



Discours d'Europe 2021

Conference Programme

(Re)Contextualising the Discursive Construction of Europe

University of Cyprus, Department of Social and Political Sciences

<https://cyprusconferences.org/recdce2021/>

THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER

Welcoming 10:00 – 10:45 (EET)	
Eleni Phtiaka, Dean of the Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences (University of Cyprus)	
Julien Auboussier, Research Network Discours d'Europe, (University Lyon 2) Dimitris Trimithiotis, Organising Committee (University of Cyprus)	
Opening Talk 10:45 – 11:45 (EET)	
'The New Normal', COVID-19, and the Recontextualisation of Crisis: Discursive Shifts in European (Right-Wing) Populist Imagination <i>Michał Krzyżanowski (Uppsala University)</i>	
Abstract:	<p>This presentation connects the recently prevalent discourse of 'the new normal' – initiated and widely used in Europe and elsewhere the context of the COVID-19 pandemic – with long term pre-existent national and transnational imaginaries deployed across European public spheres by (right-wing) populist – or far right – political actors. Read Less</p> <p>On the one hand, the interest here is in deconstructing the seemingly novel logic of the 'new normal' narrative by showing that, as such, it is largely based on well-established tendencies of production of a new 'normality' (Krzyżanowski 2020a) and wider normalisation of exclusion in/via mediated and political discourse. Hence, as the paper shows, the often-ambivalent imaginary of 'crisis' (Krzyżanowski 2019) – deployed in relation to such recent European and global events/processes as, inter alia, the 'Refugee Crisis' (Krzyżanowski 2018a, 2018b, 2020b; Krzyżanowski & Ledin 2017; Krzyżanowski, Triandafyllidou & Wodak 2018), or 'Brexit' (Krzyżanowski 2019; Zappettini & Krzyżanowski 2019, 2021) – has remained central as well as being further 'recontextualised' (Bernstein 1990; Krzyżanowski 2016) in the public argumentation of European right-wing populist actors. On the other hand, however, the article emphasises a vital, parallel 'discursive shift' (Krzyżanowski 2013, 2018a, 2018b, 2020b) in the conceptualisation of 'crisis' by the European far right during the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper argues, namely, that the very acute and real as well as tangible character of the Coronavirus has forced the populist political actors to abandon their usual strategies of 'imagining', 'mis/constructing' or even 'performing' (Moffitt 2016) crisis and instead saw them turning towards descriptions of the COVID-19 crisis in terms of various types of 'facts'. However, those quasi-factual descriptions of crisis, have, at the same time, been very skilfully re/packaged and 'used' as well as 'operationalised' as tools that helped the far right 'pre-legitimise' (Krzyżanowski 2014) its political strategies and policies. These, as the paper shows, have allowed the far-right political actors – and especially the European right-wing populists in power – to solidify the hegemonic position of their ideologically-driven discourse by not only symbolically but also formally gaining control over competing voices in the public spheres including, very notably, those of the media that used to be critical of far-right politics and actions (see Krzyżanowski, forthcoming).</p>
BREAK 11:45 – 12:00 (EET)	
Discursive (Re)Constructions of Europe in Multidimensional Crisis 12:00 – 13:45 (EET)	
Coordination and Discussion: Miranda Christou (Chair) (University of Cyprus), Julien Auboussier (University Lyon 2), Costas Constantinou (University of Cyprus)	
Le statut des discours cosmopolitiques à l'époque du Brexit : quelle dicibilité dans quel contexte ? (FR) <i>Anna Khalonina (Université de Paris)</i>	
Abstract:	<p>Cette communication cherche à apporter une contribution linguistique au débat sur le statut des discours cosmopolitiques dans la sphère publique européenne contemporaine (Fridman et Ollivier 2004, Bereni et Jaunait 2009, Jacquez 2015, Kansteiner 2019). Elle est ici saisie dans un de ses moments critiques – le Brexit. Le terrain choisi est celui d'une polémique, initiée par la Première ministre britannique de l'époque, Theresa May, qui a dit dans un discours : « If you believe you are a citizen of the world, you are a citizen of nowhere. You don't even understand what the very word 'citizenship' means » (May 2016), en provoquant une médiatisation critique de son propos. A partir d'un corpus d'articles d'opinion, billets de blogs, débats et podcasts britanniques (2016-2019), nous étudions le régime énonciatif adopté par les instances médiatiques mobilisant des ressources discursives cosmopolitiques face au discours pro-Brexit de la cheffe du gouvernement conservatrice. La méthodologie d'analyse est ancrée dans le projet fondamental de l'analyse du discours « française », à savoir l'étude des « formations discursives » (Foucault 1969 : 57) qui déterminent « ce qui peut et doit être dit [...] à partir d'une position donnée dans une conjoncture donnée » (Haroche, Henry et Pêcheux 1971 : 103). En le conjuguant aux propositions plus récentes d'analyse de « statuts des représentations » (von Münchow 2016, 2021), nous proposons de caractériser le statut des discours en termes de leur dicibilité publique en nous intéressant aux contraintes qui régissent leur mise en mots. Nous nous interrogeons également sur le rôle du contexte polémique dans l'expression linguistique du statut des discours. L'énonciation cosmopolitique, est-elle soumise aux mêmes contraintes lorsqu'elle est mobilisée dans un contexte polémique et en dehors de celui-ci ? Pour cela, une confrontation avec un corpus médiatique mobilisant des discours cosmopolitiques dans la période précédant la polémique (2013-2016) est réalisée. Il semble ainsi que les représentations cosmopolitiques de la citoyenneté, bien qu'héritières de l'hégémonie « mobilitaire » (Mincke 2013), restent perçues comme moins acceptables que celles basées sur l'exclusivité d'une optique nationale. Le type d'espace discursif, polémique ou non, influe sur leur statut et le degré de leur dicibilité mais ne les détermine pas entièrement.</p>

L'Europe des extrêmes, au prisme du 'Grand remplacement' et autres théories complotistes (FR)

Baider Fabienne (Université de Chypre)

Abstract:

Les théories du complot sont souvent au coeur de l'argumentation des partis d'extrême droite. Notre analyse de cette stratégie discursive en rhétorique politique se limite ici à l'utilisation de la théorie du Grand Remplacement. Nous nous appuyons sur les concepts pragmatiques de 'terrain commun' (ou 'common ground', Keschkes and Zhang 2009) et celui de proximation (Cap 2013) pour analyser, comprendre et expliquer comment des événements aussi divers que l'arrivée de migrants en 2015 et la crise du Covid en 2019 sont réappropriés discursivement et (re) (dé) contextualiser afin de consolider les trois piliers des extrêmes : anti-establishment / anti-élite, nativisme, autoritarisme (Mudde 2010) avec l'usage des récits collectifs, tels que la théorie du Grand Remplacement qui permettent la (re)(dé)construction des événements majeurs touchant l'Europe. Nos données comprennent les interviews de Marine le Pen sur plusieurs années (à partir de 2012 – jusqu'à 2021) ainsi que les discours postés sur le site officiel du Front national puis du Rassemblement national et des discours de Viktor Orbán (à partir de 2015 jusqu'à 2021). Ancrée dans l'analyse de discours critique (Fairclough 2018), notre étude se focalise en particulier sur l'usage des métaphores et de l'ironie déployées pour convaincre les publics respectifs (Baider and Sini 2021). Notre analyse révèle un terrain d'entente, résultat attendu, mais aussi des variations interculturelles dans l'usage de cette théorie du complot ainsi inférences vs franchise; histoire nationale héroïque vs sombre avenir.

