

WSSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Discourse Analysis

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May 24-25, 2018

9:00am – 4:30pm

Workshop Overview

This workshop aims to introduce the participants to the basics of social science discourse analysis, i.e. to a family of approaches that emphasise the constructed nature of the social and the importance of struggles over interpretive and definitory hegemony for the definition of social and political “realities”.

It starts with an introduction to the theoretical and epistemological bases of (poststructuralist) discourses analysis, then moves on to practical exercises with various types of data (for example media data, speeches or interviews) whose aim is to illustrate how discourse analytical research is concretely done. These exercises will also raise issues such as validity criteria, the nature and limits of interpretation, and how to write up this type of research convincingly. Finally, we will briefly consider various “schools” of discourse analysis and discuss the usefulness of discourse analytical work for various disciplines.

The workshop will consist of (interactive) lectures and various practical exercises. By the end of the workshop, the participants should have gained a basic understanding of:

- The theoretical bases of discourse analysis and the type of research questions that it can help to address;
- Some key tools of discourse analysis and how they can help "opening up" data (analysis of systems of meanings, framings, categorisations, genealogical analysis, etc.);
- The practical steps of a discourse analytical approach;
- The typical limitations and problems of discourse analysis, applicable quality criteria;
- What to pay attention to when writing up discourse analytical research.

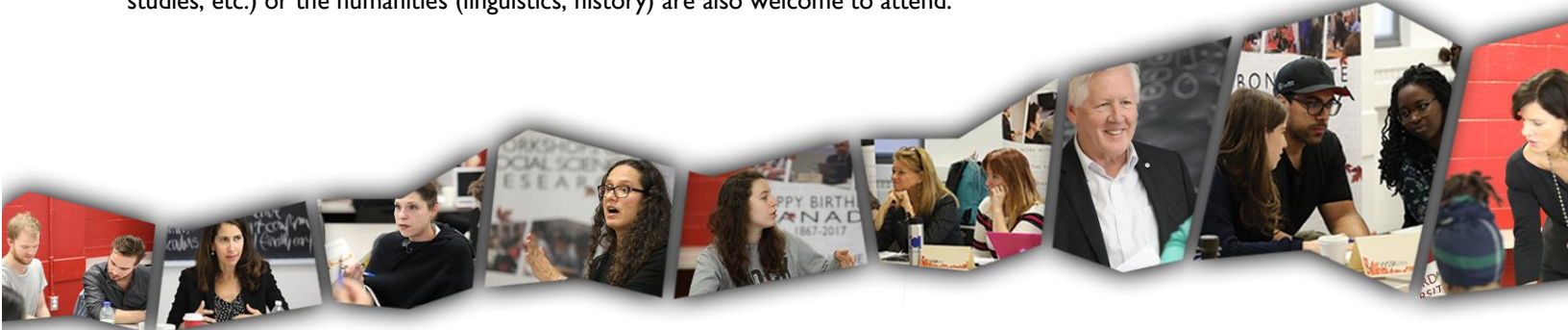
Audience

The workshop welcomes participants with a variety of backgrounds. However, it will be particularly useful to:

- participants with little or no prior knowledge of discourse analysis who wish to get some insights into this methodology
- participants who have some acquaintance with discourse analysis but who feel the need to discuss and reflect on their own practices.

Participants who have little or no background in qualitative data analysis may want to consider also attending the [Content and Thematic Analysis](#) workshop.

Note: The instructor will often refer to practical illustrations in the fields of political science, sociology and gender studies. However, participants from other social science disciplines as well as from interdisciplinary fields (environmental studies, health studies, etc.) or the humanities (linguistics, history) are also welcome to attend.



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Strongly recommended readings

The readings are posted in a DropBox file accessible via the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9jzewkvu2v18m9f/AACjN7xpo0fCJVOXEQZHNCpxa?dl=0>

- Bacchi, Carol. (2012). "Why Study Problematizations? Making Politics Visible." *Open Journal of Political Science*, 2(01): 1-8.
- Bevir, Mark and Rhodes, R.A.W. (2006). "Defending Interpretation". *European Political Science EPS* 5/2006: 69-83.
- Chilton, Paul and Schäffner, Christina (1997). "Discourse and Politics", in Van Dijk, Teun A. (eds). *Discourse as Social Interaction*. London: Sage, pp. 206-230.
- Edley, Nigel (2001). "Analysing Masculinity: Interpretative Repertoires, Ideological Dilemmas and Subject Positions", in Wetherell, M., Taylor, S. and Yates. S.J. (eds). *Discourse as Data. A Guide for Analysis*. London: Sage/Open University, pp. 189-228
- Gill, Rosalind (2000). "Discourse Analysis", in Bauer, M. and Gaskell, G., *Qualitative Researching with Text, Image and Sound*. London: Sage, pp. 172-190.
- Lucas, Barbara (2004). "Reducing Discursive Complexity: the Case of Alcohol Policies in Europe (1850-2000)", in Muller, Richard and Klingemann, Harald (eds). *From Science to Action? 100 Years Later – Alcohol Policies Revisited*. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
- Milliken, Jennifer (1999). "The Study of Discourse in International Relations: A Critique of Research and Methods". *European Journal of International Relations* 5:225-254. DOI 10.1177/1354066199005002003
- Mills, Sara (2004). *Discourse*. New York: Routledge, pp. 26-42 and 43-68.
- Squire, Corinne (2009). "Experience-Centred and Culturally-Oriented Approaches to Narrative", in Andrews, Molly, Squire, Corinne and Tamboukou, Maria (eds). *Doing Narrative Research*. London: Sage, pp. 41-63.
- Yanow, Dvora (2006). "Neither Rigorous nor Objective? Interrogating Criteria for Knowledge Claims in Interpretive Science", in Yanow, Dvora and Schwartz-Sea, Peregrine (eds) (2006). *Interpretation and Method. Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn*. Armonk NY: M.E. Sharpe



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Outline

(Provisional – will be adjusted depending on the level and interests of the participants).

Day 1

- Why discourse analytical research?
- Introduction to social science discourse analysis (theoretical assumptions, traditions etc.)
 - From content to meaning
 - From language to discourse
- Perspective on discourse
- Tools of discourse analysis (categorisations, demarcations)

Key readings: Bevir (2006), Mills (2004), Gill (2000), Chilton & Schäffner (1997).

Day 2

- Using "theory" in discourse analytic research
- Conditions of production of data and implications for analysis
- Types of research question that can(not) be addressed with discourse analytical tools
- Writing up discourse analytical research
- Sampling and validity in discourse analytical research
- Conceptual issues in DA

Key readings: Bacchi (2012), Milliken (1999), Squire (2009), Lucas (2004), Hook (2008), Taylor (2001), Yanow (2006), Schofield (2002)

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