

European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS)
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Call for Papers

Workshop

IR AND DISCOURSE RE-VISITED IN LIGHT OF THE TURNS: DEVELOPMENTS, CHALLENGES AND PROMISES OF COMBINING TRADITIONS

Workshop conveners:

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International Relations and its disciplines witnessed many *turns* in its 100-years history: the constructivist, aesthetics, language and practice turns are just some of them, while we have also witnessed turns to emotions and history more recently. These turns give testament to a well-developed discussion about perspectives, theories, and methods used to make sense of the political world, to understand its complexity, and to structure thought and research. At the same time, many turns overlap in ways not always properly perceived and discussed.

This workshop wants to discuss the linguistic turn and discursive approaches' place in and contribution to IR considering the other turns mentioned above. Although the analysis of discourses has proven to be a fruitful and rich field of study that emphasizes social explanations of politics and policies, it is also somewhat fragmented. Just like the discipline of IR itself, discourse studies are a colorful patchwork made of several schools (Essex School, Critical Discourse Analysis, Discourse Theory, or governmentality just to mention a few) applying a wide range of methods. Conveners of this workshop believe that many scholars doing discourse-related research actually conduct cross-border and interdisciplinary analysis by combining more than one theory, model, method, or turn. Further methodological dialogue is necessary to exchange ideas and experiences for the use of theories and tools which are located at the intersection of several disciplines, schools and turns.

Re-visiting the role of discourse (and language) in IR in relation to the turns, the workshop wants to:

- assess developments within, critique of and between the various discursive schools used in IR and its disciplines reflectively and critically in order to achieve a clearer picture and visions about the state of the art;
- explore how discourse studies connect to the turns mentioned above. These turns all share common ground but take different positions on central issues like methodology, analysis, or reflexivity;
- invite contributions exploring the above issues and ideas empirically.

For this aim, the workshop conveners invite contributors to address, inter alia, the following questions:

- What are the achievements, crises, and promises of discourse studies in IR (or its disciplines)?
- How far have we come in addressing well-known advantages and risks of working with discourses when analyzing world politics?
- Should we and how can we blend different discursive methods and schools?
- What are the contributions of specific turns to discourse studies? How can new insights from turns be used to improve discursive scholarship?
- How do turns change the way we do discourse studies?

- What are the methodological commonalities and differences turns share with discourse studies? How can they be combined?
- What are personal experiences of researchers when dealing with discursive approaches theoretically and empirically, and how can we use different takes on reflexivity for research? How do turns impact on discursive concepts of, for instance, critique, power, or practice?