These are not just words: The interplay of economic imaginary and discursive construction of Europe in the League party (EN)

Daniela Caterina (Huazhong University of Science and Technology)

Abstract:

The rise of radical right populist parties (RRPPs) represents one of Europe's most pressing challenges. Yet despite RRPPs' increasing involvement in government coalitions and the salience of economic concerns due to enduring crisis phenomena, their socio-economic agendas still represent a largely unexplored topic. Importantly, they are unexplored both per se and in relation to RRPPs' discursive construction of Europe – this latter's importance in the elaboration of a politico-economic vision notwithstanding.

The present contribution addresses this problem complex in the Italian context. The League party represents a highly interesting case in this respect because of its growing weight in the country's power balance under Salvini's leadership up until the government experience in 2018/19 and the current support of Draghi's executive. Recent studies foregrounding the party's Euroscepticism (Pirro & van Kessel 2017; Di Quirico 2020; Heinisch et al. 2020) or crisis framing (Pirro & van Kessel 2018; Caiani 2019) have marginally looked at the League's socioeconomic positioning. But how does this socio-economic stance relate to the party's discursive construction of Europe? What are the dynamics and implications behind their interplay?

In order to answer these questions, the study suggests a synergy between cultural political economy (CPE) (Sum & Jessop 2013) and critical discourse analysis (CDA) (Fairclough 2013). The League's socio-economic positioning is conceptualized as a CPE 'economic imaginary'. In order to grasp the specificities of this economic imaginary and its interplay with the League's discursive construction of Europe, the contribution performs a fine-grained CDA aimed at reconstructing the practical arguments at the core of the League's most recent 2013 and 2018 electoral manifestos.

Main findings highlight that, under Salvini, the League's discursive construction of Europe has become constitutive of its overall political strategy, thereby exacerbating the central claims of the respective economic imaginary and their relationship with the party's socio-cultural stance. In CDA terms, the problematization of socio-economic and socio-cultural issues of central importance for the party has started to entirely draw on its critical discursive construction of Europe. This is particularly evident in the evolution of the League's economic imaginary, with Euroscepticism literally occupying its circumstantial, goal, value and means goal premise.

The visual framing of the EU in political cartoons on the migration crisis (EN)

Stavros Assimakopoulos (University of Malta)

Abstract:

The use of metaphor has repeatedly been highlighted as a prominent discursive strategy that underlies social processes of othering (e.g. Reisigl & Wodak 2001; Musolff 2015), whereby "particular recurring patterns of metaphor come to normalise certain ways of thinking about groups of people, which, if negative, justify their discrimination" (Ng 2018: 220). A case in point is the way in which the recent 'migration crisis' in Europe appears to have been consistently described in various media outlets; in terms of a 'flood', a 'wave' and/or a 'tide' which essentially evoke a dehumanising representation of migrants and refugees (e.g. Abid et al. 2017).

In this talk, we shift the focus from linguistic to visual metaphor, and the ways in which it has been used to frame the phenomenon in political cartoons that were produced during its peak. Drawing on a corpus of approximately 150 political cartoons, produced from 2015 until 2018, we discuss the ways in which particular source domains (e.g. the EU flag, country borders, boats carrying migrants) visually recur to achieve distinct, but often overlapping, communicative goals. In line with the main purpose of the genre to provide editorial commentary on politics and current events (e.g. Greenberg 2002), we identify several cases where particular metaphorical and symbolic patterns are used to challenge the EU and national authorities and the way in which they have handled the crisis. The analysis of these patterns reveals a prominent narrative that appears – at face value at least – to counter antimigrant sentiments. Upon closer inspection, however, the visual framing of migrants is, again, dehumanising; "[w]e see no faces, no real people. We see just anonymous masses. We see an abstract and dehumanised political problem" (Bleiker et al. 2013: 411). Against this backdrop, we tentatively consider the role that editorial cartoons may play as discourses that both contest EU policy on migration and its interference in (inter)national affairs, while at the same time indirectly perpetuating the dichotomy of 'us versus them' when it comes to the representation of migrant populations.

<p>The poststructuralist political economy of EU trade. A discourse-theoretical analysis of the construction of political agency in the European Parliament. (EN) <i>Thomas Jacobs (Ghent University)</i></p>	
Abstract:	<p>This paper studies how members of the European Parliament (MEPs) relate to and talk about their 'political agency' – their capacity to legislate, make policies, and change the economic landscape of the EU through political action. The relationship between political agency and discursive articulation is necessarily interactive and dialectical – MEPs of course feel constrained by (their subjective perception of) the limits of their political agency when they articulate political discourses, but the very notion of political agency is articulated within these discourses. In this paper, I trace the interplay between political agency as a context, and political speeches as discourses articulated within but simultaneously constituting this context, using a discourse-theoretical approach (Laclau & Mouffe 1985/2014; I more specifically draw on the Logics approach elaborated by Glynos & Howarth 2007, see also Jacobs 2020). My analysis draws particular attention to ideational hegemony, i.e., to how certain discourses about political agency are politicized or depoliticized, and how the re-activation or normalization of such discourses creates the conditions of possibility for particular political projects.</p> <p>By applying corpus-linguistic methods (notably topic modelling) to a corpus containing all speeches about international trade delivered during the EP's plenary sessions between 1979 and 2018, I discover that a consensus exists among MEPs regarding their role in the administration and governance of markets. These findings runs counter to the stereotypical account of neoliberalism as the decline of political agency, but resonates with recent work that understands neoliberalism as a flexible and contextually situated logic (Phelan 2014; Phelan & Dahlberg 2014). However, this consensus appears to recedes in times of crisis, and all but breaks down during the TTIP controversy. I identify the replacement of an 'economic' by a 'democratic antagonism' as the main counterhegemonic political logic as a potential explanation for the loss of faith among MEPs in their ability to exert political agency.</p>
<p>BREAK 13:45 – 14:15 (EET)</p>	
<p>European Integration, Europeanism and Euroscepticism 14:15 – 16:00 (EET)</p>	
<p>Coordination and Discussion: Elena Ioannidou (Chair) (University of Cyprus), Valentina Pricopie (Romanian Academy), Adonis Pegasiou (European Institute of Management and Finance)</p>	
<p>Europeanism and Euroscepticism: Contexts and discourses (EN) <i>Nikola Petrović (Institute for Social Research in Zagreb)</i></p>	
Abstract:	<p>This paper argues that ideological discourse analysis can help discern underlying structures of an emerging transnational cleavage in the EU. Ideological transformations and historical grievances of particular social and political groups are the backdrop of these divisions and they are present in discourses of major pro-EU and anti-EU politicians and intellectuals. Ideological discourse analysis of these actors' texts and speeches was done. The deepening of European integration after the signing of the Maastricht Treaty influenced speech and writing acts of these actors. Therefore, these actors' acts were analysed by taking into consideration the political contexts in which they were given and they were compared with earlier acts.</p> <p>The processes of ideological transformations are primarily linked to the development of Europeanism. Europeanism is an ideology with deeper European integration as its core concept. Europeanism is a 'thin-centred' ideology, whose carriers pushed aside core concepts of their original ideologies. It is argued that Europeanism developed when prominent politicians and intellectuals weakened their links with core concepts of their respective ideologies. In the case of Europeanism, the transformed ideologies were in a loose chronological order: Christian democracy, liberalism, social democracy and green ideology. In this paper the rise of Europeanism in the 2000s following transformations of social democracy and green ideology is presented.</p> <p>The rise of Euroscepticism after various European crises of the 2010s can also be attributed to visions of histories by Eurosceptic leaders from both radical right and radical left. Historical grievances of various political groups have not been overcome by the deepening of European integration or by the entrance of their states into the EU. The legacy of the Second World War and its aftermath in founding member states; the legacy of right-wing dictatorships in Southern European member states and the legacy of communist dictatorships in Central and Eastern European member states still play an important role in contemporary politics of EU member states, but also in their relations towards the EU.</p>

