



Central European University (CEU), Budapest

## **Discourse Analysis**

**Lea Sgier**

Department of Political Science  
Central European University

PhD Programme

Winter semester 2016-17 (2 credits)

Class meetings : Friday 13:30-15:10

Office hours:

Wed 16-18h and Fr 15:30-17:00 (FT902)

(or by appointment – please sign up for office hours).

### **Course description**

This course aims to introduce the students to social science discourse analysis, and in particular to interpretive discourse analysis as a family of approaches that emphasise the constructed nature of politics and the importance of struggles over interpretive and definitory hegemony for political processes and for the definition of political “realities”. Such approaches have become popular in various fields of political science, including policy studies, social movement research, international relations, organisational studies, etc. They allow to raise research questions that ask how worldviews are constructed, how discourses emerge and change, and how they influence political processes.

The course starts out on a more general overview of the field of discourse analysis (including more positivist strands such as discursive institutionalism), with the aim of zooming in more precisely on what various kinds of discourse analysis can and cannot do. Subsequently, for the major part of the course, we will then focus on post-structuralist discourse analysis: its epistemological bases, its various uses (such as the analysis of systems of meanings, discourses and counter-discourses, genealogical analysis, etc.). We will go over the most important bases and methodological tools of this type of analysis (tools from linguistics, socio-linguistics and post-structuralism for instance), some of its more practically-oriented manifestations (such as critical frame analysis), and some more general methodological issues proper to qualitative-interpretive research.

By the end of the course, the participants should have gained an understanding of the importance of language in politics and of discourse analysis as a conceptual and methodological approach. Through practical work in- and outside of the classroom, they should also have acquired some practical skills enabling them to begin to use discourse analysis for their own purposes, and to find their way through the literature in discourse theory and analysis.

### **Public and pre-conditions**

This course is designed for PhD students of the Doctoral School of Public Policy, Political Science and International Relations, and of other CEU Departments, who wish to use discourse analytical methods in their work, or wish to gain some experience with this kind of methodology to decide whether it is useful to them or not.

MA students who are interested in discourse analysis may be admitted if there is space available and if they receive permission of their Head of Department. Interested students should please contact the instructor, providing a brief explanation as to why they would like to attend this course. MA students need to be aware of the fact that the workload for this course is higher than for an equivalent MA level course.

Auditors may be accepted into the course under the condition of participating regularly and handing in the most important assignments.

### **Learning outcomes**

By the end of this course, the students should :

1. Understand the rationale, theoretical basis and key concepts of discourse analysis as used in social and political analysis, and its limitations;
2. Be able to apply a discourse analytical approach to a (limited) object of their choice, and to present their findings in an appropriate manner, in writing as well as orally;
3. Be able to critically assess discourse analytical work done by others

### **Course requirements and assessment**

The course consists of weekly sessions consisting in lectures, class-room discussions in connection with the readings (and assignments), and practical exercises.

At the end of the semester, every (regular) participant will present his or her final paper to the class. Depending on the number of participants, we may need to extend this presentation sessions beyond the usual duration of the class (a schedule will be set up by mid-semester or so).

The assessment will be based on the following:

- A **final paper** demonstrating a conceptual understanding of discourse analysis and the application of a discourse analytical approach to an object of the student's choice (ca. 6000 words) (70%) (learning outcomes 1 and 2)
- Intermediate **assignments** (20%) to be handed in the day before class, or be brought along to class (learning outcomes 1, 2, 3). They will not be graded individually, but taken as a whole.
- Active participation and a short **oral presentation** of the student's own final paper at the end of the semester (10%) (learning outcomes 2, 3)

A suggestion for a topic for the final paper will have to be submitted by week 4, a more developed 2-page proposal by week 6 and a draft version of the paper by week 10 (ahead of the oral presentation). Deadline for the final paper: **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April**.

Team-work is possible for final papers and assignments.

