



## Call for Papers

*DiscourseNet26 – e-workshops on:  
Post-National Discourses –  
transnational communications, transversal subjectivities and new  
forms of nativism in globalised societies*

e-workshop #1: 24/25 March 2021, deadline for working paper submissions: 10 February 2021

e-workshop #2: 21/22 May 2021, deadline for working paper submissions: 7 April 2021

e-workshop #3: 1/2 July 2021, deadline for working paper submissions: 24 May 2021

**General deadline for abstracts valid for all e-workshops: 15 December 2020**

Discourse Studies cover a growing field of interdisciplinary research on meaning making practices, communicative activities and symbolic representations. Cultural studies, linguistics, media analysis, geography, and history, among others, highlight the role of texts, pictures and language in the constitution of truth and reality. Actor-oriented disciplines such as political science, sociology, pedagogy, psychology or economics and management studies are interested in the formation of subjectivities, identities and agencies. Focusing on the nexus of Discourses in Post-National Spaces this conference aims to bring different strands from the interdisciplinary field of Discourse Studies into dialogue.

In the last few years, several developments show that the traditional world of nation states with its lingual characteristics, social structures and institutional orders is undergoing a transition period towards a new constellation of powers. Nation states only exist as “imagined communities” but not as institutional “container”-realities. The rise of China is changing traditional self-perceptions in the West, Brexit in UK shows that the nation state can no longer be the main frame of reference, Trumpism takes into question established liberal values, Russia celebrates a comeback as military and fossil power, and migrants from post-colonial Africa are massively moving to Europe. Different forms of nativism (as particular form of nationalism) are reactions to these developments. The emergence of illiberal democracies in Central and Eastern Europe can no longer be perceived as a domestic phenomenon of a particular nation-state. It is rather a challenge for the European unity in diversity. Migration becomes a politicised normality everywhere in the world, the struggle for new technologies opens up global fields of innovation, and the corona virus shows us how densely the world is already connected where singular national responses do not work without affecting the rest of the world. How can Discourse Studies make sense and contribute to reconceptualization of these post-national constellations?

Post-National Spaces are located on all levels beyond the nation-state container, they cover global flows on the international level, regional reconfigurations such as Asia, Europe, the Americas as well as local interactions in global cities and peripheral sites. The notion of Post-National Spaces opens up new perspectives on communications, subjectivities, ideologies and institutions in a world that is no longer characterised by clearly defined borders, coherent identities, fixed meanings and traditional social orders. Against this background, Discourse Studies offer tools for the analysis of post-nationally dis-embedded communications since signs, pictures, utterances and gestures are the starting point for any analysis.

The study of discourse pertains to various levels of language and society, ranging from everyday face-to-face interaction to societal relations and global communication. In the analysis of, for instance, the media, politics, economy, academia or law, issues of Post-National Spaces are at stake when asking: What communicative constellations emerge in a world of loose borders? Who has the capacity to dominate others when clearly defined categories dissolve? How do discourses of nativism influence the post-national constellation? What role plays the local level when national institutions get in crisis? Which forms of legitimisation account for dominant kinds of knowledges, subjectivities and institutions?

**The goal of DiscourseNet 26 conference** is to bring together research on Post-National Spaces from theoretical as well as empirical viewpoints. Contributions from all academic disciplines and research topics are welcome.

**Submissions of contributions:** The languages of the conference are English and German. Abstracts for **contributions** of no more than 200 words should be submitted by December 15 2020 to [DN26@sowi.uni-giessen.de](mailto:DN26@sowi.uni-giessen.de).

**We are planning DN26 as a digital event taking place at three e-workshops.** At each e-workshop around eight (8) papers will be presented and discussed. Please submit your abstract to the General Deadline (15 Dec 2020) and we will prepare thematically coherent workshops on the basis of all submissions.

**Organisation of e-workshops:** In order to provide an appropriate environment for digital conferencing and networking, we ask each presenter to:

- submit a full **working paper** (6000-12 000 words) or a **short working paper** (between 1500 and 3000 words) to the e-workshop deadlines (see above),
- present main points of the paper at an e-workshop. Each presentation takes between seven and ten minutes, followed by two comments (up to two-three minutes) prepared in advance by discussants on the basis of submitted working papers,
- act as discussant for at least one more paper presentation.

This structure will help us to make the DN26 a more “conversational” and less “presentational” event and to allow people to better get in contact via video conferencing. At the end of each session, at least 20 minutes will be left for discussion.

Each e-workshop will be organised by DN26 organisation team on the basis of abstract submissions. We will take care to provide thematically and/or methodologically coherent e-workshops for each date. All presenting (and non-presenting) participants are expected to act as discussant for other papers on at least one of the e-workshops. The e-workshops will be held on Cisco Webex, provided by the University of Giessen.

**Registration fees for the conference:** In order to participate at the DN26 e-workshops you should become a member of DiscourseNet, you will find more information here: <https://discourseanalysis.net/DN>

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