Instrumentalizing Epistemology in Debates on Europe: Realism and Constructivism as Discourse Strategies

Łukasz Remisiewicz (University of Gdańsk)

Abstract:

For sociology, it is a great challenge not only what to say about social processes but how we do it. Our world is under great changes, but sociological knowledge, theory, and language are dispersed. Epistemological crisis in the delegitimization of authority and classic knowledge, widespread of post-truth and fake news has to make us wonder what is 'really real'.

In this presentation, drawing on deflationary view on ontology, Stephan Fuchs theory of observing, and George Lakoff theory of metaphor, I sketch the concept of how epistemology becomes instrumentalized in public debates on Europe. I assume that in public debates we meet two kinds of epistemological semantics - realist, first-order semantics (that relates directly to the reality), and higher-order semantics (that captures its subjects as i.e. constructs, discourse, narrative). In the non-philosophical debates, these two kinds of epistemological semantics should be treated not as an expression of one's epistemological view but rather as an expression of its temporary goals. I argue, that it is possible to indicate a clear pattern - first-order semantics are used when an actor wants to stabilize a certain proposition, view, or approach, and second-order semantics is used for destabilization or destroying it. Additionally, I will display that even theoretically the implementation of stabilization is not possible to consistently use only second-order semantics. It must necessarily be supplemented with first-order semantics.

I would like to examine what epistemological tools are used by the parties to the political dispute who are interested in legitimizing European unity and those who are interested in developing national identities at the expense of a single European identity. I would like to pay special attention to which aspects are considered to exist in reality and which are 'merely' constructed.

Representation of the EU through the use of we and us in British newspapers and parliamentary debates (EN)

Jenni Rääkkönen (Tampere University)

Abstract:

In this study, I compare the representation of the European Union in two sets of data: in British national newspapers and parliamentary debates. I will focus on the differences in how they talk about the EU and which characteristics they focus on when they use the pronouns we and us to refer to it, and thus include it in the ingroup. Because the ingroup ("we") is often seen in a more positive light than the outgroup, I am interested in whether this is the case with the EU, which has often been seen in a negative light, at least in British newspapers. These issues will be examined diachronically, studying the years 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015. My data consist of the British parliamentary debates as transcribed in Hansard and 940 EU-related newspaper articles from four British newspapers (the Guardian, the Daily Telegraph, Daily Mirror and Daily Mail). I use methods of corpus-assisted discourse studies (Baker 2006; Partington et al. 2013), in which quantitative and qualitative methods are combined.

Unsurprisingly, there are differences in how the pronouns we/us have been used in the newspapers and parliamentary debates in relation to the EU. Newspapers have only rarely included the EU in the ingroup and if they have, the pronoun we or us referring to the EU has usually occurred in a quote from a politician. The left-leaning papers have more often included the EU in the ingroup than the right-wing papers. In the parliament, the EU is usually included in the ingroup in the debates focusing on the future of the EU, if the plans are not seen as threatening the UK. The parliamentary debates and newspaper articles are similar in that when referendum on EU membership was a topical issue (1975 and 2015), the EU was discussed almost exclusively from the national point of view and excluded from the ingroup.

Reporting the EU Regulation in the British Press: Bendy Banana, British Humour and Construction of "Silly Europe" (EN)

Ana Tominc (Queen Margaret University Edinburgh)

Abstract:

The early 1990s saw the origins of the incremental and increasingly powerful dissemination of Euroscepticism through the right wing British press. Cheerfully irreverent, pun-laden, British tabloid journalism which sought to ridicule fussy Brussels bureaucracy articulated and fused with the Daily Telegraph's Europe correspondent Boris Johnson's gleefully destructive misrepresentations of the EU and its regulation, resembled the English upper-class buffoonery and gentle mockery of funny foreigners central to the writing of 20th century English humourists such as P.G.Wodehouse and Evelyn Waugh, Johnson's own literary heroes and role models. Such interdiscursive fusion brought about a new and highly persuasive way of framing and describing Europe and its relationships with the British, creating along the way a new genre explored in this paper.

Building on a corpus of British tabloid and broadsheet articles which draw directly upon bendy-banana imagery for reporting on the EU between 1994 and 2020, this paper will interrogate through a selection of articles the way in which the default stance of the genre is that the topic of the European EU regulation is reported as a funny, rather than a serious subject. Drawing on the most infamous symbol of alleged EU intransigence - the stipulated standards of bendiness for a banana - this paper looks at what we call 'bendy banana' journalism to characterise this new genre which deploys the cultural and linguistic idiosyncrasies of the nationally prized British sense of humour.

Through an analysis drawing on the method of critical discourse analysis, a clear division between the common sense proclivities of the down to earth common sense British 'John Bulls' and a high-handed European super state intent on interfering with centuries-old customs and practices is constructed, depicting Europe as 'silly' and all too serious. The paper concludes with reflection on the serious implications of the process by which 'bendy banana' journalism and its location of European regulation as a site of mischievous comedy had an impact on voting decisions made in Britain's 2016 EU referendum

Constructing Europe, fostering austerity, remaking (national) identity. Critical perspectives from the Italian context (EN)

Adriano Cozzolino (Università della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli)

Abstract:

The case of the discursive construction of Europe in Italy is extremely interesting. On the one hand, the constant reference to “Europe” in Italian political discourse can be conceived as a structural source of legitimation and naturalization of the Country’s permanent fiscal adjustment since the 1990s, i.e. permanent austerity, and neoliberal restructuring -- this also after the crisis of 2008, when the socio-economic conditions of the Peninsula significantly worsened and the EU lost appeal. Also the role of the Presidents of the Italian Republic has been fundamental in the discursive and symbolic mobilization that has framed Europe as a historical necessity, a teleological parabola set on the pathway of progress and prosperity.

