Discourse Analysis

Lea Sgier
Department of Political Science
Central European University

PhD Programme
Winter semester 2014-15 (2 credits)
Class meetings : Thu 17:20-19:00
Office hours: Friday 9am-1pm

Course description

This course aims to introduce the students to social science discourse analysis, i.e. to a family of approaches that emphasise the constructed nature of politics and the importance of struggles over interpretive and definitory hegemony for political processes and for the definition of political "realities". Such approaches have become popular in various fields of political science, including policy studies, social movement research, international relations, organisational studies, etc. They allow to raise research questions that ask how worldviews are constructed, how discourses emerge and change, and how they influence political processes.

The course looks at various issues of discourse theory and practice, including: conceptual and epistemological issues, different uses of discourse analysis (for the analysis of constructions of meaning, including frames, and emergent discourses) and various strands of DA. In this process, we also look briefly into a more conventional strand of analysing discourse, e.g. the analysis of "ideas".

By the end of the course, the participants should have gained an understanding of the importance of language in politics and of discourse analysis as a conceptual and methodological approach. Through practical work in- and outside of the classroom, they should also have acquired a set of practical skills enabling them to use discourse analysis for their own purposes, and to find their way through the vast literature in discourse theory and analysis.

Public and pre-conditions

This course is designed for PhD students of the Doctoral School of Public Policy, Political Science and International Relations, and of other CEU Departments, who wish to use discourse analytical methods in their work, or wish to gain some experience with this kind of methodology to decide whether it is useful to them or not. Auditors may be accepted under the condition that they commit to regular participation and to handing in all assignments.

MA students who are interested in discourse analysis are advised to join the "Qualitative Data Analysis" course (4 credits).

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, the students should :

1. Understand the rationale, theoretical basis and key concepts of discourse analysis as used in social and political analysis, and its limitations;

2. Be able to apply a discourse analytical approach to an object of their choice, and to present their findings in an appropriate manner, in writing as well as orally;
3. Be able to critically assess discourse analytical work done by others

Course requirements and assessment
The course consists of weekly sessions consisting in lectures, class-room discussions in connection with the readings (and assignments), and practical exercises.
At the end of the semester, every (regular) participant will present his or her final paper to the class. Depending on the number of participants, one or two class meetings may have to be added to accommodate the presentations. We will agree on the final schedule for the presentations in due course.

The assessment will be based on the following:

- A **final paper** demonstrating a conceptual understanding of discourse analysis and the application of a discourse analytical approach to an object of the student's choice (ca. 8000 words) (70%) (learning outcomes 1 and 2)
- Active and regular **participation** and **assignments** (20%) to be handed in the day before class (learning outcomes 1, 2, 3) (assignments are for weeks 2-10)
- A short **oral presentation** of the student's own final paper at the end of the semester (10%) (learning outcomes 2, 3)

A suggestion for a topic for the final paper will have to be submitted by week 4, a more developed 2-page proposal by week 6 and a draft version of the paper by week 10 (ahead of the oral presentation). Deadline for the final paper**: 10th April** (to be confirmed).

Team-work is possible for final papers (papers written by two or three students will be accordingly longer) and encouraged for assignments.

Course Outline

Week 1 (15 Jan) – Introduction to the course

- Overview of the course and course requirements
- The analysis of political discourse – traditions and developments

Required reading:
 (1) **Gee**, Paul (2014) "Language as Saying, Doing and Being", in Angermuller, Johannes, Maingueneau, Dominique and Wodak, Ruth (eds). *The Discourse Studies Reader. Maisn Current in Theory and Analysis*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, pp. 234-243.

Suggested readings:
Taylor, Stephanie (2001). "Locating and Conducting Discourse Analytic Research", in Wetherell, Margaret., Taylor, Stephanie and Yates, Simeon J. (Eds). *Discourse as Data. A Guide for Analysis*. London: Sage, pp. 5-48.
Gee, Paul (1999). *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis*. London: Routledge.
Bevir, Mark (ed.) (2010). *Interpretive Political Science*. Los Angeles: Sage, "Benchmark" series, 4 volumes.

