THE 24th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS
Approaches to Language: Data, Interpretations, Theories

Workshop 1:
Digital language and online communication

We invite submissions to a workshop on language and communication in the digital world, organized within the *24th International Conference of the Department of Linguistics of the Faculty of Letters.*

Date: November 15-16, 2024
Venue: University of Bucharest, Faculty of Letters, 5-7 Edgar Quinet St., Bucharest, Romania (hybrid)
Languages of the workshop: English and Romanian
Keynote speaker: Francisco Yus (University of Alicante, Spain)
Convenors: Bianca Alecu, Andra Vasilescu (digital.language.bucharest@gmail.com)
Registration fee: 300 RON (60 €) for faculty members; 150 RON (30 €) for online participation and for PhD students

Computer-mediated communication (Herring 1996, 1999, 2007, 2015) or human interaction using networked devices is one of the key-topics of current linguistic and interdisciplinary approaches. Considering the continuous development of textual and audio-visual technologies, human-AI communication (Dynel 2023) or complex smartphone interactions (Yus 2021), digital communication has grown into a complex area of research that draws methods and applications from fields such as functional linguistics, sociolinguistics and online ethnography, digital anthropology, philosophy and ethics of the online environment, new media and internet studies.

The first wave of research on computer-mediated communication and online discourse focused on the particular features of language employed in such mediated interactions, oftentimes compared to spoken and written communication (Crystal 2001, 2011), while the second wave showed an ever-growing interest in discursive and pragmatic strategies employed in cyberspace discourse and dialogue (Androutsopoulos 2006). The transition from a language-oriented perspective to a discourse-oriented approach was supported by findings on the complex relationships between language use and the medium or platform of communication (Herring and Androutsopoulos 2015). Specifically, particular cybercontexts of language use generate different conversational structures: private chat interactions and public forum debates show different functional and structural patterns, while e-mail, blogs and news platforms represent particular genres of computer-mediated communication (Hoffmann and Bublitz (eds.) 2017). Moreover, recent theoretical approaches suggest that pragmatic and discursive mechanisms of interaction, as well as different graphic or lexical features are platform-bound:

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therefore, research topics include the specifics of language and discourse on Twitter (Zappavigna 2012), Youtube (Dynel 2014) or Reddit (Vepsäläinen 2022), among others.

Formal and functional approaches to online language and communication focused on various aspects: nonstandard graphical strategies used to convey tone of voice (McCulloch 2020) or the intended pragmatic meaning (Heath 2018); the management of face and interpersonal relations in forum and group chats (Arendholz 2013); relevant verbal and visual resources of coherence and cohesion in online communication (Yus 2011, Dainas and Herring 2021), memes as discursive stancetaking devices (Shifman 2014, Wiggins 2018), intercultural communication in cyberspace (Macfadyen, Roche and Doff 2004), multimodality in online interactions (Sindoni 2014).

We invite submissions for 30 minutes presentations (including 10 minutes of discussions) on topics including, but not limited to:

- emergent lexical and semantic resources in different registers of online communication;
- the morphosyntax of cyberlanguage;
- pragmatic strategies employed in interpersonal and group online communication;
- distinctive features of online discourse genres;
- participation frameworks and conversational structures on various digital platforms;
- identity and self-presentation in online discussion spaces, from social media to news distribution platforms and forums;
- humour, irony, criticism, and protest in memes and other user-generated content;
- representations of vernacular languages, multilingualism, and interculturality in the digital space;
- linguistic and visual resources used to convey paraverbal and nonverbal cues (conventional symbols, typeface, emoticons, emojis, GIFs, etc.);
- the discourse of online politics, medicine, education and instruction, counselling, support, commerce, advertising, etc.

Abstracts should be anonymous and no longer than 2 pages, including examples and references (font size 12, spacing 1.5, page margins 2.5 cm).
Abstract should be sent to **digital.language.bucharest@gmail.com**
Deadline for submissions: **15 September 2024**
Notification of acceptance: **1 October 2024**

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