Through the Critical Discourse Analysis approach, the paper, along with providing for a general assessment of the main elements of the discursive construction of Europe in Italy from the perspective of different political and institutional actors, aims especially to shed light on a still unexplored question: the relation between Europe, ordoliberal/Northern stability, and Italian identity. In other words, the argument is that, beyond a first layer of meanings associated to Europe and related to “economic” necessity, overall at stake is a battle around a modification of Italian identity constructed around the relation South-North of Europe. The analysis, eventually, is conducted on the main policy documents of the Country, so that the position of several governments, from different political orientations, is assessed.

BREAK

16:00 – 16:15 (EET)

Discourses of Europe

16:15 – 18:00 (EET)

Coordination and Discussion: Sophia Stavrou (Chair) (University of Cyprus), Nicos Trimikliniotis (University of Nicosia), Michalis Moutselos (University of Cyprus)

Le discours tenu par l’ Union Européen concernant la pandémie de Covid 19 et la pratique qui l’accompagne : une nouvelle étape dans l’histoire du pouvoir contemporain ? (FR)

Elena Loizou (University of Cyprus)

Abstract:

The pandemic of covid 19 has resulted in an unprecedent intensification in the exercise of power. We remarque In the discourse itself (EU institutions, member states) the frequency of the signifiers of life, death, health, quarantine, danger, curfew, obedience, mask, social distancing, immunity, vaccine, war.

The pandemic seems to have allowed the intensification in the exercise of power. For the conceptualization of power, I will use the analytics of power of Michel Foucault’s: disciplinary power and panoptic (exercised on the bodies), biopower (exercised on the population), governmentality (leading the behavior of others).

I will argue that the pandemic allowed the intensification of the exercise of power and the its subsequent legitimation, the use of new digital surveillance methods and the medical control resulting from the medicalization of society. This power is no longer exercised on a strictly national level, but also a regional one (European Union, World Health Organization).

The methodology used will be the analysis of the European discourse, the resulting practices, the material conditions of the production of this discourse (health crisis), the relation between the afore mentioned signifiers and these practices.

Relevance: the discourse on covid 19 has a considerable impact on the discursive construction of Europe and its rationality.

Preliminary results: the intensification in the surveillance practices of individuals and population will be permanently Established.

Mutating Discourse: The Discourse of the European Commission on irregular migration during the COVID-19 pandemic (EN)

Floris Liekens (University of Kent)

Abstract:

In this presentation, I’ll explore how the discourse of the European Commission on irregular migration changed during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. A specific focus is placed on the framing strategies employed in the different stages of the pandemic, and on the respective discursive constructions of identity therein. The relevance of my research project to the conference is most significantly found in the convergence of the objective of both: an inquiry into the question of how Europe (under unprecedented circumstances) constructs itself. The relation between context – the COVID-19 pandemic– and discursive production takes centre stage.

My methodological approach is a multi-method design (document analysis, social media analysis, and expert and elite interviews with members involved in or associated with the Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission) within a case study strategy. Concretely, I found that in times of non-crisis the rationalisation frame became the hegemonic way of framing irregular migration. But when the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, the threat framing evident around the semiotic construction of a crisis re-instigated the threat frame around irregular migration. In their selective retention and distribution of information, both frames set the stage for the discursive construction of the ‘European self’ and the ‘non-European other’. These discursive constructions of identity occur in tandem. As a critical criminologist interested in questions about harm, I’ll conclude the presentation by addressing one of the numerous ways how the framing strategies instigate a reduction of the subject, which in turn can, but not automatically instigate, facilitate or justify social harm.

The discursive construction of Europe in Irish higher education: a knowledge-based economy account (EN)
Eileen Gillen (Roskilde University College)

Abstract: Through diachronic analysis of EU education policy since the 2000 European Council Lisbon Conclusions it may be demonstrated that Europe has been discursively constructed as a global knowledge economy wherein higher education plays a pivotal role. Employing DHA I argue that this construction of Europe has been successfully recontextualised and embedded in Irish higher education policy and is used to achieve a restructuring of the higher education landscape to facilitate European neoliberal imperatives of growth and competition. The recontextualisation of this construction of Europe in Irish higher education coalesces economic discourses of growth and innovation with discourses of skills and competences, lifelong learning and mobility. It employs a crisis as a mitigating strategy. Europe becomes embodied in the construction of "space" evident in the development of concepts of the European Higher Education Area, the European Research Area and the Innovation Union. Employing translation devices (technologies) such as the European Framework of Qualifications, these discourses drive convergence across the union. The Open Method of Coordination introduced through Lisbon, the economic crisis of 2008 along with developments arising from Bologna have facilitated this economic construction of Europe in the Irish higher education context.

The paper presents work in progress analysis of key texts including, inter alia, the EUs Education and Training 2010 and 2020 and the Irish National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030.

"Resilient" Vs "Compassionate" Europe: The resilience discourses and their ethical implications in the EU policy environment.
Efi Kyprianidou & Yiannis Christidis (Cyprus University of Technology)

Abstract: Resilience is present in everyday life and discussions; references to a system's ability to withstand external pressures and return to normal after a period of crisis appear in the mass media, in political campaigns and in a wide range of academic studies. Resilience is an attractive and "positively charged" notion, replacing negatively charged concepts such as vulnerability or fragility. Resilience is established as a regulatory ideal, both in the context of social and techno-economic systems, and for the individual, who has to be able to recover without delay, reinvent oneself, regain one's own strengths and skills, and overcome calamities, hardships, or losses. However, the emphasis on resilience as "the set of predispositions, traits and emotions" that help individuals survive has been criticized, as it seems to make the individual solely responsible for their own well-being, ignoring the role of adverse social conditions (poverty, racism, lack of access to resources or education). Furthermore, many point out that, although "resilience" is a central term in the academic literature, the lack of a commonly accepted definition and critical examination of the theoretical framework serves the neoliberal policy agenda. This paper takes these prominent discourses of resilience in the EU and subjects them to critical examination. It attempts to question the dominance of resilience and instead argues for the advancement of a rhetoric of compassion, that acknowledges the importance of compassion as both a political emotion and virtue.

The Twelve-Starred Banner. The idea of Europe in pan-European movements DiEM25 and Volt Europa
Matteo De Toffoli (University of Pisa)

Abstract: Today more than ever, the idea of Europe is demonstrating its distinctly discursive character. In a European Union marked by the wound of Brexit, the re-emergence of nationalism and a growing criticism of its management and institutional set-up, in fact, the signifier "Europe" is endowed with several (and sometimes antithetical) meanings. According with the political projects within which it is articulated, Europe may represent be a symbol of harmony or division, prosperity or decay, freedom or constraint.