Week 2 (22 Jan) – Discourse: linguistic perspectives

- Language and communication
- Linguistic perspectives: semantics, pragmatics, socio-linguistics

Required readings:
 (2) **Chilton**, Paul and **Schäffner**, Christina (1997). "Discourse and Politics", in Van Dijk, Teun A. (eds). *Discourse as Social* Interaction. London: Sage, pp. 206-230.
 (3) **Charaudeau**, Patrick (2002). "A Communicative Conception of Discourse". *Discourse Studies* 4(3): 301-318.
 (4) **Edley**, Nigel (2001). "Analysing Masculinity: Interpretative Repertoires, Ideological Dilemmas and Subject Positions", in Wetherell, M., Taylor, S. and Yates. S.J. (eds). *Discourse as Data. A Guide for Analysis*. London: Sage/Open University, pp. 189-228.

Week 3 (29 Jan) – Beyond language: discourse as structure

- Discourse as "ideological" power
- Discourse as structure and system

Required readings:
 (5) **Mills**, Sara (2004). *Discourse*. New York : Routledge, pp. 26-42.
 (6) **Foucault**, Michel (2014[1968]). "An Archeology of Discourse", in Angermuller, Johannes, Maingueneau, Dominique and Wodak, Ruth (eds). *The Discourse Studies Reader. Maisn Current in Theory and Analysis*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, pp. 98-110.

(7) Bourdieu, Pierre (1999). "Language and Symbolic Power", in Jaworski, Adam and Coupland, Nikolas (eds). *The Discourse Reaader*. London/New York: Routledge, pp 502-513.

(8) Fairclough, Norman (1989). *Language and Power*. London/NY: Longman, pp. 43-76.

Supplementary readings:
Fairclough, Norman (1989). *Language and Power*. London/New York: Longman, pp. 43-76 (ch. 2).
Hajer, Maarten (1997). *The Politics of Environmental Discourse. Ecological Modernization and the Policy Process*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (ch. 2).
Howarth, David (2000). *Discourse*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press.
Jaworski, Adam and Coupland, Nikolas (eds) (1999). *The Discourse Reader*. London : Routledge.
Jaworski, Adam and Coupland, Nikolas (eds) (2006). *The Discourse Reader*. London : Routledge.
Phillips, Nelson and Hardy, Cynthia (2002). *Discourse Analysis. Investigating Processes of Social Construction*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
Potter, Jonathan (1996). *Representing Reality*. London : Sage.

Riessman, Catherine Kohler (2008). *Narrative Methods for the Human Sciences*. London: Sage.
Torfing, Jacob (2005). "Introduction: Discourse Theory: Achievements, Arguments and Challenges", in Howarth, David and Torfing, Jakob (eds) (2005). *Discourse Theory in European Politics. Identity, Policy and Governance*. Houndmills: Palgrave.

Week 4 (5 Feb) – Discourses as (negotiated) systems of meaning

- Discourse as a "narrowing of perspectives" and competition for definitory power

Required readings:

(9) Milliken, Jennifer (1999). "The Study of Discourse in International Relations: A Critique of Research and Methods". European Journal of International Relations 5:225-254. DOI 10.1177/1354066199005002003

(10) Hansen, Lene (2000). "Gender, Nation, Rape: Bosnia and the Construction of Security", International Feminist Journal of Politics, 3:1, 55-75, DOI: 10.1080/14616740010019848

(11) Hall, Stuart (2014). "Encoding and Decoding the Message", in Angermuller, Johannes, Maingueneau, Dominique and Wodak, Ruth (eds). The Discourse Studies Reader. Maisn Current in Theory and Analysis. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, pp. 111-121.

