



The **C**overage and **R**eception of
the Russian-Ukrainian **C**onflict

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Mediation of Russian-Ukrainian War:
Language, Representation, Society, Culture

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Alin Coman

Narratives that shape worlds: for better and for worse

Abstract: People attempt to make sense of the ambiguity and uncertainty of the world around them by imposing meaning. It is a universal feature of the human mind. One way for a person to create meaning is by telling stories that attempt to make sense of their past, present, and future in coherent ways. Nations do the same. They “tell” stories that attempt to make sense of a shared collective past and, potentially, indicate a trajectory for the future. These stories serve adaptive purposes, helping members of large communities to coordinate and cooperate. Americans tell stories about the “shining city on a hill,” Russians about their “triumph over alien forces,” and Romanians about their historical importance as a “gate to Christianity.” In this talk, I will argue that the human mind’s capacity to search for meaning, paired with the ability to synchronize these cognitive products (i.e., meanings) across large groups of individuals, makes human communities particularly susceptible to political entrepreneurs. These entrepreneurs build on these narrative templates to both provide meaning and synchronize their supporters’ mental representations. To anchor this argument, I will present empirical studies that explore the interaction among cognitive, social, and ecological factors involved in the formation, maintenance, and activation of narratives across human groups, with implications for contemporary conflicts. Connecting micro-level local dynamics of social influence with large-scale social phenomena, such as the emergence of collective memories.

Keywords: collective identity, story-telling, conflict, cognitive schema, narrative templates

Bionote: Alin Coman, PhD, Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs, at Department of Psychology at Princeton University and the head of the Cognition in Collectives Lab. The lab investigates how cognition manifests in, and is influenced by, the social contexts in which it occurs. His research interests include how conversational interactions can reshape memory, by promoting shared remembering and shared forgetting, and how socio-cognitive processes can facilitate the formation of collective memories and collective beliefs. His research program is part of an emerging field in the social sciences aimed at connecting micro-level local dynamics of social influence with large-scale social phenomena, such as the emergence of collective memories.

Constantin Spînu

Hostile communication actions carried out by the Russian Federation in the public space of Romania. Options of counteraction

Abstract: The presentation covers the topic of disinformation, a phenomenon that affects today's society. By reviving the existential clash with the evil, decadent and decaying West, Russia has resumed the old Soviet style active measures, with well-funded influence campaigns, using the new instruments offered by the internet-based technology. The disinformation operations currently employed by the Russian active measure apparatus are eroding the very foundation of the open societies of the Euro-Atlantic space. The findings that will be presented demonstrate that, even though based on previous historical experiences, the Romanian society regards itself as anti-Russian, the Kremlin's concocted strategic divisive narratives have penetrated large segments from the targeted public opinion. In addition to highlighting the key indicators that measure the positioning of public opinion towards Romania's support to Ukraine in defending against Russian invasion through various measures in the 2022-2024 period, this lecture provides new data, extracted from a public opinion poll, administered by the operators of a professional sociological research institution - the Romanian Institute for Evaluation and Strategy (IRES). The survey demonstrates which specific segments of the Romanian public are vulnerable to disinformation, and which topics are of great interest for the public debate, related to the war of aggression in Ukraine and its consequences for the Western space in general and Romania in particular. The topics that tend to polarize the society can exacerbate the fears, frustrations and anxieties associated with the danger and uncertainty generated by the military conflict taking place across the border. This situation has consequences in the economic domain (with fears of a fall in living standards in the future as a consequence of the deterioration of the economic environment as a result of the war), social domain (pressure exerted by the reception of Ukrainian refugees), and also the security and defense, where fears are being cultivated about Romania's possible involvement in the war on the Ukrainian side or the fear of possible direct Russian attacks on Romanian territory in response to the position adopted in favor of Ukraine.

Keywords: disinformation operations, infowar, informational vulnerability, security

Bionote: Major-general Constantin Spînu, PhD, is the Head of Information and Public Relation Directorate of Romanian Ministry of National Defense in Bucharest. Based on his academic specialization in Political Science and Journalism, he has an extensive experience as Media Officer at strategic levels of command, within Romania and internationally, and as a journalist for Romanian and international media. He was awarded the Romanian Professional Journalists' Union Award in 2004, for a TV documentary realized in Afghanistan about the Romanian troops deployed to Kandahar. He served, in active-duty capacity, for NATO and US-led commands, gaining significant knowledge on EU and NATO institutions, and the European Defence Sector.

Valentyna Ushchyna

From conflict of discourse to military conflict: Media construction of worldview narratives

Abstract: This talk will attempt to grasp the discursive nature of Russo-Ukrainian war. The critical discourse analysis of the conflictual ways of the Russian and Ukrainian identities construction in discourse and by discourse can shed light onto the covert reasons of the unprovoked military aggression Russia has been executing against Ukraine. The argument is based on the idea that identity is a manifold composite of stances taken by individual as well as collective speakers in various situations of communication. Having an epistemic and affective dimension, stances are inherently interactive, and, thus, have collective or social nature. Generally speaking, conflictual stances, built in war discourse, express national, political, or sociological worldviews of the stance-takers, reflecting their ideologies, values, and beliefs. The way people see the conflict and thus construct their corresponding stances, differs according to what “frames” they choose to see it through. The frames circumscribing Ukrainian and Russian conflictual identities, as they are built in Ukrainian and Russian media discourse, can be grasped through language used to represent the conflict. As there are diverse semiotic systems to create, transmit and understand meanings (e.g., verbal and non-verbal, written and oral, visual and audial), various modalities employed in the process of discursive construction of these identities should be taken into consideration.

Keywords: discursive representation of identity, stance, framing, semiotics, critical discourse analysis

Bionote: Professor of the English Philology at Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University of Lutsk who holds a PhD from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and habilitation from Kyiv National Linguistic University. Visiting professor at the University of Pittsburgh, PA, USA as a Fulbright Scholar Award grantee and Guest lecturer at the Post-graduate School of Humanities at Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland. Her publications span from (critical) discourse analysis and sociolinguistics to risk communication, with special attention to linguistic expressions of stance and stance-taking, discourse of risk, and power in political discourses.