Among those political projects, the pan-European movements Democracy in Europe Movement 25 (DiEM25) and Volt Europa have given to the idea of Europe a new and undisputable centrality. Founded in 2016 and 2017 respectively, these movements consider Europe as both their field of action and their central political objective. In fact, while differing ideologically, they share the common goals of democratizing the EU through a transnational organization, enhancing popular participation and promoting the tenets of progressivism, environmentalism, and greater social justice.

Within this framework, I will analyse the idea of Europe lying at the heart of DiEM25 and Volt discourses through a qualitative analysis of their manifestos, policy papers and statements of their leaders. Specifically, building on the discourse-theoretical approach of Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe (and the Essex School of Discourse Analysis), I will interpret the signifier "Europe" in DiEM25 and Volt's discourse through the categories of empty signifier and nodal point. Although with some differences, in fact, in both cases the idea of Europe appears as the symbol of a lack and a desire of societal fullness (empty signifier) and the privileged signifier for defining and fixing the meaning of other discursive elements (nodal point) of DiEM25 and Volt discourses: the movements' identity (pan-European, transnational), the political subjectivities they refer to (respectively "European people/s" and "European citizens") and the antagonistic other that they picture as an obstacle in the realization of their political project (respectively "European elites" and "nationalists/populists").

How Europe Sounds
 18.00-18:10 (EET)
Digital foyer

Coordination and Discussion: Yiannis Christidis (Cyprus University of Technology)

Selected soundworks on the construction of the European Identity by students (Cyprus University of Technology Department of Fine Arts students)

FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER

Comparative Perspectives 10:00 – 11:45 (EET)	
Coordination and Discussion: Giorgos Charalambous (Chair) (University of Nicosia), Corinne Gobin (Université Libre de Bruxelles), Rachele Raus (University of Turin)	
Translation practices of EU crisis management. How economic expert discourses (re)contextualize the European Union in Italy and Germany in the course of the corona pandemic (EN) <i>Gerardo Costabile Nicoletta (Charles University) & Jens Maesse (University of Giessen)</i>	
Abstract:	<p>The crisis of coronavirus is radically transforming the discursive construction of the European Union. On the one hand, the EU institutions as the Commission, have gathered more and more a leading role in the public and media debate. On the other hand, member states have deployed different discursive strategies to reframe the EU as political and economic opportunity to pace national populisms. With this paper we aim to investigate different discursive constructions of Europe in Italy and Germany focusing on the role of economic expert discourses in interpreting and re-articulating transformative dynamics pushed forward by the corona-crisis. We start from the idea that the European Union is not composed by a singular discourse but represents a semantic and political battlefield for different interpretations of governance. Moreover, the functioning of the European economic governance is an informed set of rules, procedures and institutions that changed over time and developed an incomplete and constantly transforming ensemble of texts, rules, institutions, competences, and implementation procedures. Using the Foucauldian concept of dispositif, the paper analyses economic discursive practices at local, national, and supranational levels to understand the logic of the discursive construction of economic governance and agenda-setting practices throughout the corona crisis. We aim to show how this logic is framed within the contours of complex processes of translation that we illustrate through the model of the “discursive pentagon”. The cases study of the economic expert discourse in Italy and Germany highlights how the context of Europe is composed by complex assemblages of translation processes. Emerged in the middle of the crisis, the new expenditure program “Next Generation EU” cannot be seen as a singular and monolithic expansionary supranational-led agenda. On the contrary, we will show that the new economic expansionism at the EU political agenda is mobilized through mechanisms</p>
Images of Europe in (Left- and Right-wing) Populist Discourses: The Cases of France and Germany (EN) <i>Alexander Alekseev (National Research University Higher School of Economics), Dmitry Svirchevsky (National Research University Higher School of Economics) & Ivan Fomin (National Research University Higher School of Economics)</i>	
Abstract:	<p>What is Europe? What does it stand for? Who is European and who is not? In the context of politics of the European Union, (differing) answers to all these questions are usually presented by various political actors at the elections to the European Parliament. By focusing on populist discourses in electoral campaigns, this study examines mechanisms of discursive construction and articulation of diverse (populist) images of Europe. It takes four cases across the political spectrum from two leading EU economies: France (Rassemblement National and France Insoumise) and Germany (Alternative für Deutschland and Die Linke). This research design, comparing political communication of right- and left-wing populists, allows to explore the commonalities of populist discourse production in general.</p> <p>At the heart of this research lies the empirical study of verbal texts, produced by the four parties in the course for the European elections campaigns. Such discourses are priori ideologically loaded and serve to convey images of Europe that politicians strive to impose on the voter. The study relies on methods and techniques of the discourse-historical approach to critical discourse analysis, combined with elements of Freedden’s morphological analysis of ideology.</p> <p>The analysis explores referential, predicational, and argumentative strategies used by the European populists. In particular, it shows that both in the right- and the left-wing populist discourses draw a clear line between Europe and the EU. In fact, all analyzed populist discourses reject the current neoliberal project of the EU and offer their own visions of Europe, Europeanness, European integration, and European borders, developing diverse images of a “Europe of the peoples”. However, it is in the construction of “the people” that lies the distinction between left- and right-wing populists. While the right, focusing on a nativist interpretation of the people, equates a Europe of the peoples with a Europe of sovereign nations, belonging to the same civilization, the left stresses the need for popular sovereignty of the Europeans across national borders.</p>

L'européanisation au travers du discours médiatique de commémoration (FR)
Axel Boursier (CY Cergy Paris Université) & Hedwig Wagner (Europa-Universität Flensburg)

Abstract:	<p>La commémoration du centenaire de l'armistice de la Première Guerre mondiale en 2018 a été un événement médiatique (Arquembourg 2011; Mercier 2006). Dans le contexte de la commémoration, les médias sont des "aide-mémoire" (reminders) ou des "commemorabilia" (Casey 2000), qui jouent un rôle intermédiaire entre les individus et l'événement.</p> <p>Dans cette communication, nous explorons la manière dont cet événement médiatique constitue en soi un événement historique européen et donc la manière dont le discours médiatique de commémoration participe à une forme d'européanisation. Plus particulièrement, nous nous intéresserons à la construction du sens européen à travers le discours médiatique de la commémoration perçu comme un moment de configuration (Ricoeur 1991). Par leur production discursive, les journalistes et les politiques tentent de partager leur vision de l'événement commémoré (Charaudeau 2005). Celle-ci repose sur des connaissances historiques, mais plus encore sur une vision particulière du présent et du futur. Le discours de commémoration est un lieu où ces voix tentent d'esquisser leur organisation du hic et du nunc en lui donnant une historicité (Ricoeur et Castoriadis 2016).</p> <p>Nous interrogerons donc la participation, par le biais de la commémoration, à la mise en place d'une mémoire européenne. Le discours médiatique de commémoration participerait ainsi à la construction européenne en même temps qu'il est le moyen de faire advenir un ethos collectif européen (Amossy 2021).</p> <p>Pour mener à bien cette analyse, nous nous appuyons sur un corpus médiatique européen (8 pays) récolté durant la semaine avant et après la commémoration du centenaire de l'armistice de Première Guerre mondiale.</p> <p>Cette proposition s'inscrit dans les recherches sur le discours de commémoration dans les médias en ligne de plusieurs pays européens (France, Allemagne, Italie, Pologne, Roumanie, Royaume-Uni, Russie) menées dans le cadre du groupe de recherche DIREPA-LEMEL-EUROPE (https://lemel.hypotheses.org/direpa).</p>
-----------	---