Supplementary readings:
Foucault, Michel (1982). *The Archeology of Knowledge*. Vintage.
Hajer, Maarten and Versteeg, Wytske (2006). "A Decade of Discourse Analysis of Environmental Politics: Achievements, Challenges and Perspectives". *Journal of Environmental Policy&Planning* 7(3): 175-184.
Howarth, David and Torfing, Jakob (eds) (2005). *Discourse Theory in European Politics. Identity, Policy and Governance*. Houndmills: Palgrave.
Phillips, Louise and Jorgensen, Marianne W. (2004). *Discourse Analysis as Theory and Method*. London: Sag, ch. 1 and 5 (pp. 1-23 and 138-174).
Schram, Sanford (2012). "The Deep Semiotic Structure of Deservingness. Discourse and Identity in Welfare Policy", in Fischer, Frank and Gottweis, Herbert (eds). *The Argumentative Turn Revisited. Public Policy as Communicative Practice*. Durham/London: Duke University Press, pp. 236-268.
Torfing, Jacob (2005). "Introduction: Discourse Theory: Achievements, Arguments and Challenges", in Howarth, David and Torfing, Jakob (eds) (2005). *Discourse Theory in European Politics. Identity, Policy and Governance*. Houndmills: Palgrave, ch. 1

Wetherell, Margaret., Taylor, Stephanie and Yates, Simeon J. (Eds). *Discourse asTheory and Practice*. London: Sage.

Week 5 (12 Feb) – Doing discourse analysis (1)

- Problem definitions
- The discursive constructions of hierarchies, boundaries, (dis)continuities and temporalities

Required readings:
 (12) **Bacchi**, Carol (2010). "Foucault, Policy and Rule: Challenging the Problem-Solving Approach". *Freia Working Papers* 74, Aalborg: Aalborg University.

 (13) **Gill**, Rosalind (2000). "Discourse Analysis", in Bauer, M. and Gaskell, G., *Qualitative Researching with Text, Image and Sound*. London: Sage, pp. 172-190

Supplementary readings:
Birnbaum, Pierre (1992). *Anti-Semitism in France: a Political History from Leon Blum to the Present*. Oxford: Blackwell
Carabine, Jean (2001). "Unmarried Motherhood 1830-1990: A Genealogical Analysis", in Wetherell, Margaret, Taylor, Stephanie and Yates, Simeon, J. (eds), *Discourse as Data. A Guide for Analysis.* London: Sage, pp. 267-310.
Foucault, Michel (1995). *Discipline and Punish. The Birth of the Nation*. Xx. Vintage.
Gubrium, Jaber F. and Holsein, James A. (2009). *Analyzing Narrative Reality*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 39-109.
Howarth, David and Torfing, Jakob (eds) (2005). *Discourse Theory in European Politics. Identity, Policy and Governance*. Houndmills: Palgrave.
Mottier, Veronique (2008). "Eugenics, Politics and the State: Social Democracy and the Swiss 'Garderning State'". *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Science* 39 (2008) 263–269.
Plummer, Ken (1995). *Telling Sexual Stories. Power, Change and Social Worlds*. London: Sage.
Potter, Jonathan (1996). *Representing Reality. Discourse, Rhetoric and Social Construction*. London: Sage.
Tamboukou, Maria (2009). "A Foucauldian Approach to Narratives", in Andrews, Molly, Squire, Corinne and Tamboukou, Maria (eds). *Doing Narrative Research*. London: Sage, pp. 102-120.
Wetherell, Margaret and Potter, Jonathan (1992). *Mapping the Language of Racism*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Week 6 (19 Feb) – *no class meeting*

Week 7 (26 Feb) – Doing discourse analysis (2)

- Frames and frame analysis

Required readings:
 (14) **Verloo**, Mieke (2005). "Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Europe. A Critical Frame Analysis". *The Greek Review of Social Research* 117 B': 11-34

 (15) **Kuhar**, Roman (2012). "Use of Europeanization Frame in Same-Sex Partnership Issues Across Europe". In: Lombardo, Emanuela and Forest, Maxime (eds). *The Europeanization of Gender Equality Policies. A Discursive-Sociological Approach*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 168-191.

