



Book of abstracts

COMMUNICATING THE COVID-19 CRISIS: PANEL 1

Dr Ashleigh Haw, Deakin University (Australia)

COVID-related racism in political and digital communication: Dominant narratives and health implications in Australia

Global health crises are fertile ground for racialised scapegoating, which has been observed on a global scale during COVID-19 in news, social media, political, and broader societal discourse. In Australia, harmful rhetoric that blames ethnically and/or religiously diverse communities for the pandemic has been widespread and is reported to exacerbate the health inequities already experienced by marginalised populations. In this presentation, I discuss the findings of a mixed-methods investigation into news media, political and social media constructions of multicultural communities in Australia, with emphasis on the health implications for those targeted in such narratives. I first deployed Critical Discourse Analysis to examine racist and antiracist discourses on social media during Australia's 2020-2021 lockdowns, focusing on how Twitter users have both reproduced and resisted dominant narratives observed in Australian news media and political communication. I then conducted semi-structured interviews with 10 multicultural service providers and community leaders in Melbourne (VIC) to ascertain how COVID-related racism has impacted the mental and physical wellbeing of the communities they support.

Drawing on the literature surrounding Networked Counterpublics - and analysed through a Systemic Racism lens - my Twitter analysis illuminates how publics have used Twitter as a space to both legitimise and contest racist narratives during the pandemic, further demonstrating the power of social media as a vehicle for the amplification and resistance of racialised scapegoating during global crisis events. Furthermore, my interview data has revealed significant health implications of COVID-related racism in Australia, lending further support to the concept of racism as a driver of health inequity. This research is part of a larger, national exploration of crisis communication in the context of health and social implications for ethnically and religiously diverse communities, using COVID-19 as a case study to inform future crisis communication responses and antiracism initiatives.

Elsi Kaiser and Haley Hsu

COVID health messaging: How people's attitudes shape their responses in a crisis

In health crises such as COVID, successful public health communication is crucial. However, some people may be distrustful of doctors and resistant to their advice. We conducted two psycholinguistic studies that quantify how strongly people's attitudes (specifically, (dis)trust of doctors) shape their reactions to COVID advice: Do effects of people's opinions extend to a decontextualized context that has nothing directly to do with them? If yes, this would be strong evidence that distrust of doctors is a key area to target in improving health communication.

We report two experiments, on 276 U.S.-English speakers. Participants read 16 dialogs expressing COVID-disagreements between two speakers: (i) a doctor and a non-doctor (ex.1), or (ii) two non-doctors (e.g. Tim, Bob), using subjective adjectives (e.g. idiotic, stupid). Participants indicated which speaker, both, or neither, was right. Afterwards, they

answered questions about themselves, including how much they trust information from doctors.

(1) This is a conversation between Tim (with no medical training) and a doctor.

Tim says: COVID vaccines are stupid.

The doctor says: No, COVID vaccines are not stupid.

When disagreements are between doctors and non-doctors, participants were more likely to say that the doctor is right, compared to two-non-doctor disagreements where participants said more often that both people can be right ($p's < .001$, Imer): Participants respect doctors' expertise.

However, participants' own attitudes have a striking effect: Those who report trusting doctors less are significantly less likely to say that the doctor is right, compared to those who trust doctors more ($p's < .01$).

In other words, even in this decontextualized setting with no repercussions for the participants, how much someone (dis)trust doctors impacts how they judge conversations between two third parties about COVID. This is strong evidence that, in health crises, more needs to be done to address the deleterious effects of people's distrust of doctors.

COMMUNICATING THE COVID-19 CRISIS: PANEL 2

Gizem Kaya

Different forms of populism during the pandemic: Turkey and Argentina

The Covid-19 pandemic has triggered a new strand of debate in the populism literature that primarily addresses how populist leaders mishandle the pandemic. However, although some populist leaders' espousing the anti-Covid rhetoric gained much attention in the media, not all of them embraced this attitude. Further, some populist leaders implemented necessary measures by complying with health officials' recommendations. Thus, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Alberto Fernandez, presidents who complied with the pandemic measures, constitute significant cases to analyze in terms of their way of articulating the Covid-19 pandemic in their speeches. This study's main research question is "How do Turkey and Argentina's presidents include Covid-19 in their discourses during the pandemic?" This study initially focuses on Argentina's and Turkey's presidents' discourses since these two politicians did not espouse anti-Covid rhetoric and implemented the pandemic measures. For this aim, these presidents' official speeches were collected from their presidential websites, starting from their first official pandemic case declarations in March 2020 to December 2021; 365 speeches were collected for Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and 305 speeches were collected for Alberto Ángel Fernández. Then using quantitative text analysis techniques, bigrams analysis was conducted. Structural topic modeling (STM) was employed to identify each particular topic for the presidents' discourses. Results demonstrate that Covid-19-related words found a significant place in both presidents' bigrams analyses; however, the variation between topics is more salient in president Erdoğan's speeches. President Erdoğan's speeches cover both domestic and international dimensions, while president Fernández's speeches are domestic sphere focused. Moreover, their STM results demonstrate that Erdoğan's speeches are more diverse, including energy, trade, economy, youth, and his ideational creation during the pandemic. In contrast, Fernández's speeches focus more on the country's internal dimension, including the economy, justice, and pandemic-related issues.

