Language and politics – Language and power

Instructor: Dr. Dr. Julia Bacskai-Atkari
Credits: 6
Block: Block 4, 2022–2023
Time: Tuesday 11.00–13.00 & Friday 13.00–15.00
Room: PCH 4.11 (Tuesdays) & PCH K.04 (Fridays)

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 essay (50%).

Below you find additional information on the individual requirements.

Shorter essays
- Length: ca. 1000 words
- Possible topics: see the instructions on Canvas
- Deadlines: 3 March 2023, 17 March 2023, 24 March 2023

Final essay
- Length: 2000–3000 words
- Possible topics: see the instructions on Canvas
- Deadline: 31 March 2023, 18.00

Preliminary schedule:

14.02.2023	Introduction
17.02.2023	Politics and gender I: General issues
21.02.2023	Politics and gender II: Spoken language features
24.02.2023	Politics and gender III: Transitivity and agency
28.02.2023	Politics and race I: General issues
03.03.2023	Politics and race II: Categorisation and representation
07.03.2023	Politics and race III: Humour
10.03.2023	Politics and media I: General issues
14.03.2023	Politics and media II: Metaphor
17.03.2023	Politics and media III: Appraisal
21.03.2023	Politics and globalisation I: Multimodality
24.03.2023	Politics and globalisation II: Vocabulary