GENERAL PANELS

Denisa-Maria Bâlc

Modality and media polarization: Representing the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in Romanian press headlines

Abstract: This presentation investigates how modality strategies employed in Romanian mainstream media contribute to the ideological framing and polarization of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. By focusing on press headlines from the outbreak of the conflict to the present, the study reveals how modality – understood through Halliday’s framework as a reflection of power relations – is mobilized to construct contrasting portrayals of Russians and Ukrainians. The analysis draws on a typology of modality that includes epistemic, deontic, and appreciative categories, examining their linguistic realization and functional roles in shaping public discourse. Headlines, as condensed and impactful discourse units, are suitable for tracing ideological positioning and the strategic use of modalization techniques. The paper argues that the Romanian media discourse reinforces polarized narratives by employing varying degrees of modal commitment, authority, and evaluation. These choices not only encode stance but also contribute to shaping the perceived legitimacy and moral standing of actors involved in the war. Special attention is given to how political leaders are framed through modality, revealing underlying patterns of alignment, endorsement, or critique. Ultimately, this paper highlights how linguistic strategies in media serve as tools for discursive positioning in geopolitical conflict narratives, with broader implications for media literacy and the ethics of wartime reporting.

Keywords: modality, headlines, polarization, framing, positioning

Bionote: Denisa-Maria Bâlc is a doctoral student in Philology and a Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Letters and Arts, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. Her main fields of interest are: discourse analysis, language studies, Romanian as a foreign language, and Romanian grammar. Over time, she published several articles and studies in these areas of interest and took part in several research projects, e.g., FAKEROM – Fake News in Romanian: A Joint Discursive and Computational Approach, and TEHNE – The Development of New and Emerging Technologies in the Context of Stimulating Research Excellence at LBUS.

Monica Borș

Marginal narratives in the coverage and reception of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict

Abstract: The study builds on the concept of “marginal narratives” as analyzed by Klaus Neumann and later by Chris Ballard, as well as on Clifford Geertz’s anthropological analysis, which demonstrates how seemingly marginal cultural practices can reveal deep social structures and complex meanings. Marginal stories delve into aspects, phenomena, or topics considered peripheral. It presents domestic and seemingly mundane tales, focusing on narratives that are not part of the mainstream discourse but offer alternative perspectives essential for a fuller understanding of the phenomenon. These narratives subtly challenge the Kremlin’s official rhetoric, which justifies the invasion of Ukraine through ideological constructs such as “liberation”, “demilitarization”, and “denazification”. They can be seen as small fables that deconstruct the grand identity fable in which Russia sees itself as the bear. Since the time of the tsars, the bear has been the totemic animal through which Russia identifies itself: the clumsy, strong, and kind bear (“in the shadow of the great bear, U.S.S.R.” in Romanian cultural imagination – in Romanian, “urs” means “bear”). The paper examines narratives where animals symbolize social or political realities, and includes stories about Putin’s opulent wardrobe, the beer labeled “Putin is a D..khead” as a form of resistance to Russian propaganda, Ukrainian women launching culinary businesses in Romania, and more. These contrasts are expressed through pragmatic-linguistic mechanisms: linguistic tools that activate emotive communication (words and lexical structures with strong emotional charge and impact on the audience), discourse markers with various pragmatic functions, and syntactic-pragmatic connectors that are either multivalent or, conversely, lexically specialized to express a specific relationship or meaning.

Keywords: marginality, storytelling, pragmatic, stylistic and linguistic devices in war reporting

Bionote: Monica Borș is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Letters and Arts of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. Her areas of expertise include semantics, phonetics, morphology, lexicology, and Romanian as a foreign language (mainly for Erasmus students). Most of the articles she has authored are analyses of the dynamics of contemporary Romanian language: semantic, phonetic and morphosyntactic changes of words observed on cartoon channels, as well as in the print media and on social networks, looking at how certain lexical coinages, semantic mutations or hybrid constructions enter the speaker’s linguistic consciousness and/or are recorded in dictionaries. She is currently a team member in the projects PATLIRO and CORECON.

Marcin Deutschmann

Reimagining the global order. Media coverage of the Munich Conference 2025

Abstract: The study builds on the concept of “marginal narratives” as analyzed by Klaus Neumann and later by Chris Ballard, as well as on Clifford Geertz’s anthropological analysis, which demonstrates how seemingly marginal cultural practices can reveal deep social structures and complex meanings. Marginal stories delve into aspects, phenomena, or topics considered peripheral. It presents domestic and seemingly mundane tales, focusing on narratives that are not part of the mainstream discourse but offer alternative perspectives essential for a fuller understanding of the phenomenon. These narratives subtly challenge the Kremlin’s official rhetoric, which justifies the invasion of Ukraine through ideological constructs such as “liberation”, “demilitarization”, and “denazification”. They can be seen as small fables that deconstruct the grand identity fable in which Russia sees itself as the bear. Since the time of the tsars, the bear has been the totemic animal through which Russia identifies itself: the clumsy, strong, and kind bear (“in the shadow of the great bear, U.S.S.R.” in Romanian cultural imagination – in Romanian, “urs” means “bear”). The paper examines narratives where animals symbolize social or political realities, and includes stories about Putin’s opulent wardrobe, the beer labeled “Putin is a D..khead” as a form of resistance to Russian propaganda, Ukrainian women launching culinary businesses in Romania, and more. These contrasts are expressed through pragmatic-linguistic mechanisms: linguistic tools that activate emotive communication (words and lexical structures with strong emotional charge and impact on the audience), discourse markers with various pragmatic functions, and syntactic-pragmatic connectors that are either multivalent or, conversely, lexically specialized to express a specific relationship or meaning.

Keywords: news media, security discourse, social imaginaries, collective memory

Bionote: Marcin Deutschmann is a senior lecturer at the Institute of Linguistics, University of Opole. Trained in sociology (MA) and linguistics (PhD), he specializes in rhetoric and critical discourse studies with a main focus on their social and political dimensions. His doctoral dissertation was dedicated to rhetoric in political comments on social media. In his scientific activity, he looks at the points of discourse where antisystem discourses have challenged mainstream ideologies. A critical lens and seeing language and ideologies as crucial parts of social life are characteristic of all his scientific endeavours. He has experience with various research methods, including surveying, interviewing, participatory action research, citizen science, and qualitative, quantitative, and mixed data analysis methods. Since 2019 he has been an active in the FORTHEN Alliance Multilingualism Lab, where he was an output co-manager in a Citizen Science Project.