Yara Maria de Toledo Dias Romeiro, São Paulo Catholic University (Brazil)
Abusive Name-Calling: Representations Around the Term Genocide During the Covid Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has claimed over six million lives worldwide. In Brazil, the human tragedy was compounded by intense political polarization between the far right, and progressive, left-wing supporters, who objected to how former president Bolsonaro handled the pandemic. Twitter is a prime arena in which the conversation around the so-called COVID-19 genocide has taken place. Although the accusation of genocide was first leveled against opponents of the former president, his followers also adopted the term to accuse the current president of genocide. The question arises of whether it is possible to distinguish between the right-wing and the left-wing use of the term genocide. The goal of this paper is to map out the uses of genocide by supporters of each political wing and to determine if the patterns of usage are statistically different. To achieve this goal, a Lexical Multidimensional Analysis was carried out on a corpus of 150,000 tweets containing the terms 'genocida' (genocider) and 'genocídio' (genocide). A Lexical Multidimensional Analysis consists of a framework for detecting sets of correlated lexical units, which can be used to trace the underlying discourses around particular terms and/or groups (Berber Sardinha & Fitzsimmons-Dooley, in prep). Methodologically, the approach consisted of scraping the tweets, tagging each post for part-of-speech, tabulating the lemma counts, and performing a factor analysis. The interpretation of the factors as dimensions was aided by careful consideration of large numbers of the highest-scoring tweets on each factor; these posts were read and interpreted for the underlying discourses indexed by each dimension. The dimensions were labeled to reflect the major discourses underlying the use of genocide. Finally, the tweets were classified according to their right-wing or left-wing sources. In the presentation, the dimensions will be presented and illustrated, and the major dimensional patterns distinguishing each political group will be discussed.

Coline Rondiat, University of Louvain (Belgium)
'Infections Are on the Rise, What Should We Do?' Analyzing the Practical Reasoning of Belgian Experts and Politicians during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Since it implies the confrontation of several competing ideas, public debate in democratic states necessarily involves a dimension of justification. Political actors must indeed defend, and thus publicly justify, the policies they advocate, building on a framing of public issues (Stone 2002) and specific conceptions of the common good (Boltanski & Thévenot 1991). Consequently, each of their statements proceeds from a practical reasoning (Fairclough & Fairclough 2012), i.e. a cognitive process by which, starting from their beliefs or desires, they make a normative judgement on the action to be taken.

From the beginning of the pandemic, an unprecedented amount of attention has been granted to the experts and the practical reasoning conveyed in their discourses, thereby influencing the dynamics of public debate. Studying the collaboration between these actors can therefore be achieved by examining the alignment or divergence of their practical reasoning. This paper addresses this question through an analysis of the statements made by Belgian experts and politicians on the closure of the restaurant industry (Oct. 2020) in different public spaces (social and news media, federal parliament). More precisely, the discourse of politicians and experts is examined by means of a discourse network analysis to determine which actors hold similar / antagonistic positions; which proposals crystallize the tensions / consensus. The specificity of this study lies in the combination of this method with a critical linguistic analysis (Antaki et al. 2003). Doing so, this paper explores how practical reasoning is also implicitly expressed and how its reconstruction can refine the identification of discursive coalitions and tensions.

Dr Matthew Donoghue (University College Dublin, Republic of Ireland)
(mis)communicating Crisis? Coordinative and Communicative Discourse in the Irish Covid Response

How do governments coordinate, respond to and communicate short-term, reactive policy in the context of a crisis, and what may facilitate or hinder this? The Covid-19 pandemic required not only the rapid development of policy, but also effective communication to ensure effective implementation of public health measures. This need was, however, hampered by the short timescales involved, the uncertainty of data/knowledge and the destabilizing effects of crisis. In Ireland, the response was coordinated between government and the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE). Although the former was tasked with making decisions based on data and recommendations provided by the latter, the public health response was initially dogged by an unclear demarcation of responsibility in the two camps, which resulted in confusion and anger amongst the public, as well as public criticism from high profile members of government.

Using Schmidt's (2010; 2015) Discursive Institutionalism as its framework, this paper argues that the public disagreement and uncertainty between the government and NPHE was a crucial element of coordinative discourse, albeit within the container of communicative discourse. Alongside the usual meetings, briefings and consultations associated with coordinative discourse, a more aggressive form of communicative discourse was used to reassert the authority of the executive over NPHE, which was seen by some to be overstepping its own authority, itself using communicative discourse to circumvent the usual avenues of policymaking. These uses of both coordinative and communicative discourse were made easier to deploy because of the unstructured nature of rules during crises.

The paper contributes to debates on crisis policymaking through the empirical case study, while also contributing to debates on the nature and dynamics of coordinative and communicative discourse in a contemporary context.

COMMUNICATING THE COVID-19 CRISIS: PANEL 3

Paulo Barroso, Polytechnic Institute of Viseu (Portugal)
Governmental communication strategies in crisis management: the COVID-19 pandemic in Portugal and Brazil

The current pandemic crisis has transformed the world from the beginning and boosted the communication social phenomenon and the new technological devices, means and platforms. Communication processes had already switched from analogue to digital before COVID-19. Governments all over the world had to implement measures against the same global, invisible, and quick-spreading enemy. Each country (e.g. Portugal and Brazil) followed different strategies depending on culture (customs, history, traditions) and political regimes (left or right ideologies). The results were also different, regardless of the persuasive power of political communication as an essential rhetorical resource in democracy and citizenship. Today, the world is much closer and connected due to the globalization of technology and communication. Online network relationships intensify during the health crisis and the notion of a "new normal" imposed by the pandemic cements more mediated lifestyles. The uses, means and effects of communication have also changed. In social networks, all-to-all communication is intensified, and any citizen is simultaneously producer and consumer of digital contents. Media transformations are qualitative and quantitative, but fake news proliferates, disinformation creates mistrust and meanings are scarce.

