

Call for Submissions

The Discursive Construction of Reality VII – Interdisciplinary perspectives on a sociology of knowledge approach to discourse research

Conference organisers:

Prof. Dr. Reiner Keller, Dr. Martin Blessinger, Amira Malik, Philipp Stachowiak

| Conference at the **University of Augsburg, Germany** | March 18th – 19th, 2027

Since 2013—with a break due to the pandemic—the conference “The Discursive Construction of Reality” has been held every two years at the University of Augsburg. It brings together interdisciplinary contributions to the Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse (SKAD) and related perspectives in discourse and dispositive research. The conference thus explicitly aims to foster interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary discussions and reflections on ongoing and completed research, as well as questions of theory, methodology, and methods. The upcoming conference will continue in the spirit of an interdisciplinary discussion about the foundations and applications of SKAD and SKAD-inspired discourse research, as well as related perspectives (such as subjectivation research, situational analysis, ethnography of discourses and dispositives). In this context, we also welcome contributions that address challenges posed by theories of affect, new materialisms, digital-algorithmic transformations of discourse, or authoritarian restrictions on discourse. In particular, we invite submissions on the relationship between discourse and materiality, discourse and violence, forms of discourse control (censorship), and the effects of digitalization on discursive processes.

Areas of interest for contributions may include:

1. **Theoretical and methodological** issues: specific aspects of the research programme of SKAD, connections and potential links to other disciplinary research interests and strategies, current theoretical debates and concepts, and contributions to the history of SKAD within the field of discourse studies.
2. Questions regarding the **methodological implementation of empirical research**. We welcome contributions that address forms of digital discourse research (sampling, the use of web crawlers, as well as handling large data sets, working with databases and AI). We also welcome contributions that apply specific methodological approaches to data generation (such as expert interviews, ethnographic designs, group discussions, or other methods) to discourse research. Contributions may also address the analysis of various types of data and discuss hermeneutic-interpretive, discourse- and dispositive-ethnographic, as well as quantitative methods of corpus analysis in relation to SKAD.

3. The **significance and analysis of multimodal formats, visualizations, and materialities** in the context of SKAD projects, in order to explore the possibilities, approaches, and limitations of sociology of knowledge discourse research. For example, contributions could examine the significance of visual elements in discursive contexts (not only, but of course also on digital platforms), which existing social science methods are suitable for analyzing images and (audio)visual material for discourse-oriented research interests, and what modifications may be necessary.
4. **Subjectivation research**, which in recent years has increasingly pursued research interests that point to the possibilities of expanding and supplementing discourse and dispositive research. This involves empirical investigation of normative subject positions on the one hand and the human self-relations, subjectivities, biographies, and self-technologies influenced by the subject positions on the other. This section focuses both on addressing theoretical and methodological issues and on the presentation of empirical applications and findings.
5. The **presentation of ongoing or completed empirical studies** that draw on SKAD and/or related perspectives. Contributions from different disciplines and studies are welcome. The focus here is on the respective research projects and their results. At the same time, it should become clear what the specific sociological and discourse-analytical structure and yield of the research presented is for the respective fields of investigation and/or the sociological discourse research.

The conference will be held in German and English. In addition, online access for presentations and participations will be available for those who do not have the possibility to travel to Germany. Please send your submissions to wda@phil.uni-augsburg.de in the form of an abstract (max. 3,000 characters, including title, your name and affiliation, E-Mail and indication for the thematic cluster 1-5 you would like to present in).

Deadline for submissions is October 31st, 2026. Notifications of acceptance and a preliminary program will be sent by November 20, 2026.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

There are no fees. Drinks will be available on site for a small contribution towards costs. For further information on registration, travel, accommodation, and more please visit www.diskurswissenschaft.de.

Social Events at the conference

Besides an optional dinner with traditional Swabian and Bavarian cuisine on the first day of the conference (self-pay basis) we invite you to our closing party on March 19th after the end of the conference in a local club (for a small fee).