Radu Drăgulescu

A corpus-assisted analysis of discursive construction of socio-economic issues between Romania and Ukraine in Romanian news during the Ukrainian-Russian conflict

Abstract: This study investigates the discursive construction of socio-economic issues in Romanian news media reporting on Romania-Ukraine relations through a corpus-assisted discourse analysis (CADS) framework. Anchored in the principles of critical discourse analysis (CDA) and corpus linguistics, the research examines a specialized corpus of Romanian-language news articles published between 2022 and 2024, a period marked by heightened regional instability and shifting geopolitical alignments. The analysis focuses on linguistic patterns, such as keyword prominence, collocational behavior, and evaluative prosody to uncover how socio-economic themes such as labor migration, energy cooperation, and economic interdependence are discursively represented. The study reveals the presence of both solidaristic and exclusionary discourses, underpinned by ideologically loaded lexical choices and framing strategies that position Ukraine in relation to Romania's national interests. The findings highlight the role of language in shaping socio-political narratives and contribute to broader discussions on media discourse, national identity, and the linguistics of regional geopolitics. This research underscores the value of CADS in uncovering latent ideological structures within ostensibly journalistic language. The analysis focuses on specific words and linguistic constructions that tend to become patterns from a specific point of view, examining how language is used to shape, influence, or reflect socio-economic beliefs and ideologies. Politicians and media often use language strategically to persuade, manipulate, or construct narratives. Analyzing how the language is organized and what meanings are constructed and paying attention to things like framing, narrative construction and considering appeals to emotions (pathos), logic (logos), or ethics (ethos), this paper speaks to the importance of media discourse in producing specific ideological stances in the depiction of Ukrainian - Romanian relationships.

Keywords: corpus-assisted discourse studies, socio-economic relations, refugees

Bionote: Radu Drăgulescu is a professor and Head of the Department of Romance Studies of the Faculty of Letters and Arts, Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, Romania, with special interest in General and Applied Linguistics, History of Romanian Literary Language, Phytonymy, Critical Discourse Analysis. Since 2022 he is a member of FORTHEM Lab Multilingualism in School and Higher Education, PATLIRO and the project Support for institutional development and increasing the involvement and VISIBILITY of UManist research at Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu.

Ecaterina Ilis

Framing the past, shaping the present: The weaponization of historical narratives in news on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict

Abstract: This study examines how historical narratives are framed in news coverage of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, focusing on their linguistic and argumentative deployment in shaping political stances. Through a comparative analysis of Romanian- and English-language media sources from the CORECON corpus, the research explores how history is invoked to construct ideological positions and reinforce national identities. Applying the Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA), it investigates how historical references and contested past events are incorporated into media discourse. By analyzing linguistic framing, predication strategies, and argumentation techniques, the study identifies patterns in the representation of Ukraine's historical relationship with Russia across different media landscapes. The findings contribute to understanding how historical discourse is adapted to fit contemporary political and ideological narratives, offering insights into the broader role of media in shaping public debates on national identity and international relations.

Keywords: narratives, instrumentalization, collective memory, heroization, victimization

Bionote: Ecaterina Ilis's primary research interest centers on discourse studies, with a particular focus on the complex realm of fake news. Her research, undertaken at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania, has examined discourse patterns and strategies used to spread misinformation, exploring how such narratives influence public perception and amplify societal issues. Through her PhD research, she aims to uncover the mechanisms of disinformation and understand the cognitive biases that make individuals vulnerable to these messages. Ultimately, her goal is to develop effective tools and strategies to counter misinformation and guide audiences toward credible sources of information.

Nataliia Kostenko, Liudmyla Skokova

Cultural meanings of visual mediation of the living environment's destruction and reconstruction in the wartime Ukraine

Abstract: The aim of the study is to identify the variability of actors, methods and effects of media visualization practices of the living environment's destruction and reconstruction in wartime Ukraine. Institutional efforts are aimed at restoring the country's living environment – repairing damage, assessing existing losses, and seeking resources for further reconstruction. For institutional actors, the use of visual evidence (graphs, diagrams, photos, videos, etc.) is primarily a way of compressing information, updating the news agenda, and recording war crimes for prosecution. The dissemination of media images is also a way to appeal to the imagination about the enormous scale of ruin, environmental damage, and to draw attention to institutional and human resilience to combat the chaos of war. Life in the era of digital and online communication involves ordinary people in the practice of documenting and reflecting on the events of the war. A large number of photos and videos of ruins are posted on social media, supplemented by discussions and comments, forming an emotional accompaniment to the violent alteration of living environment. Artistic reflections on changing landscapes convey shocking information to the audience in an artistic form, facilitating its emotional acceptance, and showing that life goes on. Thus, a qualitative analysis of the selected visual texts aims to uncover how various modes, genres, techniques, as well as implicit motives and intensions behind the constructing of images contribute to a 'polyglossia' of meanings regarding the discourse of destruction and restoration of the living environment during the Russian war against Ukraine, while maintaining or changing sociocultural dynamics and collective memory.

Keywords: visual mediation, collective memory, damage

Bionote: Nataliia Kostenko is a doctor of Sociological Sciences, Leading Researcher, Professor, Head of the Department of Sociology of Culture and Mass Communication (Institute of Sociology NAS of Ukraine, Kyiv), and author, scientific editor of collective monographs, textbooks in the field of sociology of culture, mass communication, methods of content analysis of texts.

Liudmyla Skokova is a doctor of Sociological Sciences, Associate Professor, Leading Research Associate of the Department of Sociology of Culture and Mass Communication (Institute of Sociology NAS of Ukraine, Kyiv), and author, scientific editor of collective monographs, textbooks in the field of sociology of culture, cultural practices, qualitative research in sociology.

Ursula Lanvers, Tetyana Lunyova

Language policies in Ukrainian higher education: Language in the firing line?

Abstract: Context: Ukraine has been a site of cyclical conflict over language rights and policies for decades. Similar to Eastern bloc countries, Ukraine in the post-Soviet era saw tensions between the then lingua franca, Russian, and the national language, Ukrainian. Already before its independence in 1991, Ukraine launched initiatives to revitalize and modernize their language right after breaking from the Soviet rule. Russia's war against Ukraine has given a significant lift to the popularity and learning of Ukrainian. Regarding English, the nation is starting from a low base even though with a strong decision to join the western world with its values of democracy, human rights, and freedom. Thus, lingo-political tensions in Ukraine include the languages Ukrainian, Russian, English and other European languages. This study investigates how Ukrainian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) translate the triple language agenda of de-Russification, Ukrainization and Englishization into their language policies. It does so by investigating websites and official documents of 15 Universities in Ukraine previously selected for the study by the British Council, using the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis and inductive coding. Results reveal that Ukrainian HEIs focus on Ukrainian and English in their vision and recommended practice, while acknowledging other European languages. The special status of the languages of national minorities is endorsed in many HEIs, but never singling out Russian. Ukrainian HEIs develop their language policies both in compliance with state legislation and with a keen awareness of European standards. Linguistically, westernization of Ukrainian HEIs strongly favors English as a global language, although other European languages are considered. Concerning the Ukrainian-Russian tensions, we observe increasing initiatives supported both by educational institutions and the population as a whole, to revalidate Ukrainian and limit the use of Russian.