Political strategic communication is an art form and rhetorical technique. It takes care of the way and means of transmitting information, influencing the public to act, feel and think accordingly. Strategic communication benefits from Aristotle's three technical means of persuasion (ethos, pathos, and logos), capital for the effectiveness of any public and political discourse.

Therefore, how do communication strategies about COVID-19 in Portugal and Brazil persuade to change social behaviors? Following a theoretical and practical approach on strategies in political communication against the pandemic in Portugal and Brazil, the objective is to discuss the persuasive effectiveness of government strategic communication in managing the pandemic crisis.

Dr Ester Di Silvestro, University of Catania (Italy), she/her and Andrea Cifalinò, University of Catania (Italy)
A Critical Discourse Analysis of Italian and UK populist politicians' strategies on Twitter during the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 global pandemic brought about a new relationship between governments and citizens especially within an individual freedom-collective health divide. The new needs imposed by the pandemic crisis led to the establishment of lockdowns (Faulkner 2021) that were legitimised according to different rhetorical strategies at different points in time and different countries (Wodak 2021).

Within this scenario populist leaders throughout the world exploited the health crisis in various ways (Bobba and Hubé 2021), either to legitimise their authoritarian rule (Arienzo et al. 2021) or to criticise existing restriction as a threat to the Nation's economy and autonomy.

In this paper we want to analyse, following a multimodal qualitative (Machin and Mayr 2012) approach to discourse, how populist leaders in UK and Italy – Nigel Farage, Nicola Sturgeon, Giorgia Meloni, and Matteo Salvini – reacted to the first and second lockdowns on their Twitter accounts, communicating directly to their people.

On the one hand, the comparative analysis aims at unveiling the strategic use of social media by populist leaders, especially in times of crisis. On the other hand, the analysis focuses on the comparison of rhetorical, lexical and visual semiotic choices, and the employment of specific hashtags (Zappavigna 2018) exploited by these four populist leaders in order to investigate and highlight the existence of possible similarities and differences.

Yahui Wang, Queen Mary University of London (UK):
Media representation of COVID-19 mitigation in British newspapers: A corpus-assisted critical discourse study

As the impact of COVID-19 expanded on a global scale, news media utilised language to convey an assortment of meanings and realities relayed to the public. Global news outlets diverted their attention to the virus, leading it to become a significant focal point for reporting. The representation of such infectious diseases including COVID-19, is 'crucial to the understanding of the phenomenon as a whole' (Sharma et al., 2017, p.302), which functions to 'heighten expectations of the pandemic[s] and perpetuate the perception of risk' (Abeyasinghe & White, 2010, p.371). Therefore, this research primarily aims to contribute to previous linguistic investigations on epidemics or infectious diseases by revealing how Covid-19 mitigation is presented in British newspapers. Data was collected from all British national newspapers through the LexisNexis database during the first nationwide lockdown and was analysed quantitatively and qualitatively by applying corpus linguistics and critical discourse analysis combining the representation of social actors (Van Leeuwen, 2008) and discursive strategy (Reisigl & Wodak, 2001). According to the corpus tools, I identified the most frequently discussed topics about mitigation and some vulnerable social groups, including the elderly, youth and ethnic groups in these mitigation articles. Further analysis reveals that the newspapers held opposite opinions towards mitigation measures, which were achieved by various linguistic devices such as direct and indirect speech from government officials or experts, and those vulnerable social groups were mostly negatively presented in articles. This research can not only show how COVID-19 mitigation is discursively constructed through

linguistic mechanisms but also how negative representation is achieved in relation to specific social groups through the mitigation in the socio-political context.

Stephan Hughes

Teacher discourse in Twitter chat during and after the COVID 19 pandemic

Teacher discourse in Twitter chats during and after COVID-19 lockdown has been a major area of focus for educators and researchers alike. During this unprecedented time of upheaval, teachers have taken to the digital space to continue providing students with education and guidance. In particular, Twitter chats have been a platform through which teachers can engage with their peers, share resources, discuss best practices, and collaborate on projects. This paper aims to explore the teacher discourse that is taking place in such Twitter chats during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Through a qualitative analysis of content from selected Twitter chats, this paper will examine how teachers are adapting their communication strategies to engage with their students in virtual settings and how they are coping with the disruptions caused by the pandemic. Additionally, this paper will investigate how teachers are communicating about topics related to pedagogy and educational equity during these conversations. Finally, this paper will discuss the implications for future research in online teacher discourse. By examining the impact of these digital conversations, this research can provide valuable insight into how teachers can best support each other and their students during these unprecedented times.

THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Dr Anais Augé, University of Louvain (Belgium)

Climate justice, Ecocide, Eco-terrorism: From metaphorical to judicial implications

In this paper, I focus on the notions of “climate justice”, “ecocide”, and “eco-terrorism”. I demonstrate that these three notions have been extensively exploited in climate crisis discourse produced by activists and politicians. For instance, one may recall the “blood bath” protests performed by the NGO Extinction Rebellion, during which “rebels” sprayed fake blood over buildings. Such performances echo a metaphorical conceptualisation of the impacts of pollution as a BLOODY MASSACRE, for which economic and political leaders are blamed.

These have eventually generated major debates in the political realm, which led Conservative politicians – like Nigel Farage – to “deconstruct” (Musolff, 2022: 85) the activists’ arguments by identifying them as “eco-terrorists” (ACTIVISM AS TERRORISM).

I investigate the “discourse history” (Zinken, 2007) attached to the narrative (Hanne et al, 2014) CLIMATE CRISIS AS A CRIME. I show that activists’ calls for “climate justice” respond to political misattribution of responsibilities for the crisis. Accordingly, activists exploited CRIME-related metaphors to insist on the criminal damages caused by excessive pollution, exploitations, and uncontrolled consumption. Consequently, these instances of “climate injustice” transformed into literal judicial cases, which aimed at forcing politicians to address such “crimes” (e.g., “L’Affaire du Siecle” and petition to recognise a global “ecocide”).

I investigate the process by which the CRIME narrative has been extensively exploited in political and activists’ discourses, so that the ground of the metaphor became a literal ground for the promotion of justice.

Prof. Dr. Tetiana Krysanova, Leysa Ukrainka Volyn National University, (Ukraine)

Constructing climate crisis in environmental protection commercials: multimodal perspective

The climate crisis has become one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and its impact is experienced worldwide. Environmental protection commercials serve to increase public awareness of this issue and encourage people to make changes in their attitude towards the

environment. The purpose of this study is to gain a new insight into the multimodal construction of climate crisis in Greenpeace's environmental commercials. To achieve this goal, I use the cognitive-semiotic and multimodal approaches underpinned by the theory of conceptual integration. My findings suggest that the multimodal construction of climate crisis in environmental protection commercials relies on visual imagery and sound to convey the urgency and severity of the climate crisis, while language is employed to emphasize the need for immediate action. I claim that the meaning of climate crisis is an emergent discursive construct, which is the result of the integration of verbal and nonverbal semiotic resources implemented through aural and visual modes.

In my study, I determine the elements of verbal and nonverbal semiotic resources used to construct climate crisis. The verbal semiotic resource delivers rational and emotional aspects of meaning-making and is represented by lexical, syntactical, and pragmatic devices. The nonverbal semiotic resource comprises dynamic images, music, sounds, voice-over, lighting, which possess the meaning-making potential and ascribe connotations to the verbal text. The emotional appeal engages the audience through empathy, compassion, or fear, while the rational aspect appeals to the audience's values and beliefs. Next, I single out patterns of their multisemiotic integration and explain communicative strategies used to construct the meaning of climate crisis.

The results of this study will contribute to the development of more effective communication methods, leading to increased public awareness and action towards mitigating the effects of climate change.

Gülşen Doğan, Koç University (Turkey)

Variations of Environmental Policies Under Right And Left-Wing Populists in Power: A Comparative Study on Turkey and Brazil

While authoritarian populism and migration crisis are dominant in the global political debate, an additional challenge, climate crisis, emerges for the future of democracy. In the current Ukrainian energy crisis, the gap between energy demand and supply will be one of those risks that would create another tradeoff over democracy as it did for security after 9/11 and populism after the 2008 financial crisis. It will therefore add a new dimension to the democratic challenge in the future because it solidifies the inequalities between and within countries. Accordingly, this proposed study aims to understand the policy making processes for environmental governance in populist countries, and questions how and why do the environment related policies under right and left-wing populists in power differ? For this puzzle, the study asks the following case-specific research question: What are the factors that determine the environment related policy decisions in Turkey and Brazil as countries with right and left-wing populist governments in power and geographic vulnerabilities to environmental problems? These questions refer to the comparison in the left- and right-wing populist trajectory but with a focus on the environmental governance of the selected cases. Scholarly work also shows that right-wing populist parties and their followers are often climate skeptic. Despite this conformity between right-wing populism and climate skepticism, there is less academic research that investigates its nature, causes and variations in environmental policies between different populist trajectories. This study would also speak to the literature in offering insights into different socio-cultural and economic contexts and thereby with different environmental requirements beyond the populist ideology. Methodologically, this proposed study develops a discursive understanding of populism and anti-environmentalism through content analysis with a focus on the texts of the political actors' speeches in media, party reports and interviews.

Martina Scibilia

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal speech: The climate crisis and the eco-socialist imaginary of the US progressive left

The 2018 US midterm elections produced a blue wave that resulted in the most diverse political class in American history. That class included the youngest woman ever elected to Congress, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who quickly became an international political phenomenon mostly known by her initials. Since her unexpected victory, AOC has become the symbol of a new progressive movement that is currently shaking the parameters of US political discourse. This paper aims to investigate the main discursive strategies used by AOC to address the climate crisis in an innovative and original way. To this aim, the paper analyzes her Green New Deal Speech, which was delivered to Congress on March 26, 2019, following then-Senate Majority Leader McConnell's decision to hold an impromptu vote on AOC's Green New Deal Resolution. To conduct this investigation, the paper uses the tools of critical discourse analysis, combining the dialectical-relational approach developed by Fairclough in *Language and Power* (1989) and Fairclough and Fairclough's method illustrated in *Political Discourse Analysis* (2012). The results show that the most distinctive feature of this speech is its passionate yet lucid delivery, which makes the Green New Deal appear as a genuine concern to AOC, strengthening her image of authenticity, spontaneity, and trustworthiness. More importantly, the speech brings to life the eco-socialist imaginary of the US progressive left, a holistic vision of reality where civil and environmental rights are inextricably intertwined. With her third term just begun, and a progressive Squad that keeps growing at every Congressional election, AOC continues to exert a significant influence on the national political debate, especially when it comes to social justice and climate change. Therefore, analyzing her speeches seems to be instrumental in better understanding the tide of change that is rapidly sweeping across the USA in this time of multiple and interconnected crises.