## Course Outline

### Week 1 (13 Jan)

#### Introduction to the course

- Overview of the course and course requirements
- The analysis of political discourse – traditions and developments

#### Required reading:

- (1) **Panizza**, Francisco and **Miorelli**, Romina (2013). "Taking Discourse Seriously: Discursive Institutionalism and Post-structuralist Discourse Theory". *Political Studies* 61: 301-318.
- (2) **Gee**, Paul (2014) "Language as Saying, Doing and Being", in Angermüller, Johannes, Maingueneau, Dominique and Wodak, Ruth (eds). *The Discourse Studies Reader. Main Currents in Theory and Analysis*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, pp. 234-243.

#### Suggested readings:

- Taylor, Stephanie (2001). "Locating and Conducting Discourse Analytic Research", in Wetherell, Margaret., Taylor, Stephanie and Yates, Simeon J. (Eds). *Discourse as Data. A Guide for Analysis*. London: Sage, pp. 5-48.
- Gee, Paul (1999). *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis*. London: Routledge.
- Bevir, Mark (ed.) (2010). *Interpretive Political Science*. Los Angeles: Sage, "Benchmark" series, 4 volumes.

### Week 2 (20 Jan)

#### Discourse: linguistic and socio-linguistic perspectives

- Language and communication
- Linguistic perspectives: semantics, pragmatics, socio-linguistics
- Language as saying, doing and being

#### Required readings:

- (3) **Chilton**, Paul and **Schäffner**, Christina (1997). "Discourse and Politics", in Van Dijk, Teun A. (eds). *Discourse as Social Interaction*. London: Sage, pp. 206-230.
- (4) **Charaudeau**, Patrick (2002). "A Communicative Conception of Discourse". *Discourse Studies* 4(3): 301-318.
- (5) **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.

#### Suggested readings:

### Week 3 (27 Jan) – Beyond language: discourse as structure

- Discourse as "ideological" power
- Discourse as structure and system

#### Required readings:

- (6) **Mills**, Sara (2004). *Discourse*. New York : Routledge, pp. 26-42.
- (7) **Foucault**, Michel (2014[1968]). "An Archeology of Discourse", in Angermuller, Johannes, Maingueneau, Dominique and Wodak, Ruth (eds). *The Discourse Studies Reader. Main Current in Theory and Analysis*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, pp. 98-110.
- (8) **Bourdieu**, Pierre (1999). "Language and Symbolic Power", in Jaworski, Adam and Coupland, Nikolas (eds). *The Discourse Reader*. London/New York: Routledge, pp 502-513.
- (9) **Fairclough**, Norman (1989). *Language and Power*. London/NY: Longman, pp. 43-76.

#### Supplementary readings:

- Fairclough, Norman (1989). *Language and Power*. London/New York: Longman, pp. 43-76 (ch. 2).
- Hajer, Maarten (1997). *The Politics of Environmental Discourse. Ecological Modernization and the Policy Process*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (ch. 2).
- Howarth, David (2000). *Discourse*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press.
- Jaworski, Adam and Coupland, Nikolas (eds) (1999). *The Discourse Reader*. London : Routledge.
- Jaworski, Adam and Coupland, Nikolas (eds) (2006). *The Discourse Reader*. London : Routledge.
- Phillips, Nelson and Hardy, Cynthia (2002). *Discourse Analysis. Investigating Processes of Social Construction*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Potter, Jonathan (1996). *Representing Reality*. London : Sage.
- Riessman, Catherine Kohler (2008). *Narrative Methods for the Human Sciences*. London: Sage.
- Torfinn, Jacob (2005). "Introduction: Discourse Theory: Achievements, Arguments and Challenges", in Howarth, David and Torfinn, Jakob (eds) (2005). *Discourse Theory in European Politics. Identity, Policy and Governance*. Houndmills: Palgrave.

