

Language and politics – Language and power

Instructor: Dr. Dr. Julia Bacskai-Atkari

Credits: 6

Block: Block 1, autumn 2023

Time: Monday 15.00–17.00 & Thursday 13.00–15.00

Room: PCH 5.02 (Mondays) & PCH 5.60 (Thursdays)

Description

How do people manipulate, persuade and convince each other? What techniques do people in power use to stay in power and get their way, and how do the powerless resist? How do politicians attempt to frame the debate? How does ideology influence language use? How are people described and addressed to establish and maintain asymmetry? In this course we will look at a wide range of approaches that have been developed to begin to answer these and other questions related to the link between language and politics and power. We will discuss the merits and uses of each framework; and students will learn to use these frameworks for the analysis of e.g. speeches, debates, newspaper articles, and conversations.

Literature

Simpson, Paul, Andrea Mayr & Simon Statham (2019) *Language and power: A resource book for students*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge.

Requirement: three shorter essays (50%) and a final exam (50%).

Below you find additional information on the individual requirements.

Shorter essays

- Length: ca. 1000 words
- Possible topics: see the instructions on Canvas
- Deadlines: 29 September 2023, 13 October 2023, 20 October 2023

Final exam

- Date: 25 October 2023, 12.00–14.00
- Based on the materials covered in seminars 1–12.

Preliminary schedule:

11.09.2023	Introduction
14.09.2023	Politics and gender I: General issues
18.09.2023	Politics and gender II: Spoken language features
21.09.2023	Politics and gender III: Transitivity and agency
25.09.2023	Politics and race I: General issues
28.09.2023	Politics and race II: Categorisation and representation
02.10.2023	Politics and race III: Humour
05.10.2023	Politics and media I: General issues
09.10.2023	Politics and media II: Metaphor
12.10.2023	Politics and media III: Appraisal
16.10.2023	Politics and globalisation I: Multimodality
19.10.2023	Politics and globalisation II: Vocabulary