

I-LanD Journal – Identity, Language and Diversity
International Peer-Reviewed Journal

Call for papers for the special issue 2/2022

The Emotional Valence of Innovation and Change. Discourses of Societal Transformation

This Special Issue of the *I-LanD Journal* will focus on the emotional challenges posed by contemporary social innovation and change, which fluctuate between the need to rapidly shift away from outdated mindsets and approaches and the need to cultivate a more equitable transformation of society (Louis and Montiel, 2018). It is edited by Margaret Rasulo (University of Campania ‘Luigi Vanvitelli’ - Italy) and Jan Engberg (Aarhus University - Denmark).

Submission of abstracts

Authors wishing to contribute to this issue are invited to send an extended abstract of their proposed article ranging between 600 and 1.000 words (excluding references) in MS Word format to the two editors by May 3, 2022. Proposals should not contain the authors' name and academic/professional affiliation and should be accompanied by an email including such personal information and sent to Margaret Rasulo margherita.rasulo@unicampania.it and Jan Engberg je@cc.au.dk. Please put as subject line “I-LanD Special Issue 2/2022 – abstract submission”, and include the Journal e-mail address – ilandjournal@unior.it – by using the Cc option.

In order to meet the editorial process, the most important dates to remember are as follows:

- Submission of abstracts: by May 3, 2022
- Notification of acceptance/rejection: by May 16, 2022
- Submission of chapters: by September 27, 2022.

Description

Humanity is increasingly confronted with the complex efforts of adaptation and implementation that are inherently connected to processes of innovation and change, resulting in the need to discursively represent not only the experiences that are created but also the intensity of emotional involvement that is expended (Ekman, 2003; Izard, 2007). It follows that humanistic and social scientific research should pay closer attention to the dynamics of societal transformation by focusing, in particular, on those that directly impact individual and collective subjectivity. Central to this point is the realization that human consciousness is charged with varying degrees of emotional valence (Russell, 2003; Citron et al., 2014), understood as the perceived significance attributed to a wide array of affective states triggered by distressing life-changing events (Summers-Effler, 2002), and related to many aspects of human existence, such as ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ageing, disability and ableism. In truth, current research work in the sociology of emotions and the interplay between social structure and emotion norms has been challenged by emotional states that are so novel that they still lack a specific discursive designation (Edwards,

1999; Anderson, 2009; Burkitt, 2014). Indeed, while some constructions used to express human emotional experience have become ineffective due to the incredible speed of contemporary social change, others are not discursively represented at all because associated with taboo topics, such as mental health or shame, thus requiring a reformulation and a renewed purpose in the light of the processes of variation and/or digitalization of the genres within which they most commonly occur (Edwards, 1990; Cho and Gower, 2006).

Against this background, this special issue invites contributions that investigate the discursive representations of human experience at the intersection of societal transformation, communication, and human emotions, also within the framework of digital communication. In particular, these contributions will explore the different levels of emotional response expressed through the critical analysis of linguistic and other semiotic resources (Halliday, 1978; van Leeuwen, 2005; Van Dijk, 2007) drawn from texts and contexts related to traditional and digital genres in different domains, including (but not restricted to) health, medicine and science, media, politics, the law, academia, the world of corporate and institutional work, education and learning.

Possible areas of inquiry may include, but are not limited to:

- Creating inclusive societies with digital technology
- ICT for education, learning and inclusion
- (Over-)Digitalization of the private sphere
- Information manipulation: democracy, fake news and censorship
- Online violence: cyberbullying, digital drama and hate speech
- Disagreement and conflict
- Climate action and the environment
- Sustainability and the bioeconomy
- Health, demographic change and wellbeing
- Death, bereavement and grief
- Ageing and age-specific issues
- Affect and sexuality
- Taboo concepts, curse words and profanity
- Gender equality and gender justice
- Social exclusion, discrimination, inequalities and their relation to mental health
- Legal and ethical issues in healthcare

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