Supplementary Readings:

Bacchi, Carol (2009). "The Issue of Intentionality in Frame Theory", in Lombardo, Emanuela, Meier, Petra and Verloo, Mieke (eds). *The Discursive Politics of Gender Equality.* London/New York: Routledge: pp. 19-35

Bacchi, Carol (2009). *Analysing Policy: What's the Problem Represented to Be?.* Frenchs Forest: Pearson Education, ch. 1.

Benford, Robert D. and Snow, David A. (2000). "Framing Processes and Social Movements: An Overview and Assessment". *Annual Review of Sociology* 26: 611-39.

Fischer, Frank (2003). *Reframing Public Policy. Discursive Politics and Deliberative Practices.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fischer, Frank and Gottweis, Herbert (eds) (2012). *The Argumentative Turn Revisited. Public Policy as Communicative Practice.* Durham: Duke University Press.

Gamson, William A. (1992). *Talking Politics.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
    http://www.grsr.gr/issue.php?i_id=39

Keller, Reiner (2012). "Entering Discourses. A New Agenda for Qualitative Research and Sociology of Knowledge" *Qualitative Sociology Review* QSR VIII vol. 2., pp. 46-75.

Snow, David A. (2007). "Framing Processes, Ideology, and Discursive Fields", in Snow, David, Soule, Sarah A. and Kriesi, Hanspeter (eds), *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements.* Cambridge: Polity, pp. 380-412.

Special issue of the Greek Review of Social Research, 117.

Verloo, Mieke (ed.), *Multiple Meanings of Gender Equality.A Critical Frame Analysis of Gender Policies in Europe.* Budapes/New Yorkt: CPS Books/CEU Press

Week 8 (5 March) – Discourse and/in history

- Emergence and evolution of discourses
- Genealogical analysis
- Narratives and subject positions/structure and agency in discourse

Required readings:

(16) **Lucas**, Barbara (2004). "Reducing Discursive Complexity : the Case of Alcohol Policies in Europe (1850-2000)", in Muller, Richard and Klingemann, Harald (eds). *From Science to Action? 100 Years Later – Alcohol Policies Revisited.* Dordrecht: Kluwer.

(17) **Hook**, Derek (2008). "Genealogy, Discourse, 'Effective' History: Foucault and the Work of Critique". *Qualitative Reseach in Psychology* 2(1): 3-31.

(18) **Plummer**, Ken (1995). *Telling Sexual Stories. Power, Change and Social Worlds.* London: Sage, pp. 19-31 and 50-61.

Week 9 (12 March) – Discourse and discursive institutionalism

- Discourse vs ideas
- Discourse and causality

Required readings:

(19) **Schmidt**, Vivien A. (2008). "Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse". *Annual Review of Political Science* 11(303-326). DOI: 10.1146/annurev.polisci.11.060606.135342

(20) **Schmidt**, Vivien A. and **Radaelli**, Claudio M. (2004). "Policy Change and Discourse in Europe: Conceptual and Methodological Issues". *West European Politics* 27(2): 183-210.

Supplementary readings

Fischer, Frank and Gottweis, Herbert (2012). "Introduction. The Argumentative Turn Revisited", Fischer, Frank and Gottweis, Herbert (eds). *The Argumentative Turn Revisited. Public Policy as Communicative Practice*. Duram/London: Duke University Press, pp. 1-27.

Lynggard, Kennet (2012). "Discursive Institutional Analytical Strategies", in Radaelli, Claudio and Exadaktylos, Theofanis (eds), *Research Design in European Studies*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

Panizza, Francisco and Miorelli, Romina (2013). "Taking Discourse Seriously: Discursive Institutionalism and Post-structuralist Discourse Theory".*Political Studies* 61: 301-318.

Radaelli, Claudio and Schmidt, Vivien (eds) (2005). *Policy Change and Discourse in Europe*. London: Routledge.