Keywords: Ukraine, language policy, higher Education, westernization, de-Russification

Bionote: Ursula Lanvers is a Professor at the Department of Education University of York and Programme Leader for the PhD Programme in Applied Linguistics. She holds a PhD from the University of Exeter in Bilingual First Language Acquisition and she completed her first degree in French, History and Education Studies at the University of Munster, Germany, and in Modern Languages at the University of Oxford. She taught languages and a variety of linguistics courses at the Open University and at the University of Plymouth and University of Exeter as a research fellow in student learning.

Tetyana Lunyova is a researcher at University of York as Risk Fellow on the British Academy and CARA sponsored programme since 2022. Prior to that she worked as an Associate Professor at the Department of English and German Philology of Poltava V.G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University in Ukraine. She completed her PhD in English lexical semantics and text stylistics at Kyiv National Linguistic University. She is also a creative writer in Ukrainian.

Chris Mantas, Konstantina D. Oikonomou,
Olga Tsuprykova

Liminal belonging and the mediation of identity: The North Azov Greeks of Mariupol and Donetsk in war discourse

Abstract: This paper examines the discursive constructions and lived experiences of liminality among the North Azov Greek communities—Urum and Roumioi—residing in the conflict-ravaged regions of Mariupol and Donetsk. Positioned at the interstices of sovereignty, empire, and ethnicity, these populations embody a paradigmatic case of marginality under conditions of protracted geopolitical violence. The study interrogates how their identities are framed, mediated, and politicized across diverse representational regimes—including international media, refugee narratives, cultural production, and legal discourse—in the broader context of the Russian-Ukrainian war. Deploying an interdisciplinary methodology that synthesizes critical international law, poststructuralist discourse analysis, political sociology, and insights from post-communist and area studies, the paper explores how juridico-political indeterminacy produces both symbolic and material vulnerability for liminal communities. It argues that the North Azov Greeks are not merely passive subjects of legal ambiguity, but active signifiers within a wider discursive struggle over civilization, loyalty, and legitimacy in the post-Soviet space. Their experiences reveal the inadequacies of prevailing legal frameworks to address the structural precarity of minorities inhabiting “grey zones” of sovereignty and conflict. By foregrounding the entanglement of identity, law, and representation, this research contributes to emerging interdisciplinary debates on the mediation of war, the epistemic politics of minority recognition, and the ethical exigencies of researching communities at the margins. It ultimately calls for a rethinking of international protection mechanisms attuned to the fluid, hybrid, and transitional nature of political subjectivity in contemporary armed conflict.

Keywords: minority recognition, identity, liminal belonging, vulnerability, mediation of war

Bionote: Chris Mantas holds a Ph.D. in Social Sciences and is currently a Senior Lecturer at Metropolitan College Greece and a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of the Peloponnese. His research engages with cross-cultural analysis, cultural industries, post-Marxist and liberal thought, knowledge management, and communities of practice. With a multidisciplinary approach, he explores the intersections of culture, politics and ideology in contemporary social formations.

Konstantina D. Oikonomou, PhD, is an Adjunct Lecturer and Researcher in International Relations and International Law at the University of the Peloponnese. Her research explores the intersections of international relations, international law, and justice, with a focus on armed conflict, legal accountability, the politics of international institutions and the structural conditions of international order. Drawing on critical international theory, her work interrogates the limits and potential of international law in addressing questions of accountability, sovereignty, and normative asymmetry.

Olga Tsuprykova is the Head of the Board at the NGO North Azovian Greeks, an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the North Azovian Greek community. Originally from Donetsk, she co-founded the North Azovian Greek Community in Kyiv, where she has been an active advocate for her community. She holds a BA in Economics from Kyiv National Economics University and a MA in International Public Administration from the University of Macedonia.

Rafał Krzysztof Matusiak

Constructing legality in the news: A comparative corpus analysis of legal terms in Polish and Romanian war reporting

Abstract: This study examines the use of international legal terminology in Polish and Romanian media regarding the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. It focuses on key terms from public international law, such as aggression, war, martial law, and war crimes, and their role in shaping media narratives. Analyzing content from major online news platforms between February 2022 and March 2024, the study utilizes corpus linguistics methods like semantic frame analysis. Findings indicate both similarities and differences in the application of legal concepts, revealing a strategy of criminalization and normalization. The use of ambiguous terms suggests a deliberate blurring of legal definitions, impacting media framing, public perception, and the cross-linguistic transfer of legal language, relevant for journalism training and media literacy.

Keywords: legal terminology, representation, framing

Bionote: Rafał Krzysztof Matusiak, PhD, is assistant professor at the Department of English, Institute of Linguistics, University of Opole. He holds MA degrees in Law (2017), English Philology (2014), Spanish Philology (2011), Bulgarian Philology (2010), and Russian Philology (2009) from the University of Silesia in Katowice, where he also obtained a doctoral degree in linguistics (2020). He completed a two-semester course in Mediation (2021) at the University of Wrocław and an MA in Economics at the University of Economics in Katowice. His research interests include the language of law and economics, eristic, conflict management and alternative dispute resolution. He is the author of several publications, e.g. *Linguistic Indeterminacy in the Criminal Law* (2021), *Linguistic and cultural identity of the Ukrainian diaspora in Poland* (2023).

Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska

Representing expert sources and voices on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in English-language opinion-making news outlets

Abstract: This presentation explores the selection and representation of expert voices in the coverage of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict by mapping the linguistic and stylistic resources that journalists and editors use when introducing the opinions garnered from the academic, professional or independent sources. Taking a representative dataset of articles from a range of elite English-language opinion-making news outlets (the BBC, CNN, Euronews, the Independent, the Irish Times, the National Post and Newsweek), sourced between February 2022 and June 2024, I look for salient patterns of how expert figures are introduced as sources of credible information and newsworthy opinion. Both credibility and newsworthiness are likely to be discursively constructed through routine journalistic practices of (1) naming and characterizing the source, (2) representing their speech directly or indirectly, and (3) editorializing. In the opinion-making media, the linguistic patterning of source representation is likely to have a bearing on establishing a valid argument, projecting a sense of neutrality and creating audience engagement.

