined so as to better reflect current forms of social change? (examples include orders of discourse, discourse practice, discourse and interdiscursivity, recontextualization, legitimation)
- (How well) do they enable us to go beyond the intuitive recognition of problematic language and the linguistic analytical identification of textual patterns towards a fully contextualised explanatory critique?

- How do we operationalise these concepts? How do they sit in a particular relationship with one another? (How) do they operate as conduits for linking social practices?

Please send abstracts of approximately 350 words (exc. References) to the panel organisers (j.mulderrig@sheffield.ac.uk) by Dec 8th. Please include name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address and the paper title. Notification of acceptance to the panel will be sent by December 20th.