Représenter un même temps : le discours de commémoration et sa représentation sociale et médiatique en quête d'une mémoire collective européenne (FR)
Alida Maria Silletti (Università degli studi di Bari Aldo Moro)

Abstract:	<p>Cette proposition aborde le discours de commémoration (Charaudeau 2009) du Centenaire de la Grande Guerre en France, en Allemagne, en Italie et au Royaume-Uni. Deux approches principales, à savoir une analyse multimodale combinant éléments textuels et iconiques d'une part, et une analyse lexicométrique de l'autre seront convoquées par les trois auteures dans le but d'identifier une construction discursive de l'Europe et d'inscrire cette commémoration dans la mémoire collective (Casey 2000 ; 2004). Les résultats des analyses montrent que le contexte national influence fortement la perception de la situation par les acteurs concernés (van Dijk 2006), ainsi que la participation de chaque contexte sociopolitique national dans le processus d'européanisation. En détail, les analyses s'appuieront sur la théorie sémiotique du signe de Peirce (1902) appliquée aux illustrations des sous-corpus français et italien (Le Monde et Le Figaro, et La Repubblica et Corriere della sera, respectivement), sur la littérature sur les représentations sociales (Jodelet 2008 ; Wagner 1999) et sur le contexte culturel de référence (Sam and Berry 2016) appliquée aux titres des articles de presse et à l'iconographie des sous-corpus français et allemand (Le Figaro et le Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung), ainsi que sur les résultats de l'analyse lexicométrique réalisée par le logiciel Iramuteq appliquée aux articles des sous-corpus français (Le Monde), allemand (le Süddeutsche Zeitung) et britannique (The Guardian).</p> <p>Le corpus médiatique européen récolté a couvert la semaine avant et après la commémoration du 11 novembre 2018 (07-14/11/2018 pour tous les pays) à l'exception de l'Italie, dont la collecte a commencé le 1er novembre 2018.</p> <p>Cette proposition s'inscrit dans les recherches sur le discours de commémoration dans les médias en ligne de plusieurs pays européens (France, Allemagne, Italie, Pologne, Roumanie, Royaume-Uni, Russie) menées dans le cadre du groupe de recherche DIREPA-LEMEL-EUROPE (https://lemel.hypotheses.org/direpa). Ces recherches ont conduit à l'ouvrage collectif (sous presse) Media discourse of commemoration. The Centenary of World War One in Europe, sous la direction d'Elisabeth Le, Luciana Radut-Gaghi, Alida M. Silletti, Hedwig Wagner, à publier chez Palgrave McMillan.</p>
-----------	--

Le Brexit et la figure du citoyen dans les discours médiatiques français, britanniques et allemands (FR)
Leroy Clémentine (Université Lyon 2)

Abstract: Le Brexit est ici envisagé dans la dimension de construction d'un événement médiatique. Le propre de l'événement est sa charge de rupture dans l'intelligibilité du monde. Le Brexit appelle à une réécriture du passé pour le rendre intelligible mais il déstabilise aussi un horizon d'attentes. La fracture qu'opère le Brexit dans les imaginaires et ainsi dans les discours sur l'Union Européenne est à l'origine de mon travail doctoral. J'étudie en particulier les discours médiatiques de trois zones géographiques jouant un rôle particulier dans cet événement, le Royaume-Uni pour la sortie et le couple franco-allemand comme moteur de la construction européenne.

Cette fracture dans les imaginaires est particulièrement visible autour de la figure du citoyen dont l'analyse permet de considérer les discours dans deux contextes, le macro en comparant les discours dans différents pays et le co-texte par la comparaison des genres de discours entre différents types de presse. Mon corpus repose sur trois journaux dans chaque pays de l'année 2016 à 2018, pour l'Allemagne le FAZ, Süddeutsche Zeitung, et le Bild, pour la France Le Monde, le Figaro et Les Échos, pour le Royaume-Uni, le Guardian, Financial Times et le Daily Mail. Une première analyse quantitative lexicométrique permet de faire apparaître les éléments saillants du corpus et de constituer des critères de sélection pour une deuxième analyse qualitative sémiotique. Les résultats préliminaires de l'analyse montrent que la figure du citoyen permet d'observer les différentes dynamiques et enjeux qui traversent les espaces publics, par exemple dans des discours de radicalisation. Dans le contexte macro, l'analyse permet de voir qu'en plus des cadres culturels dans lesquels s'inscrivent ces discours médiatiques, le type de presse joue aussi un rôle déterminant, ainsi la proximité entre la presse de référence allemande et anglaise autour de la question du citoyen est plus forte qu'avec la presse française. Ces rapprochements et différences permettent d'observer à la manière de l'histoire croisée la circulation des imaginaires européens au-delà d'une conception limitée aux frontières nationales.

BREAK

11:45 – 12:00 (EET)

Constructing Europe in the Media Discourses

12:00 – 13:45 (EET)

Coordination and Discussion: Dimitra Milioni (Chair) (Cyprus University of Technology), Juliette Charbonneaux (Sorbonne Université), Venetia Papa (University of Cyprus)

European Concerns and the EU institutions. Discourse and representation in the Romanian online news media outlets. (EN)

Andreea Alina Mogos (Babeş-Bolyai University)

Abstract: The citizens' perception on the EU institutions need to be understood in the context of internal factors like domestic economic and political developments, as well as media representations of European and national identities and values. The study proposes an analysis of the Romanian media representations of European institutions from 2016 to 2020. The study focuses on the media coverage of the main EU institutions: the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the EC Council of Ministers, the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Central Bank, the European Court of Justice.

Firstly, the present study identifies which are the EU institutions that appear most frequently in the coverage of three prominent Romanian online news media outlets (The European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council). Secondly, the study clarifies how the most visible European institutions are associated with major concerns (migration and refugees, terrorism, Brexit, populism and alt-right, EU foreign policy, EU economy and data protection, COVID 19, disinformation). Thirdly, the study reveals which are the major media sources used by the Romanian news media in the coverage of the EU institution [for covering EU institutions and issues are elite international news agencies (AFP, Reuters, AP) and elite media outlets (BBC, The Guardian, Financial Times, Le Monde etc.), but when the geographical proximity is involved, smaller media outlets or even national news agencies (news.ro, MTI) are quoted].

Mixed methods were used to achieve the proposed goals. A semi-automated content analysis was performed on the data set extracted from the websites of the sampled Romanian news media outlets (digi24.ro, adevarul.ro). The qualitative discourse analysis of the news content offered insights on the frames used by the Romanian media to represent the European institutions.

