Call for Abstracts

**DN18 - Gender Studies meets Discourse Studies meets Gender Studies: Entanglements, affinities, tensions and open questions**

**18th DiscourseNet Conference at the University of Paderborn**
from 8 September 2016 (9am) to 9 September 2016 (5pm)
http://www.dn18.discourseanalysis.net

**Focus.** How can the relationship between discourse studies and gender studies be described? Which perspectives do these two scholarly fields open up for one another and what can they learn from each other? How are they already closely connected and which potentials and tensions do these entanglements bring to light? Which affinities can be seen between the two fields or from their mutual perspectives? These questions – focused on links and overlaps – are the focus of this conference. We aim to present various approaches in these scholarly fields and also to highlight how specific methods, methodologies, histories, disciplinary developments etc. contribute to ongoing debates and issues in both gender studies and discourse studies.

**Participants.** The conference welcomes participants who work in the field of gender studies, in discourse studies or who wish to contribute to the discussion on the relationship between these two fields from other theoretical and empirical positions. More important than any specific disciplinary background is an interest in the productive exchange on issues at the nexus of research on discourse and gender.

**Background.** Gender studies and discourse studies are relatively young fields of research which are marked by dynamic change and increasing institutionalisation. Both fields are oriented towards interdisciplinarity. Both have active communities, with a range of focused networks, book series, and journals. They share an orientation towards the paradigm of construction and performativity, i.e. objects are not seen as naturally existing, but as socially produced. Leading questions ask how something is enacted as a singular truth or an obligatory norm. Thus it is not surprising that discourse analysis is a widespread approach in gender studies. (Post-)Structuralist theories have been taken up, and discourse analyses conducted since the late 1970s. In the wake of the debate on Judith Butler’s *Gender Trouble* from 1990, research activities have expanded exponentially, with discourse analysis now having a firm home in gender studies’ methodological canon. At the same time gender plays a central role in many analyses of discourse, such as media discourse, political discourse or migration discourse. However, despite the overlap in epistemologies, theories and methods, there are few spaces for researchers in the two fields to meet and explore potentials for working together and learning from one another. Just one example for the lack of contact between the two fields is the presence of only a few gender researchers in DiscourseNet. For these reasons, the central goal of this conference is to offer a space for an open and productive dialogue.
**Topics.** We invite contributions which discuss „focal points“ or „critical“ issues“ on which discourse studies and gender studies are working, and those topics which illustrate the entanglements, affinities, tensions and open questions in each or both fields. Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- the concept of social construction,
- the relationship between deconstruction and difference,
- the theorisation and analysis of materialities,
- the relationship between research and social movements and
- the political dimension of academic work.

This list is unfinished, and can be extended to include those topics on which potential participants are currently working. Presentations which focus on concrete issues (subjectivation, body, social movements, media, education, etc.) are welcome, as are metatheoretical reflections on theories, methods, historical developments, etc.

In addition to classic presentations, the conference offers a dedicated space for posters on other topics related to discourse studies which present insights from ongoing or complete research projects.

**Languages.** The primary conference language is German, with English presentations also welcome. We encourage participants to present in the language in which they feel most comfortable. We feel it is important to retain the expressiveness of language: The compatibility of language preferences and international exchange remains an intractable challenge. Instead of the solution of English-only conferences, we have opted for the strategy of the “beside”, in which two languages are used alongside one another, with each person choosing the easiest for each situation – well aware that this pragmatic bilingualism can only be a compromise.

**Abstracts.** We invite abstracts for talks by 31 March 2016. Please submit your abstract with the formular on the conference website: [http://www.dn18.discourseanalysis.net](http://www.dn18.discourseanalysis.net). (max. 2000 chars text and 500 chars literature)

**Posters.** Proposals for poster presentations (max. one page) can be submitted from 1 May to 31 July 2016. Please also put them on the conference website.

For questions please send a mail to the organisation team at dn18@discourseanalysis.net

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