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Navigating Dissonance: Intersections of Fragmentation and Dialogue

3/2028

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Description of the Call for Papers (CFP)

The central concern of this special issue is that, in an era of accelerated global connectivity, language is not merely a neutral medium of communication, it is a contested space where competing ideologies intersect with asymmetries of power and divergent worldview. These intersections of fragmentation and dialogue reveal how meaning is constantly renegotiated across borders, disciplines, and identities, producing social arenas where anomie (Blommaert, 2018) is not only disruptive, but also generative.

We aim to foreground the potential of dissonance: how linguistic and discursive representations open up spaces for creativity, resistance, and transformation. Rather than viewing fragmentation as a failure of communication, this issue seeks to interpret it as a constitutive element of glocal interactions, where global flows intersect with local realities, and where hybridities emerge. Contributions may interrogate how discourses of center and periphery, or authority and dissent manifest in language practices, shaping narratives of belonging and exclusion. They may also examine how these narratives are amplified or reconfigured in digital spaces, transnational networks, and AI-mediated communication.

This special issue invites interdisciplinary perspectives that put forward ways in which language both reflects and produces sociocultural contradictions. Our goal is to foster a dialogue that does not smooth over differences but critically engages with them, revealing how discord and dialogue coexist, intersect, and transform the landscapes of meaning in an interconnected world.

Suggested Topics

- linguistic and cultural dissonances in digital and transnational discourses
- divergent worldviews: interference and hybridisation
- narratives of transition and emerging voices
- constructing interconnections and fragmentation through discourse
- discursive asymmetries and power relations
- frictions and stance-taking in meaning-making
- identity negotiation across boundaries
- memory and contrasting narratives
- language policy transformations, AI mediation, multilingualism and plurilingualism

Indicative bibliography:

- Blommaert, Jan. Durkheim and the Internet. *On Sociolinguistics and the Sociological Imagination*, Bloomsbury Academic, 2018.
- Chiluwa, Innocent (ed.), *Discourse and Conflict: Analysing Text and Talk of Conflict, Hate and Peace-Building*, Springer, 2021.
- Fairclough, Norman. *Critical Discourse Analysis: Critical Study of Language (2nd ed.)*, Routledge, 2010.
- Garcia, Angela C. *How Mediation Works: Resolving Conflict Through Talk*. Cambridge University Press; 2019.
- Papacharissi, Zizi. *Affective publics: Sentiment, technology, and politics*. Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Poletti, Anna, and Julie Rak (eds.), *Identity Technologies: Constructing the Self Online*. University of Wisconsin Press, 2014.
- Preece, Siân (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Language and Identity*, Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2016.
- Salmi-Niklander K, Laine S, Salmesvuori P, Savolainen U, Taavetti R (eds.), *Friction, Fragmentation, and Diversity: Localized Politics of European Memories*. Amsterdam University Press; 2021.

Deadlines and Selection Procedure

September 30, 2027 – deadline for paper proposals (abstract of 200 words, 7 keywords, minimum 5 theoretical references, author's bio note of 150 words);

October 31, 2027 – notification of acceptance;

February 15, 2028 – submission of articles (the required format for referencing can be found at: <https://studia.reviste.ubbcluj.ro/index.php/subbphilologia/article/view/6341/6042>);

September 30, 2028 – publication of the special issue.