Conceptualization of Europe in Turkish Newspaper Opinion Articles in Pro and Anti- Government Newspapers (EN)
Elçin Esmer (Mersin University)

Abstract:	<p>From the cognitive linguistics point of view, metaphor is defined as understanding one conceptual domain (target domain) from the perspective of another conceptual domain (source domain) (Lakoff & Johnson 1980, 1989; Kövecss 2010). Kövecss (2010) states that the source-to-target mappings can change according to people's world views, background knowledge, and experiences.</p> <p>Moreover some researchers (e.g. Simon-Vandenberg 2003; Martin and White 2005) focus on the interpersonal functions of conceptual metaphor. According to them, metaphors have a role in reflecting the stance of the text producer and also affecting the attitude of the text receiver. In other words metaphors enable text producer to have his receiver focus on some aspects of a concept that he wants to emphasize while keeping the receiver from focusing on other aspects of the concept (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980). Newspaper genre is generally accepted as one of the most important samples of persuasive text genre. Fowler (1991) states that "newspaper language is not impartial but on the contrary, it is a highly constructive mediator" (p.1.). Thus the same event can be differently presented with different focuses by the newspapers with different ideologies. Metaphors are heavily used in newspaper to achieve the ideological purposes (Krennmayr 2011, Charteris -Black, 2004; Santa Ana, 1999).</p> <p>The study aims to analyze how "Europe" is conceptualized through the use of metaphors in Turkish newspaper opinion articles and their role in the reflection of the scope and nature of newspapers' ideologies. The data consisted of fifty opinion articles published from 2016 to 2021 randomly selected from four elite newspapers which have different ideology, two pro-government and two anti-government. Data analysis was done by drawing on Lakoff and Turner (1989) and Kövecss (2010) metaphor theory. Quantitative and qualitative methods were applied to identify the frequency of conceptual metaphors used in the data. Moreover, the chi-square test was used to determine if there was meaningful difference between the pro and anti government columnists' usage of the conceptual metaphors. Results reveal that there are variations in the use and distribution of conceptual metaphors in the two set of data according to the ideological viewpoint.</p>
-----------	--

Tweet for Peace through Europe (EN)
Christiana Karayianni & Charis Psaltis (University of Cyprus)

Abstract:	<p>This article focuses on the way the discourses on Europe are used by the two negotiating sides on Twitter on related to the Cyprus peace process issues. Since the accession of Cyprus in the EU, Europe has been a protagonist in the discourses that reach the public sphere(s) of the island, taking according to the context as well as from the side that produces it, a different meaning and role in the discussion for the Cyprus problem and the negotiating process in particular. Data deriving from the twitting activity of the negotiators, i.e. the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot leader are being analysed in order to identify these multiple discourses that the two communities assign to Europe in different times and contexts. Specifically, the tweets produced by the Cypriot community leaders around the role of Europe in the Cyprus peace process during three different timeframes: (1) May 2015 – July 2017, (2) 01 August 2017 - 23 October 2020 and (3) 24 October 2020 - 30 May 2021 are being analysed and compared in terms of their volume and discourse. The findings suggest that there has been a shift in the discourses on Europe produced in the context of the Cyprus problem in the Twittersphere especially for the TC community.</p>
-----------	---

Migration and the (de-)construction of European values in news portals in Greece) (EN)
Dimitris Serafis & Stavros Assimakopoulos (University of Malta)

Abstract:	<p>The 'refugee crisis,' as media and political institutions construed the mobilization of migrant populations towards Southern Europe since summer 2015 (see Krzyżanowski, Triandafyllidou & Wodak 2018), enforced strategies of exclusion, providing European citizens with reasons, and therefore motivation, for developing discriminatory attitudes. In this context, extreme right-wing discriminatory discourses and rhetoric were strengthened (see e.g., Angouri & Wodak 2014), along with an alarming increase in hatred discourses and aggression (see Assimakopoulos et al. 2017), which have been characterized as one of the most hazardous effects of extensively disseminated discriminatory attitudes in the Union (see ECRI 2017). Zooming in on Greece, as one of the countries most affected by the 'refugee crisis' (see European Parliament 2019), in this paper, we examine the extent to which manifestations of discriminatory discourses crop up in the discussion of the migration issue in two mainstream news portals with different background (i.e., Próto Théma – center right; Efimerída ton Syntaktón – center-left). Drawing on the principles of Critical Discourse Studies (see Wodak & Meyer 2016) and on a balanced corpus of news reports on migration, we focus on the framing of the EU and its institutions as main actors in the management of migration, showing how the discursive emergence of discriminatory attitudes in the context of the mainstream media discussing EU policy forms a solid argumentative basis on which the very foundations of the EU are continuously challenged. To that end, we outline a micro-textual analysis that scrutinizes meaning constructions on the basis of representations of social actors/action and metaphors (see Hart 2014) before turning to illustrate the argumentative inferences they trigger, on the basis of the Argumentum Model of Topics (AMT) (see Rigotti & Greco 2019; see also Serafis et al. 2021).</p>
-----------	--

European Multilevel Public Opinion at the Pandemic Test
Stefania Adrana Bevilacqua (University La Sapienza of Rome)

Abstract:	<p>The paper aims to analyse the discursive constructions of Europe and the process of building European public opinion. It focuses on the supranational context of news production, which is studied through interviews with journalists from Brussels. The research consists of two phases. The first phase was completed in 2018, when Brexit was in its early stages. It shows a substantial difference between national journalism, whose purpose is to inform, and European journalism, whose task is to disclose European mechanisms because they are not yet socially established. In particular, Brussels-based journalists say that the news on European issues developed in press conferences, although stimulated by the interest of individual journalists, achieves a unified narrative because it was formed in a really European discussion space based on interaction between journalists and between journalists and Institutions. Subsequently, the correspondent has to decrypt that news with the aim of making it comprehensible at a local level, through an hard work of translation that is influenced by multiple national and subjective factors.</p> <p>This first phase of the study leads to the conclusion that there are two levels of news production, one supranational and one national, which influence each other. However, they do not seem to be able to create a European public opinion, but rather contribute to the formation of a national opinion on European issues. The Covid-19 pandemic has stimulated the second phase of the research, still in progress, because it has been involving all European countries producing facts to be narrated, apparently, with the same communicative paradigm and the same discursive categories. The paper aims, therefore, after a brief description of the 2018 results, to verify whether the existence of common facts to be narrated according to the same paradigms in all Member States is able to take a step forward towards the creation of a truly European public opinion.</p>
-----------	--

BREAK

13:45 – 14:15 (EET)

Nationalism, Populism and Securitization

14:15 – 16:00 (EET)

Coordination and Discussion: Nayia Kamenou (Chair) (University of Cyprus), Rachele Raus (University of Turin), Giorgos Charalambous (University of Nicosia)

White (inter)nationalism? Race, nation, and constructions of Europe on a far-right YouTube channel
Scott Burnett (University of Gothenburg)