Schmidt, Vivien A. (2010). "Taking Ideas and Discourse Seriously: Explaining Change Through Discurisve Institutionalism as the Fourth 'New Institutionalism'". *European Political Science Review* 2(1): 1-25.

Week 10 (19 March) - An example: Analysing parliamentary discourse

- Reconstructing vs measuring discourse
- Organisational discourse

Required readings:

(21) **Steenbergen**, Marco; **Bächtiger**, André; **Spörndli**, Marku and **Steiner**, Jürg (2003). "Measuring Political Deblieration: A Discourse Quality Index". *Comparative European Politics* 2003(1): 21-48.

(22) **Steiner**, Jürg; **Bächtiger**, André; **Spörndli**, Markus and **Steenbergen**, Marco R. (2004). *Deliberative Politics in Action. Analysing Parliamentary Discourse*, pp. 98-110 and 138-164.

(23) **Van Dijk**, Teun (1993). "Principles of Critical Discourse Analysis". *Discourse&Society* 4: 249-283.

Supplementary readings

Mumby, Denis K. and Clair, Robin P. (1997). "Organizational Discourse", in Van Diik, Teun (ed.). *Discourse as Social Interaction*. London: Sage.

Week 11 (27 March) – Interpretation and validity

- Building up interpretations and writing up
- Validity, reliability and generalisability
- What we see it what we look for – the problem of reification

Required readings:

(24) **Yanow, Dvora** (2006). "Neither Rigorous nor Objective? Interrogating Criteria for Knowledge Claims in Interpretive Science", in Yanow, Dvora and Schwartz-Sea, Peregrine (eds) (2006). *Interpretation and Method. Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn*. Armonk NY: M.E. Sharpe, pp. xx.

(25) Schofield, Janet Ward (2002). "Increasing the Generalizability of Qualitative Research", in Huberman, A. Michael and Miles, Matthew B. (eds). *The Qualitative Researcher's Companion.* Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 171-204.

Supplementary readings:

Antaki, Charles, Billig, Michael, Edwards, Derek and Potter, Jonathan (2003). "Discourse Analysis Means Doing Analysis: A Critique of Six Analytic Shortcomings". *Discourse Analysis Online* 1(1). [http://www.shu.ac.uk/daol/previous/v1/n1/index.htm]

Guba, Egon and Lincoln, Yvonna (2005). "Paradigmatic Controversies, Contradictions, and Emerging Cofluences", in Denzin, N. and Lincoln, Y. (eds), *Handbook of Qualitative Research*, 3rd edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 191-215.

Hammersley, Martyn (2008). "Troubles with Triangulation", in Bergman, Manfred Max ed. Advances in Mixed Methods Research. London: Sage, pp. 22–36.

Howarth, David (2005). "Applying Discourse Analysis: the Method of Articulation", in Howarth, David and Torfing, Jakob (eds). *Discourse Theory in European Politics*. Houndmills: Palgrave, 316-345.

Luborsky**,** Mark R. and Rubinstein, Robert L. (1995). "Sampling in Qualitative Research: Rationale, Issues, and Methods". *Research on Aging* 17:89-113.

Maxwell, Joseph A. (2002). "Understanding and Validity in Qualitative Research", in Huberman, A. Michael and Miles, Matthew B. (eds), *The Qualitative Research Companion*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 37-64.

O'Rourke, Brendan (2007). "Using the Technology of the Confessional as an Analytical Resource. Four Analytical Stances Towards Research Interviews in Discourse Analysis". *Forum Qualitative Research* 8(2), art. 3.

Spencer, Liz, Ritchie, Lewis, Jane and Dillon, Lucy (2003). *Quality in Qualitative Evaluation. A Framework for Assessing Research Evidence*. London: Government Chief Social Researchers' Office (available on-line).

Week 12 (2 April) – Student presentations (possibly double session 3:30-7pm)

- The slides have to be submitted by <u>Wednesday</u> noon before the presentation (!)

End of semester

<u>10 April: Deadline for the final papers! (to be confirmed)</u>

18.11.2014/ls