Keywords: eliteness, sourcing in journalism, indirect discourse, newsworthiness, credibility

Bionote: Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska, Ph. D. (Habil.), is Associate Professor of linguistics and communication and Head of the Department of English, University of Opole, Poland. She is Director of Research (PI) in project CORECON (Coverage and reception of Russian-Ukrainian conflict 2024–2026) at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania, and Senior Research Fellow at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania. With a background in English studies, she specializes in discourse analysis, public communication and media studies. She co-edits the international open access journal *Res Rhetorica*. With over a hundred publications, including editorships of collective volumes, she has researched professional and tabloid journalism, policy discourse, humanitarian communication, climate change communication, populist rhetoric, science popularization, social movements, and Polish-language media in Britain. In her research she uses methods drawn from functional linguistics, critical multimodal discourse analysis, corpus linguistics, rhetoric and argumentation theory and journalism studies.

Gaurav Mor

Donbass, Crimea and a Beekeeper: Mediating conflict in Kurkov's Grey Bees

Abstract: This paper is an attempt at analyzing the novel *Grey Bees* in the context of the ongoing Russia Ukraine Conflict in the territories of Donbass and Crimea. In order to portray the situation in the Grey Zone, Kurkov focuses on the struggles of the beekeeper and his strong desire to protect his bees. The solitary beekeeper who is the protagonist of the novel, silently emerges as a figure of quiet resistance and human resilience in the face of war. Through an analysis of Kurkov's use of narrative style, the study explores the novel's quiet, ironic tone and its focus on peripheral characters and spaces offer a subtle literary resistance to nationalist binaries and militarized discourse. Through an analysis of Kurkov's use of landscape, silence, and allegory, this paper explores how *Grey Bees* constructs a narrative where borders are fluid, identities are hybrid and survival is the ultimate goal for the characters as a form of resistance. Taking the theories of liminality, narrative ethics, and post-Soviet identity, this study examines how Kurkov's beekeeper represents a silent yet strong response to conflict in the form of endurance over ideology, and empathy over enmity. *Grey Bees* resists binary oppositions whether in the form of friend/enemy, ours/theirs, or Russian/Ukrainian.

Keywords: literary discourse, Kurkov, narrative identity

Bionote: Gaurav Mor is currently a PhD Research Scholar at the Centre of Russian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, JNU. He has an M.Phil. from the Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies, University of Delhi; Masters in Russian from the Centre of Russian Studies, JNU and a Graduation in English from the University of Delhi. He cleared the UGC NET-JRF in Dec 2018. His areas of interest include Russian Literature, Modern Russian Language, Translation, Comparative Literature, Culture, and Folklore studies.

David Morariu

What happened to the “special (military) operation”? The story of a (de)legitimizing and (de)sacralizing linguistic label of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in the Romanian and English-language media

Abstract: Regarded as one of the earliest linguistic labels of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the widespread use of “special (military) operation” was, on the one hand, a direct consequence of Russia’s discursive strategy of euphemizing the war (Galtung 1987) and self-legitimizing the invasion of Ukraine. On the other hand, its imposition as the only linguistic label accepted in the Russian media – with other terms that explicitly describe the war being banned – has heightened its discursive recurrence. However, this keyword comes to the fore as a result of its frequency in both Russian propaganda – as a legitimizer of Russia’s defensive policy (Chiluwa 2024) – and pro-Ukrainian media, where it functions as a delegitizer that seeks to neutralize Russia’s narratives (Molek-Kozakowska & Dragomir 2025). According to this, it has clearly gained a lexical-semantic ambivalence, as revealed by the lexical context and the analysis of concordance lines. This ambivalence resides in its use as an umbrella concept standing for demilitarization and denazification, alongside techniques of sacralizing historical myths (Mamedov 2024), and as a label targeted by irony, relying on an echoic use of language (Wilson & Sperber 2012). Therefore, by using both quantitative and qualitative methods on the English and Romanian-language corpora provided by CORECON, this paper aims to: 1. analyze the lexical trends regarding this linguistic label and examine how it has been replaced and updated according to current discursive strategies advanced by Russian officials; 2. engage with studies already conducted on Polish media and 3. carry out a comparative analysis of the media in all three languages; 3. test the hypothesis of sacralization in both secular and religious senses by considering specific contexts in which “special operation” conveys Russia’s narrative of national wholeness and the Western (NATO) threat aiming to divide it.

Keywords: war reporting, legitimization, sacralization, historical myths, euphemism

Bionote: David Morariu is a PhD Candidate in Philology and Teaching Assistant of Romanian with the Department of Romance Studies at the Faculty of Letters and Arts. He holds seminars in General Linguistics, Pragmatics, Syntax and Stylistics and his research interests include corpus linguistics, online pragmatics, digital humanities, neurolinguistics and language impairments. He has taken part in DMRN (The Digital Museum of the Romanian Novel:1845–1947) and FAKEROM (Fake News in Romanian: A Joint Discursive and Computational Approach), two research projects during which he has specialized in corpus-based analysis and media discourse, and he is currently focusing on a neurodidactic approach to learning Romanian as a foreign language using digital tools.

Crina Neacșu

Gendered nations, gendered war: Feminine victimhood and masculine aggression

Abstract: Drawing on intersectional theories of gender, nation, and military conflict (Nira Yuval-Davis, Carol Cohn), this paper investigates the construction of gendered narratives of nationhood in the media coverage of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Its premise is that stereotypical and performative gender roles codify conflict. In the case of this analysis, it is believed that Ukraine is conditionally feminized and codified as a violated, victimized motherland, while Russia is portrayed as a masculinized aggressor. Nations connected to the conflict – through political alliances, public support, etc. – fulfil a masculinized protective role. This gender binary of nationhood may affect – or be affected in turn by – the overall media discourses and portrayals of feminized suffering and masculinized military aggression. These symbolic genderings are not neutral. The bases of conflict metaphors that are instrumentalized in public discourse can and do structure public perceptions by appealing to already existing moral binaries and affective alignment. Therefore, this study aims to also create a bridge between the concepts of gendered nation and war and affective regimes and public emotion (through the works of William M. Reddy, Sara Ahmed, Erin Steuter or Deborah Wills). This theoretical framework is going to be projected on the English and Romanian-language corpora collected in “The coverage and reception of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in Polish, Romanian and English-language media: A comparative critical discourse study with recommendations for journalism training” (CORECON) project, delimited by gendered terminology.