MULTIPLE GLOBAL CRISES: PANEL 1

Stéphanie Pécher, University of Louvain (Belgium)

Activists' responses to (lack of) agentivity in headlines: a study of the 2019 Chilean social outburst

In recent years (2019-2022), Chile underwent massive social protests against the government and in favour of a new Constitution. In this context, the State repression was particularly violent and hundreds of human rights violations were perpetrated. Simultaneously, activists accused the press of focussing only on the protesters' violence in news coverage, consequently disregarding peaceful protests and the abuses of State agents (Scherman & Rivera, 2010). On Twitter, activists therefore tended to reformulate the tweets of traditional media that they considered poorly written, in particular regarding the attribution of responsibility for violence towards protesters. This presentation intends to shed light on this type of activism from a linguistic perspective.

For instance, on January 29, 2020, a man died after being ran over by a national police truck, and the television programme Teletrece published the following headline: "Camión de Carabineros impacta a hombre [Carabineros truck hits man]". This tweet received many replies due to the fact that it seems to diminish the responsibility of the police by using the verb 'hit' and an inanimate subject 'truck'. Activists therefore complained about the lack of agentivity in this sentence.

The concepts of agentivity and responsibility are indeed intrinsically related (Villalba Ibáñez, 2017), which is why the discursive construction of responsibility for human rights abuses has been studied essentially in view of the notion of agentivity (e.g. De Cock & Michaud Maturana, 2014). This presentation will thus analyse how agentivity is conceptualised in traditional media headlines published on Twitter during the Chilean social outburst and in

their replies. The aim of this presentation is to identify the discursive patterns of responses from activists to (lack of) agentivity in headlines. In order to do so, we will consider various criteria, such as the nature of the reference to the perpetrators, its syntactic function and the verb semantics.

Danil Fokin

“Everyone will scream from pain in the same language”: Linguistic Analyses of No-War Russian Letters

The study is devoted to the investigation of Russian No-War Letters that occurred within the first two weeks after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This unprecedented phenomenon (more than 1.5 mio. of people signed petitions) hasn't existed in the space of vertical communication before on such a large scale. So, we consider it a unique linguistic artefact begotten by the war. Assuming that Russian aggression provoked a conceptual shift in war comprehension by native speakers, we examined the lexical content of Russian No-War letters, e.g. associations, synonyms, and modifiers referred to the "war", as well as their general emotional atmosphere in terms of attitude to Ukrainians, self-awareness, and consequences for Russia. Studying lexical reorganisation in Russian No-War Letters, we implemented the corpus method (via ScetchEngine) and topic modelling (via InfraNodus). Additionally, we conducted a between-corpora comparison (Russian No-War Letters Corpus vs National Corpus of Russian Language; Russian No-War Letters vs Russian Associative Dictionary) to establish temporary lexical changes.

We found crucial differences in lexical choice, indicating the high level of anthropocentrism (plenty of human-related concepts), the relief from historically- and culturally-determined concepts, implicit condemnation of Russian aggression, explicitly mentioned solidarity with the Ukrainian nation, authors' feeling of shame and disgrace, and isolation and degradation of institutes as most possible consequences. Thus, considering diachronic and synchronic perspectives, we concluded that the ongoing war contributed to significant changes in the associative lexical network related to the war concept. Moreover, Russian propaganda provoked the emergence of novel synonyms, e.g. special military operation and "special operation" (in brackets, in figurative meaning).

Raya Khachatryan, Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Portugal)

Genocide in Turkish political discourse: case-study of US recognition of Armenian Genocide

In April 2021, Joe Biden became the first President of the United States who used the word “genocide” to name the Armenian massacres of 1915 by the Ottoman Empire. In response, Turkish governors pointed to the “hypocrisy” and “lies” of western leaders. Armenians, on the other hand, were grateful for the acknowledgment of atrocities, naming it a “powerful step” to accept the truth and historical justice.

The denial of the Armenian Genocide has been evident in Turkish public discourse since the 1920s but became part of state politics under the control of the military regime between 1980 and 1983 (e.g., Akcam, 2004; Göcek, 2015). The denialist discourse was based on several arguments, which stated that: there is no evidence for the accusations of Armenians in the Genocide; Armenians spread propaganda about alleged murders; Turkish citizens of Ottoman Empire suffered more because of the Armenians, etc. (Dixon, 2010). However, these aren't the only narratives that deny or justify the massacres.

The study aims to understand how denialist narratives are reproduced by modern Turkish officials and to reveal modern methods to deny the Armenian Genocide. We used qualitative content analysis and Critical Discourse Analysis. The analyzed texts included speeches and statements of the country's President and Minister of Foreign Affairs and heads of Parliamentary parties, made in response to Biden's speech.

