

Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences. Agadir, Morocco
Laboratory on Values, Society, and Development
(LVSD)

Group on Ethics, Representation and Politics in Literature and Culture
(EREPLIC)

organizes

A Study Day
on
Discourse, Meaning and Understanding

May 10, 2022

Call for Papers

Discourse is a term that yields several meanings to academics in the human and social sciences. It is often used to describe a formal and/or an informal way of text and talk, which seeks to empower some social groups and subordinate others in the social world. This definition might sound hasty at first sight in as much as discourse per se came to signify multiple forms of knowledge, systems of thought, and perhaps most important of all, the beliefs and attitudes people hold about life, death, (co)existence and the like.

When people use discourse, they knowingly or unknowingly use not only language but also the power of language to establish connections, make friendships and thus maintain a spirit of homogeneity within and beyond their discourse communities. In some occasions, they are prone to entertain themselves through the exchange of humour and laughter. In other communicative situations, they are more likely to influence the thoughts and ideas of their peers through persuasiveness and metaphoricity. Although there is a risk that discourse fosters ideology conducting misreading and miscommunication, there is a large consensus in academia that discourse should be geared towards fostering dialogue, cohesion and unison amidst people however their differences might be.

Starting from Gee's (2005) premise that language is "saying, doing and being" and that discourse is to be viewed as Discourse (with a big D) and not just as discourse (with little d), we hope to provide

adequate answers to these reverberating queries: What does discourse mean in the post-COVID-19 pandemic? How do people use discourse to empower themselves and alienate other social groups? Also, how do they receive and produce discourse? Does discourse, in this era of the pandemic and infodemic, crystallize fear and anxiety? Does it corroborate a sense of understanding and safety? Is discourse most qualified to build bridges of dialogue and bring different individuals under the umbrella of humanity? Does it perpetuate the sense of individuality or could it promote a sense of collectivity? When does discourse feed off inequality, ideology and hegemony? What sort of discourse, and which potential meanings, do old/new media promote to cater to the needs of the public at a local and global scale? Can discourse provide healing and convalescence to unwell people through humour and hilarity? Last but not least, in what ways does discourse relate to the big questions of pedagogy and translation?

The papers we are soliciting include but are not limited to the following topics:

- Meaning and the Requisites of Dialogue
- Tolerance, Peace and Cohabitation
- Classroom Interactions and Pedagogy
- Pandemics and Infodemics
- Media and Representation
- Semiosis and Multimodality
- Youth Communities and Culture
- Identity and Citizenship
- Text Production and Reception
- Rhetoric and Metaphoricity
- The Power of Humour and Laughter
- Therapy, Hypnosis and Healing
- Translation and interpretation

Organizing Committee:

- Dr. Rachid Acim
- Dr. Mohamed Agzar
- Dr. Limame Barbouchi
- Dr. Mohamed Belamghari
- Dr. Khadija Belhiah
- Dr. ELhassane Benabbou
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- Dr. Naima Trimasse, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, IbnZohr University, Agadir.

Important Information:

- Abstracts are due April 20, 2022
- Notifications of acceptance will be sent by April 25, 2022
- Date of Study Day: May 10, 2022
- Language: English
- Selected papers will be published in a peer-reviewed edited volume with ISBN.

Study Day Coordinators:

- Dr. Rachid Acim
- Dr. Mohamed Belamghari

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NB. The study day may turn to online proceedings depending on the pandemic situation.