Keywords: gender, nation, war, emotion, performativity, Ukraine, Russia

Bionote: Crina Neacșu is a PhD Candidate in Philology and Research Assistant at the Faculty of Letters and Arts at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. Through her PhD thesis, she seeks to analyze the evolution of the representation of queer minorities in Romanian media discourse post-2000, employing the framework of critical discourse analysis. This research project builds on her MA dissertation on trans/transgen/transgender vs. transsexual vs. travestite identities in Romanian media, 2010-2022. Her research interests and papers primarily focus on language studies, discourse analysis, critical race theory, gender theory, and queer theory.

Jędrzej Olejniczak

Representations of the war in Ukraine in Polish news media: A corpus-based study

Abstract: The study examines the Polish news subcorpus of the CORECON project, employing topic analysis, diachronic analysis and sentiment analysis to evaluate the discourse about the war in Ukraine. Topic analysis is used to distinguish six topics that appear in the corpus. The components of each topic are examined and then used to follow the parallel development of the topics over time. The elements of the corpus that contribute to specific topics then undergo sentiment analysis based on both simple negative-positive polarity and on the specific emotions. The study shows how the representations of the war by the Polish news outlets have shifted, which issues were primed and which lost prevalence over time, pinpointing, inter alia, the economic impact of the war being associated with anticipation and positivity, Ukrainian refugees being associated with joy and trust, as well as the gradually declining media interest in specific areas, such as the matters of individuals caught up in the war and the topic of refugees.

Keywords: corpus linguistics, sentiment analysis, topic modeling, media representation

Bionote: Jędrzej Olejniczak, PhD, is senior lecturer at the Institute of Linguistics, University of Opole and a corpus linguist with a background in translation studies. His doctoral thesis was a quantitative account of the atypical patterns of linguistic behaviour in literary texts translated from English into Polish. His research includes quantitative studies in social media (discourse of twitch.tv, Facebook debates on apostasy), quantitative studies (interdisciplinary applications of corpus linguistics) and translation studies (corpus-based studies of atypical patterns in translation).

Serhiy Potapenko

News discourse effects of Russia-Ukraine war: Cognitive perspective

Abstract: News texts create varying effects of the Russia-Ukraine war (2022-2025) by the nouns war, conflict, invasion. Consequently, the research question is what impressions of the three-year-long confrontation those choices trigger. To study that, the presentation employs the cognitive experiential method linking the emergence of meaning to the sensory-motor experience, represented by image schemas, i.e., dynamic recurring patterns of organism-environment interactions. It is found that the distribution of the war-words in the headlines and news text introductions throughout the three years of the war evokes five main impressions. The balancing effect of the pre-war period (Jan - Feb 2022) is evoked by oscillation between confrontation intensification (conflict escalate to war) and disintensification (avoid the war). The former rests on movement, represented by the PATH image schema, from non-intensive to intensive COUNTERFORCE, while the latter destroys the former invoking the DIVERSION schema. The non-intense effect of war beginning (the first two months) results from the oscillation between the units conflict, evoking non-intensive COUNTERFORCE, and invasion, focusing on the COUNTERFORCE source. The spatial scaling effect (second part of 2022 and 2023 throughout) is achieved by the interchange between the constructions war in Ukraine and Ukraine war, contrasting intensive COUNTERFORCE with its territorial restriction. The temporal scaling effect (singled out on February 24, 2024), based on the combination of COUNTERFORCE with PATH, portrays the war from three perspectives: zoom-out, connecting its beginning with 2014; medium, relating its beginning to 2022 with a due attention to the previous eight years; zoom-in, restricting its beginning to 2022 with a textual focus on separate components. The temporal zoom-in effect (singled out on February 24, 2025) is created by restricting the war - conflict opposition, based on the COUNTERFORCE of differing intensity, to its source, denoted by the noun invasion.

Keywords: cognitive schema, organism-environment interactions, experimental method

Bionote: Serhiy Potapenko is professor at the Department of English Philology and Language Philosophy, Kyiv National Linguistic University, Ukraine. Author of more than 130 research works, including monographs (e.g., *Contemporary English media discourse: Cognitive and motivational aspects*, Nizhyn, 2009, in Ukrainian; *Cognitive media rhetoric: Conflict-crisis in English online news*, Kyiv, 2021, in Ukrainian, English and Russian). His academic interests include media discourse, cognitive rhetoric, cognitive linguistics.

Robert Radziej

Wartime markets, media frames: how Polish business journalism covered economic developments during the Russian-Ukrainian war

Abstract: This study explores how Polish business journalism covered economic developments during the Russia-Ukraine war (2022–mid-2024). Drawing on a mixed-methods analysis of 395 headlines from major financial news outlets, the study examines media framing of key sectors including energy, agriculture, and finance. The analysis reveals that negative sentiment was dominant in early coverage, while ambivalent framing gained prominence from late 2023, particularly in response to complex and politically sensitive issues. Neutral sentiment remained relatively stable across the period, whereas positive sentiment showed a gradual decline. Ambivalence is highlighted as a framing strategy to address economic uncertainty, allowing journalists to acknowledge complexity without committing to definitive interpretations. The study argues that business journalism not only reports economic facts but also shapes how economic conditions are understood during periods of prolonged instability.

Keywords: economic discourse, war reporting, sentiment analysis, content analysis

Bionote: Robert Radziej is a PhD candidate of linguistics at University of Opole and a research assistant for CORECON at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. His research interest focuses on critical discourse analysis, representations of artificial intelligence by science communication outlets, and multimodality. He was a leader of an international student-driven project within FORTHEM Lab Multilingualism in School and Higher Education called “Which English?”, focusing on the implications of English-language hegemony as a current global lingua franca.