The findings indicated that Turkish politicians continued to adhere to the denialist narrative established in the 1980s while also defending themselves by attacking back the USA

for the country's past. Therefore, they use the discourse of denial for the positive self- and negative-other representation. The research contributes to the scholarship on the perception of the Armenian Genocide in Turkey and highlights the problem of denial in Turkish political discourse.

Prof. Daniela Cesiri, Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy)

Metaphors in Prime Ministers' address to the nation on coronavirus: the case of 2020 'country lockdown' TV statements in Italy and in the UK

In the first months of 2020, when the Coronavirus pandemic broke out globally, many countries' governments became aware of the unprecedented risks for their population's health and on the tool on the countries' health care systems. So, they decided to pass emergency measures that would limit people's contacts and circulation in closed environments. One of these drastic and dramatic measure were lockdowns that would severely limit or prohibit the movement of people outside their homes. These measures were communicated to the corresponding populations by the countries' Prime Ministers (PMs) in person via televised press conferences.

The study considers the public announcements of country lockdowns placed in Italy and in the United Kingdom in March 2020. Framed within Conceptual Metaphor Theory (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980), the study analyses, qualitatively, two statements by the then Italian PM Giuseppe Conte and the then British PM Boris Johnson focusing on the use of metaphors to refer to the COVID-19 outbreak and the first emergency measures that had to be taken to tackle the tragic situation. Results show that both PMs unexpectedly define the virus with the conceptual metaphor CORONAVIRUS IS CHALLENGE/THREAT, while the solution to the emergency is conceptualised in terms of war effort. However, results also show that, while Johnson's speech emphasises the importance of the measures to protect the NHS and people's lives, Conte's statement emphasises the population's emotional commitment and personal sacrifice for the greater good.

MULTIPLE GLOBAL CRISES: PANEL 2

Raymond Echitchi, University of Liege (Belgium)

Signs and metaphor in Anglophone separatist discourse: A study of political cartoons

This paper is part of a broader study of how separatist leaders from the English-speaking part of Cameroon resort to discourse in order to push for their political goal, which is the formation of a separate State of Southern Cameroons or Ambazonia. As a matter of fact, these last six years, Cameroon politics has been characterised by the rise of secessionist sentiment amongst English-speaking Cameroonians, thus yielding the so-called Anglophone crisis, which has now turned into a full-blown conflict between armed separatists and the country's military. The research we present here deals specifically with the use of political cartoons as a way not only to depict the plight of Anglophones, but also to engage them in the struggle for self-determination. Therefore, we decided to analyse cartoons authored by separatist activists following two main approaches, namely the cognitive linguistics and most especially the conceptual metaphor theory (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980) and social semiotics (Van Leeuwen, 2005). This research has revealed that Southern Cameroonian cartoonists tend to resort to various types of metaphor, including personification (with the territory often represented as a woman who is abused by her partner) and zoomorphism (to push for resilience).

Prof. Michal Ephratt, University of Haifa (Israel)
“I Can’t Keep Silent in Light of How My Country Has Changed Her Face” – Fifty shades of silence in the discourse accompanying Israel’s 2023 constitutional crisis

The state of Israel is considered a strong democracy. While Israel has never ordained a constitution, the independence of powers: the legislative system (the parliament); the executive system (the government) and the judicial system constitutes a tripod securing Israel’s democratic makeup.

Ensuing the recent elections, Israel is undergoing sever constitutional crises. The coalition forming the new government having an overall majority in the parliament is blasting bills to fully control the judicial system and so put an end to its independence. This has legal, personal, economic and international consequences.

Supporters consider this a reform giving voice – and so restoring – the say of the voters and the government, and their proper representation in the judicial system, particularly in Israel’s High-Court. The opponents perceive it as a revolution ruining the balance between these powers – silencing judicial review, minority voices and their rights – and so threatening Israel’s existence as a democratic state.

Following a qualitative field-grounded methodology the study examines the share played by silences complementing, negating or supporting speech in the discourse underlying Israel’s current constitutional crisis and considers their roles and significance.

The data for the study comes from authentic resources such as official and casual speeches in the parliament and its committees; addresses voiced in protests each gathering over hundred thousand participants; reports composed by professionals; live reports, commentaries; as well as material issued on the Israeli media covering the crisis such as professionals, journalists, press reports, columns, opinions and caricatures along with contributions distributed on the social media.

Perceiving speech (parlair-parliament) and silence as social resources, the silences gathered as data (both as behaviour and as theme) are analysed and explained according to the relationships between categories such as silence as power; silence as consent; silencing; pauses and the unsaid (Ephratt 2022) and the addresser’s stand on the issue.

Kumaran Rajandran, Universiti Sains Malaysia (Malaysia)
Sacralizing economic problems in Malaysia

Economic crises have impacted Malaysia since the 1970s. Political parties regularly propose solutions to manage (un)expected crisis, which are discursively manifested in various texts. In this presentation, I study the Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS) and its solutions to national economic problems. Among its published texts, the Green Document explains the party’s economic ideas. Adopting a theolinguistic perspective, I examine the language features in this policy document. Its economics discourse is subject to religious discourse and the interdiscursive mix posits a sacralization of economics. This is seen in the agency and evaluation of PAS, legitimacy categories and intertextual references. These linguistic strategies convey divine sanction, which PAS can interpret and implement. The Green Document reads the profane and present economic problems in terms of transcendent and eternal scripts. Its reading provides an alternative ideological frame and enhances the PAS branding of being an ‘Islamic party’.