### Week 4 (3 Feb) – Discourses as (negotiated) systems of meaning; Critical Frame Analysis

- Discourse as a "narrowing of perspectives" and competition for definitory power
- Frames and frame analysis

#### Required readings:

- (1) **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
- (2) **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.
- (3) **Verloo**, Mieke (2005). "Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Europe. A Critical Frame Analysis". *The Greek Review of Social Research* 117 B': 11-34

### Supplementary readings:

- Bacchi, Carol (2009). *Analysing Policy: What's the Problem Represented to Be?*. Frenchs Forest: Pearson Education, ch. 1.
- Benford, Robert D. and Snow, David A. (2000). "Framing Processes and Social Movements: An Overview and Assessment". *Annual Review of Sociology* 26: 611-39.
- Fischer, Frank (2003). *Reframing Public Policy. Discursive Politics and Deliberative Practices*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Fischer, Frank and Gottweis, Herbert (eds) (2012). *The Argumentative Turn Revisited. Public Policy as Communicative Practice*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Foucault, Michel (1982). *The Archeology of Knowledge*. Vintage.
- Gamson, William A. (1992). *Talking Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hajer, Maarten and Versteeg, Wytse (2006). "A Decade of Discourse Analysis of Environmental Politics: Achievements, Challenges and Perspectives". *Journal of Environmental Policy&Planning* 7(3): 175-184.
- Hansen, Lene (2000). "Gender, Nation, Rape: Bosnia and the Construction of Security", *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 3:1, 55-75, DOI: [10.1080/14616740010019848](https://doi.org/10.1080/14616740010019848)
- Howarth, David and Torfing, Jakob (eds) (2005). *Discourse Theory in European Politics. Identity, Policy and Governance*. Houndmills: Palgrave.  
[http://www.grsr.gr/issue.php?i\\_id=39](http://www.grsr.gr/issue.php?i_id=39)
- Keller, Reiner (2012). "Entering Discourses. A New Agenda for Qualitative Research and Sociology of Knowledge" *Qualitative Sociology Review QSR VIII vol. 2.*, pp. 46-75.
- Kuhar, Roman (2012). "Use of Europeanization Frame in Same-Sex Partnership Issues Across Europe". In: Lombardo, Emanuela and Forest, Maxime (eds). *The Europeanization of Gender Equality Policies. A Discursive-Sociological Approach*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 168-191.
- Phillips, Louise and Jorgensen, Marianne W. (2004). *Discourse Analysis as Theory and Method*. London: Sage, ch. 1 and 5 (pp. 1-23 and 138-174).
- Schram, Sanford (2012). "The Deep Semiotic Structure of Deservingness. Discourse and Identity in Welfare Policy", in Fischer, Frank and Gottweis, Herbert (eds). *The Argumentative Turn Revisited. Public Policy as Communicative Practice*. Durham/London: Duke University Press, pp. 236-268.
- Snow, David A. (2007). "Framing Processes, Ideology, and Discursive Fields", in Snow, David, Soule, Sarah A. and Kriesi, Hanspeter (eds), *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*. Cambridge: Polity, pp. 380-412.
- Special issue of the Greek Review of Social Research, 117.
- Torfing, Jacob (2005). "Introduction: Discourse Theory: Achievements, Arguments and Challenges", in Howarth, David and Torfing, Jakob (eds) (2005). *Discourse Theory in European Politics. Identity, Policy and Governance*. Houndmills: Palgrave, ch. 1
- Verloo, Mieke (ed.), *Multiple Meanings of Gender Equality. A Critical Frame Analysis of Gender Policies in Europe*. Budapes/New York: CPS Books/CEU Press
- Wetherell, Margaret., Taylor, Stephanie and Yates, Simeon J. (Eds). *Discourse as Theory and Practice*. London: Sage. Bacchi, Carol (2009). "The Issue of Intentionality in Frame Theory", in Lombardo, Emanuela, Meier, Petra and Verloo, Mieke (eds). *The Discursive Politics of Gender Equality*. London/New York: Routledge: pp. 19-35

### **Week 5 (10 Feb) – Doing discourse analysis**

- The problem of “operationalising” discourse theory
- Problem definitions
- The discursive constructions of hierarchies, boundaries, (dis)continuities and temporalities

Required readings:

- (4) **Bacchi**, Carol. "Why Study Problematizations? Making Politics Visible." *Open Journal of Political Science* 2.01 (2012): 1-8.
- (5) **Gill**, Rosalind (2000). "Discourse Analysis", in Bauer, M. and Gaskell, G., *Qualitative Researching with Text, Image and Sound*. London: Sage, pp. 172-190

