



17th International Workshop on Discourse Studies: Critique and Decolonization

Madrid, 24-25 March, 2011

Scientific Committee

Luisa Martín Rojo, Miguel Pérez Milans, Monica Heller, Mary Louise Pratt, Ruth Wodak, Juan Carlos Gimeno, Joan Pujolar

Organizing Committee

Luisa Martín Rojo, Miguel Pérez Milans, Miriam Jiménez, Simone Belli

Venue:

Residencia La Cristalera, UAM, Madrid (www.lacristalera.com)

Web:

<http://www.ffil.uam.es/mirco/novedades.php>

17th International Workshop on Discourse Studies: Critique and Decolonization

During the twentieth century, the critical turn in discourse studies produced far-reaching changes in the understanding of discourse and in the models used to analyse it. Discourse ceased to be considered an imperfect representation tool, and was recognized as having an essential role in the construction of the social, political and economic reality. Social and human sciences have progressively integrated the contributions of the critical turn into the history of thought. This has made it possible to de-naturalize many of the ideas underpinning the organization of the modern nation-state, linking them to the viewpoints and interests of particular social groups. Nevertheless, recently the critical turn has come under attack for not going far enough, and in particular for having been preoccupied with the problems of the European nation-states where the critical approach was first developed.

In this line, the decolonizing turn impels us to carry out a more detailed exploration of the

conditions of the colonial past and to discover how such forms of domination continue to be (re)produced today, on the basis of specific hegemonic and universalist representations of the sociopolitical, economic and cultural world. Developing scientific approaches based on intellectual traditions other than those prevailing in the West is seen as a key step on the unfinished decolonization project. However, this is a far reaching project in which there is a real risk of reproducing biased representations about homogeneous cultural communities. This project should not be addressed in isolation from processes of language and cultural commodification and their consequences for the legitimization of certain social relations of power within such communities (with regard to social class, ethnicity and gender).

In view of these issues, and taking over from the previous seminars organized by the foundational group of the CDA, this workshop is focused on the following questions: what is

at stake in decentring critique, and for whom? Can a critical approach, as we now understand it, usefully contribute to decolonization? Do we simply need to turn our tools to the problems and concerns of the global South or do we need entirely new ones? Does the current institutionalization of critical discourse studies exclude bodies, questions, methodologies, ontologies or all of the above? These questions will be addressed in three debates:

1. What is to be derived from a dialogue between the two approaches?
2. How have they contributed to studies on class, gender, and ethnicity?
3. Is it possible to expand the space of colonized subjects and knowledge from the standpoint of multilingualism and multiculturalism, with respect to dominant languages and cultures?

Seminar Programme

The seminar will be organized in the form of three main sessions, to be held on 24 and 25 March 2011.

Thursday 24 March, 16.00-19.30

Session 1. Epistemological turns

- ▶ Walter Mignolo (Duke University): *The decolonial option*
- ▶ Ruth Wodak (University of Lancaster): [Title to be confirmed]
- ▶ Discussant: Alastair Pennycook (University of Technology Sydney)

Friday 25 March, 10.00-13.30

Session 2. Postcolonial voices and the question of legitimacy: culturalism and the new economies

- ▶ Shi-xu (Zhejiang University, by video-conference): *A cultural approach to discourse*
- ▶ Theo van Leeuwen (University of Technology): *Discourse and recolonization*
- ▶ Mary Louise Pratt (New York University): *Globalization as Linguistic Force Field*
- ▶ Alexandre Duchêne (University of Fribourg): *Migrant as word force: multilingualism and new forms of exploitation*
- ▶ Discussant: Monica Heller (University of Toronto)

Friday 25 March, 16.00-19.30

Session 3. Postcolonial voices and the question of legitimacy: ethnicity, gender and colonial legacy

- ▶ Teun van Dijk (Universidad Pompeu Fabra): *Power and racism*
- ▶ Sarri Vuorisalo-Tiitinen (University of Helsinki): *Intersectionality in gender struggles*
- ▶ Angel Lin (University of Hong Kong): [Title to be confirmed]
- ▶ Discussant: Luisa Martín Rojo (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

Friday 25 March, 20.30-22.30

Conference dinner

Important Notes:

Registration deadlines: applications should be submitted between September 15 and October 30.

For the participants to contribute to the Workshop, two registration options are available:

- ▶ **A – Presenters.** Those participants willing to contribute to any of the debates that will take place after the sessions will attach to the registration form an abstract with the questions they would like to ask during the debate (following the format instructions to be found in our website). These questions will be incorporated to the debate and the subsequent publication. Their authors will receive a certificate as *presenters* in the Workshop, in which their contributions will be acknowledged.
- ▶ **B – Listeners.** Those participants not willing to prepare any questions prior to the debates will only fill in the registration form. They will receive a certificate as listeners.

If the number of applications exceeds the number of available seats, participants will be chosen by their registration date and the interest of their possible contributions to the debate (e.g. submitted abstract).

The registration form and further information will be available at the beginning of September in our website:

<http://www.ffil.uam.es/mirco/novedades.php>



MULTILINGUALISM, SOCIAL
IDENTITIES, INTERCULTURAL
RELATIONSHIPS &
COMMUNICATION

ORGANIZES:

Group MIRCo, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, Vicerrectorado de Investigación de la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid,
Asociación Española de Estudios Canadienses

Web:

<http://www.ffil.uam.es/mirco/novedades.php>