Panagiota Nakou, City University London (UK)
Becoming paranoid? Dealing with EU exits, viruses, and other threats

Following Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) faced a time of profound social, political, and economic uncertainty. Young people under 30 years of age have been members of the European Union their entire lives, but recently they experienced the disentanglement of the UK from the EU and a global pandemic.

Having to estimate and deal with Brexit's consequences coincided with the need to calculate and manage the ramifications of a global pandemic and their potential overlap of risks and uncertainties for individuals, member states, the EU and the world. This paper explores the discursive construction of Brexit during COVID-19 as a poly-crisis expected to impact the UK and the EU in multiple ways: socially, politically, economically, legally, professionally, and educationally. This study provides a qualitative comparative analysis of the younger generation's views on EU membership(s) and referenda, using the actual case of 'Brexit' and the hypothetical case of 'Grexit'. Also, it highlights the transformation of EU attitudes among young UK and Greek citizens and how the Brexit benchmark for EU membership was informed in the COVID-19 pandemic context. Finally, this research explores how young people responded to the poly-crisis and developed different forms of micro and macro resilience to deal with uncertainty. The data of this inquiry stems from online focus groups with young UK and Greek nationals (18–30 years of age) during the COVID-19 pandemic (May 2020 – October 2020). Drawing on insights from social constructivism, the study uses thematic and discourse analysis to shed light on the ways young adults make sense of, cope with, and are shaped by unprecedented events and multiple crises.

LIGHTNING ROUND

Lior Weinstein, Hebrew University (Israel)

To which transition and justice to whom? towards recognition of transitional justice in Israeli case law

In this short paper I will shortly present a new development in Israeli case law – the recognition of transitional justice in the property law context. This exciting development is the first time Transitional Justice was recognized in Israeli case law, a recognition that can be further developed in many other contexts.

Transitional Justice can and should play an important role in shaping the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its resolution. It can have major implications regarding many aspects of the conflict – property, history, public discourse, and many more.

Firstly, I will shortly present the recent Sheikh Jarrah facts of the case in which Transitional Justice was recognized. Then, I will offer a critical analysis of this recognition and explore shortly, possible directions of this recognition in future cases brought up before the court.

I argue Transitional Justice has two roles in the judgment: (1) the judicial use of the principles of Transitional Justice as a reasoning source for Judgments (thus, normative source), (2) the usage of Transitional Justice principles as a descriptive prism for legal actions.

The situation of the case does not lie within the classic definition of transitional justice, since, which legacy of large-scale past abuses is addressed here? If the actions of the state, when occupying the territory and returning the rights to its previous owners, are seen as an act of TJ, there's a need to frame the Palestinian owners under the same paradigm – they were victims, as well, of the shift of regimes, when they have legally gotten their property, thus in the shift of regimes their property rights have been violated as well. This lack of classification again shows the bias of this notion.

In this current dispute, the usage of the TJ terminology is especially misleading, since the competing rights do not lie between the original owners of the land, but rather by organizations that bought this land for political reasons. And, as a result, how do these actions help to reconcile the victims and the perpetrator?

In order to demonstrate the problematic aspects and theoretical laps in this usage, I will examine a future implication of another case in front of the court. This will reveal the implications of the easily twisted Transitional Justice paradigm lying in the judgment – Jewish-centered, that provides a legal framework which in settlers are seen as victims of past wrongdoings. This approach, differs tremendously from the discourse around potential

Transitional Justice processes in Israel-Palestine, due to the categorization of settlers as victims.

Thus, this case shows the complex relationship between the international community (represented by TJ) and the Israeli judges interpreting these concepts, in a unique way, as happened in many instances with Geneva Conventions, and of course, influenced by nationalism and the nature of the state as a Jewish nation-state.

Seda Mohul

The media representations of immigrant criminality on Turkish print media

Turkey is at the forefront of the migration routes of Syrian people who had to leave their country by the civil war in Syria. One of the important points about the refugees is the representations of crime on the Turkish print media. In recently, Syrian refugees have been shown in the source of some conflicts as subject. Emphasizing national identity in this way in the criminal news about the events in question causes refugees to be transformed into an object associated with crime and to create a perception of social prejudice and threat. In this study, it is investigated how Syrian refugees are represented in criminal news on the printed media. It is important that the study deals with the criminal events in Turkey to examine national newspapers belonging to different political views in order to examine the common discourse. With this aim, four online daily newspapers were discussed in the national press and focused on more criminal news, including Syrian refugees as perpetrators or victims, between 2018 and 2021. This study has a qualitative design and Teun Van Dijk's thematic analysis of macro structure was adopted for collection and analysis of data.

At the end of the study, the results showed in some part of news texts how created some discriminative and prejudiced categories and presented as a threat to public security. Another result of the study is to determine that different discourses towards Syrian refugees are used, depending the position of the selected newspapers as radical right, left, conservative and nationalist.

In addition, it is expected to contribute to the literature in terms of investigating the attitude of the media, since there is not enough study on the discourse of crime on the print media in Turkey and the news covering the lynching attempts against Syrian refugees.