Minodora Sălcudean

Media and discourse analysis studies focused on Russo-Ukrainian conflict (RUC): A systematic literature review

Abstract: This study investigates the predominant themes and directions of interest in social sciences and humanities regarding media reporting on the Russian Ukrainian war, between 2022 and 2024. Using Zotero for data organization, and several AI tools used in research (such as Consensus or Dimension), this work aims to (1) identify the relevant scientific literature in the Media & Discourse Analysis area related to RUC; (2) detect the main directions of study and to identify gaps in current research; (3) to clarify trends and biases in current studies that will be useful for any future research on topic. The results of the analysis could help researchers interested by media covering of geopolitical conflicts and to have an overview of the main research topics and scientific approaches in the academic area.

Keywords: Russo-Ukrainian Conflict (RUC), media, discourse analysis

Bionote: Minodora Sălcudean is associate professor at ULBS and a researcher in Communication Sciences, with special interest in journalism and media discourse. A member of international project teams such as SDGs Journalism Reporting, InMedia and Ecojust, she is the author of scientific articles on the interference of journalism with social networks, the role and responsibilities of journalists during crisis, as well as the aspects of hate speech in the Romanian media.

Phineas Ambrose Savchenko

War and peace in 280 characters: Social media and the democratization of war journalism

Abstract: Social media has fundamentally reshaped war journalism, placing collaborative, polyvocal authorship at the forefront of narrative creation and surpassing the legacy press model. Platforms like Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, and Telegram have democratized war storytelling, enabling anyone with a phone and internet connection to contribute to the decentralized process of documenting conflict. During the war in Ukraine, content—from drone footage and testimonies to viral memes and remixed video montages—is produced, shared, and consumed in real-time. In this environment, traditional gatekeeping mechanisms of journalism are increasingly irrelevant, and the “truth” of war is no longer a single, authoritative account but an evolving patchwork shaped by the emotional, political, and social dynamics of a global, participatory audience. This shift has two seismic consequences. First, the individual witness is recast as a journalist, not by institutional authorization, but by platforms' reach, speed, and immediacy. War is no longer the domain of professional journalists or accredited correspondents; civilians, soldiers, activists, and bystanders become participants in storytelling. Second, the constant stream of digital testimonies has produced a fragmented, polyvocal conflict narrative. These are shaped by affective publics, algorithmic amplification, platform politics, and informal networks of care, surveillance, and grief. Unlike traditional single-author texts, the war in Ukraine is not represented through a unified narrative but through a shifting Deleuzian assemblage of relationships. These create a collective, evolving story that spans platforms and communities, with each narrative reshaped and emotionally charged by those who engage with it. Building on this shift, I propose examining the intersection of Deleuze's concept of assemblages and Stuart Allan's theorization of digital war reporting to understand citizen journalism in conflict zones, such as Ukraine. Rather than a singular narrative, we see a complex, unstable authorship that reflects diverse, entangled, and often contradictory experiences, challenging traditional hierarchies of truth and representation.

Keywords: digital war reporting, assemblage, narrative, participatory journalism

Bionote: Phineas Ambrose Savchenko is a Ukrainian animator, researcher, and 16mm projectionist based in Ottawa, ON. Their research focuses on Deleuzian studies and critical theory, informing an examination of representation and the body within media. Phineas holds an MA in English from Carleton University, where they explored the use of animal avatars in video games and their impact on digital identity. Currently, their MA research at York University investigates alternative semiotics in new media, aiming to challenge conventional understandings of crisis. Their animation work, including their last film *Hey, Cowboy!* (2024), focused on research into contemporary digital rotoscope techniques. Today, they are involved in 16mm preservation, projection, and not-for-profit union leadership.

Corina Selejan

A multimodal analysis of user-generated videos of war tourists in Ukraine

Abstract: Since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, numerous user-generated videos have been uploaded to YouTube by English-speaking users who have travelled to different regions of Ukraine for various reasons, ranging from professed humanitarian and 5th-estate-type concerns through avowed curiosity and adventurousness to thinly-veiled self-promotion or combinations of all of these. This paper will perform a multimodal analysis of several videos with a view to the ideological stance they encode in representing the conflict and its aftermath. The paper attempts to interrogate to which extent what is being asserted in the linguistic medium, i.e., the vloggers' (and/or their guides'/interviewees') discourse, is corroborated by the videos' chosen locations, mise-en-scène, editing techniques, camera movement types, soundtracks, etc. A blatant example of non-corroboration: a video's title might imply that travelling to Ukraine during the conflict is not dangerous and consequently that the conflict's gravity has been exaggerated by mainstream media, but the sites chosen for filming it are all located west of Kyiv or in Kyiv itself. The extent to which the (Western) creators of these videos are capitalizing on, minimizing or trivializing war and human suffering or, on the contrary, are successful in raising awareness of these (of which the number of views and, where applicable, the donated sum could be taken as indicators) will also form the object of the analysis.

Keywords: war tourism, multimodal analysis, videos, user-generated content

Bionote: Corina Selejan is Assistant Professor with the Department of Anglo-American and German Studies at Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, where she specializes in contemporary Anglo-American literature. She has co-edited special issues of American, British and Canadian Studies and East-West Cultural Passage. Her publications include "The Vividness of Hunger in Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing* and Herta Müller's *Attemschaugel: A Cognitivist Reading*" and "For the Love of Words: On Language and Cinematography in Academic Novels and Films."

Svitlana Shurma

Ukrainian warrior representation on TikTok: Playful patriotism within cyber nationalism

Abstract: The start of the Russian invasion in Ukraine caught many off-guard. Ukrainian soldiers and volunteers drafted or signed to fight against the invader have played crucial role in Ukraine's resistance. In 2023, 86%, and 2024, 63% of Ukrainians reported that belief in the Armed Forces of Ukraine (ZSU) helped them to stay resilient in war time. Much of this belief can be also traced back to the spread of the phenomenon known as cyber-nationalism (or online nationalism) (sensu Jiang 2012), which was on the rise with the start of the war, especially in the online sphere in Ukraine. It encompasses the use of the internet and various social media platforms, such as TikTok (TT), to express and promote nationalist ideologies, which often align with the policies of the Ukrainian government. Quite a number of men and women fighting in the Armed Forces use their TT accounts to generate content which has traces of playful patriotism. Playful patriotism is understood as "state-endorsed but not necessarily orchestrated, light-hearted, or amusing media content that promotes the established state ideology", which is characterized by a "light-hearted tone" and "intended for amusement rather than to be taken seriously" (Chen, Valdovinos Kaye, and Zeng 2020, 111). I look at 10 popular TT accounts of the users who present themselves as ZSU fighters and communicate with the TT audience through the light-hearted, humorous content. Using multimodal (mediated) discourse analysis I track a range of communicational forms, relationships between them and their role in social action as part of cyber-nationalism.