Supplementary readings:

- Birnbaum, Pierre (1992). *Anti-Semitism in France: a Political History from Leon Blum to the Present*. Oxford: Blackwell
- Carabine, Jean (2001). "Unmarried Motherhood 1830-1990: A Genealogical Analysis", in Wetherell, Margaret, Taylor, Stephanie and Yates, Simeon, J. (eds), *Discourse as Data. A Guide for Analysis*. London: Sage, pp. 267-310.
- Foucault, Michel (1995). *Discipline and Punish. The Birth of the Nation*. Xx. Vintage.
- Gubrium, Jaber F. and Holstein, James A. (2009). *Analyzing Narrative Reality*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 39-109.
- Howarth, David and Torfing, Jakob (eds) (2005). *Discourse Theory in European Politics. Identity, Policy and Governance*. Houndmills: Palgrave.
- Mottier, Veronique (2008). "Eugenics, Politics and the State: Social Democracy and the Swiss 'Gardening State'". *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Science* 39 (2008) 263-269.
- Plummer, Ken (1995). *Telling Sexual Stories. Power, Change and Social Worlds*. London: Sage.
- Potter, Jonathan (1996). *Representing Reality. Discourse, Rhetoric and Social Construction*. London: Sage.
- Tamboukou, Maria (2009). "A Foucauldian Approach to Narratives", in Andrews, Molly, Squire, Corinne and Tamboukou, Maria (eds). *Doing Narrative Research*. London: Sage, pp. 102-120.
- Wetherell, Margaret and Potter, Jonathan (1992). *Mapping the Language of Racism*. New York: Columbia University Press.

**Week 6 (17 Feb) –**

Guest speaker: Dr Noémi Michel, University of Geneva

**Week 7 (24 Feb) – Time and Discourse**

- Emergence and evolution of discourses
- Genealogical analysis
- Narratives and subject positions/structure and agency in discourse

Required readings:

- (6) **Hook**, Derek (2008). "Genealogy, Discourse, 'Effective' History: Foucault and the Work of Critique". *Qualitative Research in Psychology* 2(1): 3-31.
- (7) **Plummer**, Ken (1995). *Telling Sexual Stories. Power, Change and Social Worlds*. London: Sage, pp. 19-31 and 50-61.

Supplementary Readings:

## Week 8 (3 March) – Discourse and discursive institutionalism

- Discourse vs ideas
- Discourse and causality

### Required readings:

- (8) **Schmidt**, Vivien A. (2008). "Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse". *Annual Review of Political Science* 11(303-326). DOI: 10.1146/annurev.polisci.11.060606.135342
- (9) **Schmidt**, Vivien A. and **Radaelli**, Claudio M. (2004). "Policy Change and Discourse in Europe: Conceptual and Methodological Issues". *West European Politics* 27(2): 183-210.
- (10) **Krizsan**, Andrea and **Popa**, Raluca (2012). "Meanings and Uses of Europe in Making Policies against Domestic Violence in Central and Eastern Europe", in Lombardo, Emanuela and Forest, Maxime (eds), *The Europeanization of Gender Equality Policies. A Discursive-Sociological Approach*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 49-74.

### Supplementary readings

- Fischer, Frank and Gottweis, Herbert (2012). "Introduction. The Argumentative Turn Revisited", Fischer, Frank and Gottweis, Herbert (eds). *The Argumentative Turn Revisited. Public Policy as Communicative Practice*. Durham/London: Duke University Press, pp. 1-27.
- Lynggard, Kennet (2012). "Discursive Institutional Analytical Strategies", in Radaelli, Claudio and Exadaktylos, Theofanis (eds), *Research Design in European Studies*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Panizza, Francisco and Miorelli, Romina (2013). "Taking Discourse Seriously: Discursive Institutionalism and Post-structuralist Discourse Theory". *Political Studies* 61: 301-318.
- Radaelli, Claudio and Schmidt, Vivien (eds) (2005). *Policy Change and Discourse in Europe*. London: Routledge.
- Schmidt, Vivien A. (2010). "Taking Ideas and Discourse Seriously: Explaining Change Through Discursive Institutionalism as the Fourth 'New Institutionalism'". *European Political Science Review* 2(1): 1-25.