Giacomo Iazzetta

Understanding the role of language policy in the construction and maintenance of inequalities in Morocco and Tunisia

Language policy plays an important role through the education sector especially in multilingual and postcolonial contexts such as Morocco and Tunisia. The discriminatory nature of language policy contributes to the construction of the socioeconomic status and social inequalities (Leibowitz 1974). This paper analyzes the ways in which the socioeconomic status is shaped in and through language policy in education in the Moroccan and Tunisian contexts. The political metamorphosis that took place after the sociopolitical turmoil in 2010-2011 and the consequent economic instability influenced the language policy of the two states through the education system. I identify the political factors influencing the language policy and the socioeconomic contexts of the two countries' populations with a focus on higher education. Through a mixed method approach I investigate the ways in which the language policies established by the Moroccan and Tunisian governments influence the language practices of university students and professors and thereby contribute to the construction of their socioeconomic status. This approach includes an analysis of the language practices, ideologies and attitudes of universities students and professors, and an analysis of the overt and covert language policies (Shohamy 2006) imposed by Moroccan and Tunisian institutions. This comparison between Morocco and Tunisia will help us to understand the processes through which two countries with similar historical and linguistic roots lead to form different socioeconomic status of their citizens through the language policy process. The final aim of this comparative analysis is to identify new models of language policy that can be considered

by the policymakers of the two countries to reduce the inequalities that have increased since the uprisings in 2010-2011. The new approach to the study of language policy may suggest new directions of research in this area of study, especially in multilingual and postcolonial contexts.

Leonardo Dias Cruz, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) & University of Porto (Portugal)

Language ideologies and discursive construction of refugees in EFL materials

Foreign language teaching has been widely connected to the production and use of coursebook materials. Despite being an instrument of democratization of language learning in theory, such materials may homogenize teaching and learning practices, erasing educational agents' subjectivities and offering a pasteurized view of the social world. This means that sociabilities of all sorts - be them regarded as gender, sexual, racial, ethnic or national identities, for instance - are either absent from didactic books or constructed in stereotypical, tokenized fashion. Considering this scenario, this article aims at investigating the language ideologies that orient the construction of the social category identified as "refugees" in the collection *Raise up!*, which is characterized as a collection of coursebooks in favor of diversity. Based on the theoretic-analytical construct of language ideologies (WOOLARD, 1998; KROSKRITY, 2004) and the semiotic processes of iconization, fractal recursivity and erasure (IRVINE; GAL, 2000), it is understood that the coursebook's theoretical conception indexes discourses of social transformation; however, the activities proposed throughout the thematic units still rely on a perspective of English as a system of bounded signs. Consequently, the social category known as "refugees" is built on a process of cleanliness of linguistic, political and social traits, indexing a structuralist, "purist" and modernist language ideology. Given the pivotal role of education in the construction of the socio-political world as well as the recent migration crisis in Europe and the United States, it is of extreme importance to shed light on these conflicting and somewhat contradictory identity constructions in EFL materials and their possible effects in a global language educational scenario.

Anil Kaan Yildirim, University of Leicester (UK)

A Discourse Analysis of the Discourse Analyses in Afghanistan

Critical orientation in discourse analyses centralises the problematisation of certain social issues at their focus so that the world as we know it, the society as a whole or the truth itself could be questioned. Researchers of this scholarship focused on social problems and their place in power relations. However, these analyses are also a part of the system they intend to problematise. Likewise, the discourse analysis researchers of Afghanistan demonstrate a particular discursive power relations. Overall research in Afghanistan has been subjected to the power relations of the international community. In this research, discourse analysis articles regarding Afghanistan will be examined to find out the limitations of their perspective according to the promises of Critical Theory. The issues that are completely overlooked, limitedly examined or over-emphasised will be analysed. With Foucauldian regime of truth structure, two research questions of 'To what extent did knowledge production in the regime of truth allow academia to be critical in their discourse analyses on Afghanistan? Why are there not enough analyses of local Afghan discourse to choose, implement, and evaluate the policies of the international community?' are attempted to be answered. It is argued that the existing regime of truth structure in the international community had limited the criticality of discourse analysis researchers. Therefore, this article will demonstrate why it is significant to reflect on Critical Theory in discourse analyses and to point out the value of local discourse so that scholarship could be more impactful in responses to crises of real world.

Daniele Leonetti, University of Geneva (Switzerland)

The construction of identity in Russian political discourse between sense of belonging and strategies of exclusion

This contribution concerns the construction of identity in Russian political discourse through linguistic and argumentative structures. Starting from the framing of some basic concepts for the field of study, such as identity, understood in the social and discursive meaning, and the opposition with otherness, and taking a lead from some considerations proper to the broader context of Critical Discourse Analysis, the persuasive tools that make possible the construction of a shared discursive reality with the recipient of the message will be explored. Particular attention will be paid to the role of implicit meaning, intertextuality, figurative language, semantic and syntactic vagueness, topicalizations. An overview of the strategies employed to identify and exclude the other, necessary at the same time to construct the self-image and consolidate the belonging/excluding opposition with respect to the desired group, will then be drawn. An attempt will also be made to draw a distinction between the presumed and the real targets of communication. The analysis will be conducted on the basis of examples from speeches by the President of the Russian Federation and the Foreign Minister in the communicative contexts of the interview and press conference.