Languages, Media and Politics: Cognitive Linguistic Methods in Discourse Analysis

Two-Day Interdisciplinary Workshop, 27-28 September 2013
Russian and East European Studies, School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, University of Oxford

Organiser: Dr. Anna Pleshakova
Co-organiser: Ariadna Tsenina, DPhil Candidate, Politics, DTC, Oxford

The workshop will focus on the application of innovative linguistic methods (qualitative and quantitative: cognitive, computational and corpus) to media and political discourse analysis. The aim is to develop the research methods skills of research students and early-career scholars at Oxford and other CEELBAS universities (www.ceelbas.ac.uk), particularly those who are using discourse analysis for interdisciplinary research, both within the social sciences or the humanities and crossing the boundaries between the social sciences and the humanities.

Although this workshop is primarily aimed at Russian and East European Area Studies researchers, it will also benefit students from other social sciences and humanities programmes. The research methods introduced and discussed during the workshop will form a valuable part of the research skills 'tool kit' of every researcher engaged in discourse analysis and can easily be transferred and applied to work with discourses in any language area.

Talks followed by Q&A sessions will be given by world-renowned specialists in the fields of media and political discourse analysis, cognitive science, cognitive linguistics, corpus linguistics, and computational linguistics, including: Professor Paul Chilton (Lancaster University), Professor Mark Turner (Case Western Reserve University, USA), Professor Seana Coulson (University of California San Diego, USA), Dr. Christopher Hart (Northumbria University), Dr. Gabriella Rundblad (King's College London) and Dr. Steven Clancy (Harvard University).

Workshop participants will be given practical discourse analysis tasks (in English as well as in Russian and other East European and Slavonic languages) using the approaches and methods introduced by the workshop speakers. To conclude the workshop, a ‘round table’ discussion will take place, with all workshop participants contributing to a general discussion on the utility of cognitive, corpus and computational linguistic methods for discourse analysis in interdisciplinary research.

The workshop is open to all, but priority will be given to Oxford Social Sciences DTC students and research students from CEELBAS universities (Bath, Birmingham, Cambridge, Kent, Manchester, Oxford, Sheffield, Warwick, SOAS and UCL). To register, please contact Ms Polly Bunce polly.bunce@area.ox.ac.uk

There is no registration fee. Coffee and sandwich lunches will be provided. There will be a ‘wine and light dinner’ reception on the Friday night (27th September) for all workshop participants. A limited number of bursaries are available for doctoral students from CEELBAS partner universities (from outside Oxford) to cover travel expenses and one-night accommodation at Oxford. If you would like to be considered for financial support, please contact Ms Polly Bunce (polly.bunce@area.ox.ac.uk) enclosing a short note confirming (i) why the workshop is relevant to your research and (ii) why your attendance could not be supported through other means of funding (e.g. institutional research travel grant or other support).

The workshop is sponsored by the AHRC- and British Academy-funded Centre for East European Language-Based Area Studies (CEELBAS: www.ceelbas.ac.uk) and the ESRC-funded Doctoral Training Centre at Oxford (http://www.dtc.ox.ac.uk/) and is supported by the UK Cognitive Linguistics Association (http://www.uk-cla.org.uk/).