## Week 9 (10 March)

\*\*\* no class \*\*\*

## Week 10 (17 March) - An example: Analysing parliamentary discourse

- Reconstructing vs measuring discourse
- Organisational discourse

### Required readings:

- (11) **Steenbergen**, Marco; **Bächtiger**, André; **Spörndli**, Marku and **Steiner**, Jürg (2003). "Measuring Political Debilitation: A Discourse Quality Index". *Comparative European Politics* 2003(1): 21-48.
- (12) **Steiner**, Jürg; **Bächtiger**, André; **Spörndli**, Markus and **Steenbergen**, Marco R. (2004). *Deliberative Politics in Action. Analysing Parliamentary Discourse*, pp. 98-110 and 138-164.

- (13) **Van Dijk**, Teun (1993). "Principles of Critical Discourse Analysis". *Discourse & Society* 4: 249-283.

Supplementary readings

Mumby, Denis K. and Clair, Robin P. (1997). "Organizational Discourse", in Van Dijk, Teun (ed.). *Discourse as Social Interaction*. London: Sage.

**Week 11 (24 March) – Interpretation and validity**

- Building up interpretations and writing up
- Validity, reliability and generalisability
- What we see it what we look for – the problem of reification

Required readings:

- (14) **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, pp. xx.
- (15) **Schofield**, Janet Ward (2002). "Increasing the Generalizability of Qualitative Research", in Huberman, A. Michael and Miles, Matthew B. (eds). *The Qualitative Researcher's Companion*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 171-204.
- (16) **Bevir**, Mark and **Rhodes**, R.A.W. (2006). "Defending Interpretation". *European Political Science EPS* 5/2006: 69-83.

Supplementary readings:

- Antaki, Charles, Billig, Michael, Edwards, Derek and Potter, Jonathan (2003). "Discourse Analysis Means Doing Analysis: A Critique of Six Analytic Shortcomings". *Discourse Analysis Online* 1(1). [<http://www.shu.ac.uk/daol/previous/v1/n1/index.htm>]
- Guba, Egon and Lincoln, Yvonna (2005). "Paradigmatic Controversies, Contradictions, and Emerging Confluences", in Denzin, N. and Lincoln, Y. (eds), *Handbook of Qualitative Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 191-215.
- Hammersley, Martyn (2008). "Troubles with Triangulation", in Bergman, Manfred Max ed. *Advances in Mixed Methods Research*. London: Sage, pp. 22–36.
- Howarth, David (2005). "Applying Discourse Analysis: the Method of Articulation", in Howarth, David and Torfing, Jakob (eds). *Discourse Theory in European Politics*. Houndmills: Palgrave, 316-345.
- Luborsky, Mark R. and Rubinstein, Robert L. (1995). "Sampling in Qualitative Research: Rationale, Issues, and Methods". *Research on Aging* 17:89-113.
- Maxwell, Joseph A. (2002). "Understanding and Validity in Qualitative Research", in Huberman, A. Michael and Miles, Matthew B. (eds), *The Qualitative Research Companion*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 37-64.
- O'Rourke, Brendan (2007). "Using the Technology of the Confessional as an Analytical Resource. Four Analytical Stances Towards Research Interviews in Discourse Analysis". *Forum Qualitative Research* 8(2), art. 3.
- Spencer, Liz, Ritchie, Lewis, Jane and Dillon, Lucy (2003). *Quality in Qualitative Evaluation. A Framework for Assessing Research Evidence*. London: Government Chief Social Researchers' Office (available on-line).

**Week 12 (31 March) – Student presentations**

\*\*\* double class **13:30-15:10** and **15:30-17:10** \*\*\*



- Slides to be submitted by Wednesday evening before the presentation

End of semester

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April: Deadline for the final papers