Abstract:	<p>Ideas which were until quite recently considered shameful – such as biological racism, ethnonationalism, and archaic gender roles – are becoming an increasingly normal part of the European political mainstream (see Wodak, 2021). A key factor facilitating this normalization has been the proliferation of social media, which have provided a relatively unregulated space for the dissemination and amplification of fascist and far right ideology.</p> <p>In this paper, I analyze how whiteness and the “white” nations of Europe are constructed by popular AltRight YouTuber “The Golden One” (TGO), the alter-ego of the Swedish white nationalist Marcus Follin. Employing multimodal analysis of specific moments in a large corpus of video texts, I build on both critical discourse analytical and discourse theoretical traditions (see Freeden, 2021) to reconstruct the TGO discourse regime and its articulatory acts and formations.</p> <p>I show how TGO constructs an ideal, white, masculine, and European subject position as intimately connected to both race and nation in the context of a continent constructed as in the midst of a racialized and gendered demographic war for dominance. A rigid ethnonationalism, where a fixed and essentialized ethnicity is identified with specific languages, territories, and narratives, is articulated by TGO as commensurate with an internationalist racial programme articulated around “European” identity wherever there are white people, using “global English” as its lingua franca. Importantly, while these discourses have clear historical precedents they are repackaged by TGO into often novel, diegetic forms inspired by the fictional worlds of video games, and presented in an ironic, even self-mocking form shaped by networked technocultures. I show how TGO’s ludic self-stylization and narrativization works to establish white nationalism as a mark of high social status, appealing to new audiences across linguistic and national differences.</p>
-----------	--

Nationalism and Hegemony: The Social and Political Consolidation of “the Nation”

Michaelangelo Anastasiou (University of Cyprus)

Abstract:

Responding to the limitations of “modernist” accounts of nationalism, which still dominate the literature, discursive approaches are becoming increasingly prominent. Modernists typically understand nationalism as a by-product of particular social or historical developments, e.g. the state, capitalism, industrialism, linguistic homogeneity, etc. By “privileging” certain analytic parameters, the analysis invariably comes to be restricted. Consequently, the breadth, diversity and synergy of the elements that comprise nationalism are underemphasized. Ergo, the diversity of forms that nationalism assumes in the empirical world, as well as the diversity of its constitutive elements, are not effectively accounted for. The present study, being principally situated in the Post-Marxist paradigm, develops a discourse-theoretical understanding of nationalism, inquiring whether it is “possible to articulate a theory that can account for the diversity of elements that constitute nationalism and the diversity of forms that nationalism assumes, while at the same time accounting for the phenomenon’s unity.” By employing a post-foundational approach, the present presentation seeks to account for nationalism’s dynamism and “intertextuality.” It reengages nationalism as a set of shifting ideational and institutional modalities that come to be variably and interactively embedded in social life and relations of power. It investigates how “the nation(-state)” and “nationalism” come to be consolidated as conceptual and experiential power structures and how the interests of political groups are advanced through diverse national(ist) modalities, which can at any time be “activated” for political purposes. In this sense, nationalism is examined with keen focus on its contextual instantiations, thus effectively enabling cross-situational comparison, in the absence of aprioristic theoretical commitments. Nationalism is understood as a variable set of overdetermined “family resemblances” that come to represent the national communal totality. These “family resemblances” come to be dispersed variably and unevenly, “binding” together differential identities, while unevenly privileging particular identities. “The nation” can thus be understood as a privileged signifier of historically variable content that, through its general and uneven dispersion, fuses but unevenly privileges, multiple identities into a socio-political bloc.

Cyprus: a land of no populism?

Giorgos Venizelos (Scuola Normale Superiore)

Abstract:

In the last decade, the globe experienced the proliferation of parties and movements advocating for the return of ‘the people’ or ‘the nation’ at the forefront of politics which reinvigorated public and academic discussions about populism and nationalism. While populist parties have advanced in various countries and have in fact assumed power in many occasions, the Cypriot political system has remained relatively stable and established actors remained relatively unchallenged. The proposed paper investigates the curious non-emergence of populism in contemporary Cyprus against a background of deep financial crisis and profound political disillusionment – conditions that are treated as necessary and sufficient for the emergence of populist and nationalist challengers. Putting emphasis on Cyprus’ key historical particularities, the article enquires into the ways Cyprus’ political past, and the subsequent salient ‘national question’, produce ambiguous notions of ‘the people’ on the one hand, and impede the potentials for a ‘populist moment’ on the other hand. By assessing the performative dynamics of oppositional parties in Cyprus through a discourse-analytical methodology, the empirical analysis suggests that the absence of populism is rooted in the following factors: First, nationalist discourse prevails over, and significantly weakens, populist discourse. Second, self-proclaimed challenger parties served ‘old wine in new bottles’ further undermining their position and claims. The failure of populism to take root in Cyprus, brings to the fore important theoretical insights relevant to the non-emergence of populism even under favourable conditions. At the same time, it also seeks not only to disentangle populism from nationalism but also critically interrogate how and when the two notions are combined.

La réinterprétation du concept de « law enforcement » dans le discours contraignant européen (FR)

Francesca Bisiani (Université Catholique de Lille)

Abstract:

Dans cette étude, nous proposons d’examiner, selon une approche discursive de la terminologie la circulation et traduction du terme « law enforcement », en anglais, en français et en espagnol, dans un corpus parallèle d’actes contraignants européens (1991-2020) et dans des dispositifs terminologiques et de traduction automatique.

Le concept de « law enforcement » peut poser des difficultés lors de son adaptation dans les langues-cultures de l’Union européenne car sa transposition demande de prendre en compte la structure organisationnelle des institutions chargées de l’application de la loi dans l’État concerné. De plus, il risque de ne pas être déchiffré seulement dans le cadre d’un schéma juridique selon lequel on entend par ce terme la punition d’un fait délictuel. Sa dimension politique, qui s’explique par son analogie avec la notion de violence et de contrôle social, peut évoquer en termes historiques des rapports de pouvoir et de domination du haut vers le bas.

Ainsi, l’observation des termes en trois langues, et de leur usage dans le discours, permet de mettre en évidence des ouvertures interprétatives et des variantes dénominatives qui révèlent des positionnements des énonciateurs et qui méritent d’être analysées sous une perspective juridico-politique. Pour ce faire, nous avons procédé à une double analyse quantitative et qualitative, redevable des approches discursives de la terminologie et de l’analyse du discours de l’École française, attentive aux définitions terminologiques du terme et à son contexte extralinguistique.

Par cette étude contrastive des documents contraignants nous souhaitons poser un regard critique sur les tendances actuelles qui caractérisent la construction discursive des enjeux sécuritaires dans l’espace multilingue européen. L’observation des écarts interprétatifs nous permettra de déceler d’une part les décalages conceptuels sur le même concept et, d’autre part, de révéler des discordances idéologiques sur les mesures à entreprendre en matière répressive.

Concluding Remarks - Roundtable Discussion

16:00 – 16:45 (EET)

Sophia Stavrou, Dimitris Trimithiotis, Rachele Raus, Julien Auboussier, Juliette Charbonneaux

Network Meeting

16.45-17.30 (EET)