Keywords: armed forces, TikTok, patriotism, resilience

Bionote: Svitlana Shurma works as Assistant Professor at Tomas Bata University in Zlín, Czechia. Her research interests lie within the domain of linguistics, namely contrastive cognitive poetics, critical (multimodal) discourse analysis, and rhetoric. She has recently published a chapter co-authored with Wei-lun Lu, "Variation of Language in Religious Texts", in *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Religion* (ed. by S. Pihlaja and H. Ringrow, 2023) and an article "Perpetrators in Multimodal Media Discourse" in *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications* (2024).

Valerica Sporiş, Izabela Dragomir

Framing the threat: Discursive strategies in the Romanian media covering the Russian-Ukrainian conflict

Abstract: This presentation seeks to examine the discursive strategies employed by Romanian online mass media to construct and frame the notion of “threat” within the context of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Following a conceptual clarification of “threat framing” and a categorization of potential threats to national security, the analysis aims to identify which types of threats elicit the strongest audience responses and which are most prominently featured in Romania’s current political context. Issues such as regional instability, shared historical tensions, and security concerns have emerged as key sources of anxiety among Romanian citizens in the face of the ongoing conflict. Using a combination of digital tools and manual annotation, the study extracted four key terms – “threat”, “concern”, “fear”, and “instability” – along with their surrounding contexts, to trace how they are semantically and discursively linked to the broader concept of national security. The analysis draws on a dataset from the CORECON project, encompassing news content from February 2022 to February 2024. The sources analysed include Romania’s leading online news platforms – “www.libertatea.ro”, “adevarul.ro”, and “www.stiripesurse.ro” – as identified by the 2024 Digital News Report. Through a combination of comparative quantitative methods and critical discourse analysis, the study highlights the rhetorical strategies that shape public perceptions of threat, while observing how key entities such as NATO and the EU are discursively positioned in terms of power and influence. The underlying belief that informs the study is that media rhetoric centered on fear and is a powerful tool for transmitting information, with a high chance of not only capturing the public’s attention, but also carrying significant potential for manipulation. As such, the study underscores the need for journalistic responsibility, ethical discernment, and critical media literacy in the reporting of armed conflicts.

Keywords: discursive framing, threat, concern, fear, instability, national security, Romanian media, Russian-Ukrainian conflict

Bionote: Valerica Sporiş is an Associate Professor with the Department of Romance Studies at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, where she received a PhD in Philology. She teaches Stylistics, Grammar, Language and Communication, Romanian as a Foreign Language. She has published books, studies and articles in the field of Romanian Linguistics and Stylistics and is a researcher in two ongoing projects PATLIRO and CORECON.

Izabela Dragomir is an associate professor and vice-dean for scientific research at the Faculty of Military Sciences, Nicolae Bălcescu Land Forces Academy of Sibiu, Romania. She has obtained a PhD in philology (with focus on linguistics) in 2019. Her fields of research include, but are not limited to: EFL, ESP, gender mainstreaming and intercultural communication. As part of her doctoral studies, she benefitted from a one-year Fulbright scholarship during which she was a visiting researcher at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, USA. She also acts as a language expert in several international and national projects and grants, and has coordinated public diplomacy and educational projects under the aegis of NATO PDD. Her publications explore such topics critical thinking skills, teaching English in military higher education, military communication in intercultural contexts, gender studies, and, more recently, critical discourse analysis.

Nataliia Talavira

Reporting President Zelenskyy's war discourse in news texts

Abstract: Since the beginning of the full-scale war in 2022, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has addressed almost four dozen parliaments to attract support from foreign countries. News texts about the speeches are essential in conveying our state's position to other nations. This raises the questions of the criteria for selecting quotes from the President's addresses and the sequence of their placement in the news. The paper examines how news reports on the American newspaper Washington Post site render the content of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's two addresses delivered to the US Congress on March 16 and December 22, 2022. The investigation is based on the constructional approach (Goldberg, 2019), regarding morphosyntactic constructions as pairings of form and meaning. The first speech, proclaimed at the beginning of the war, is represented in the news report in three segments: a call to support Ukraine and for American leadership, threats in US history. The coverage relies on generalizing constructions to adapt the President's request for help to the target audience's worldview, e.g. pleads for military aid, financial sanctions. Historical events in the United States, intended to show all the horrors of the war in Ukraine, are presented by generalizing constructions, e.g. the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the call for American leadership is embodied by identical constructions, e.g. be a leader of the world, because this idea is part of the worldview of US citizens. The second address to the US Congress is represented in the news report by only one section - assistance to Ukraine. Generalizing constructions adapt arguments about the need for military, financial, and humanitarian support, e.g., more aid and weapons. The background sections of the news report provide very detailed coverage of the attitude of politicians and ordinary citizens toward assisting Ukraine, as the question of its expediency is in their attention.

Keywords: presidential address, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, news discourse

Bionote: Nataliia Talavira, PhD, is associate professor and postdoctoral student at Kyiv National Linguistic University. She has graduated from Nizhyn Mykola Gogol State University, Ukraine with a thesis on 'English prepositional phrases without article: Cognitive discursive aspect', and has developed the cognitive rhetoric approach to analyzing news discourse, translation of political addresses, media speech effectiveness, news reporting of public speeches, and functions of constructions in the texts of various genres. She has been actively involved at regional, national, and international levels, promoting her findings at various venues in Ukraine and Europe. E-mail: nataliia.talavira@knl.u.edu.ua

Iulia Ticăreanu

The Russian-Ukrainian conflict through the lens of post-truth: An overview

Abstract: In a post-truth era, the truth takes on new valences due to the content created by artificial intelligence and the continuous exposure of people to linked groups that are capable of mobilization. The media becomes a vehicle for the perpetuation of post-truth, and in the case of military conflicts the polarization between the two warring sides increases. The aim of this presentation is to analyze the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in the Romanian media through the lens of post-truth, more specifically an analysis of how Romanian politicians, through their discourses, bring this conflict into the discussion and use it to create their own truth and attract the audience to their side. The results of the analysis, by highlighting the post-truth features ("Trump effect") in Romanian politicians' speeches, will emphasize that the audience does not remain indifferent to this phenomenon, being drawn by the so-called choice of the reality in which they live and influenced in their attitude towards military conflicts.

Keywords: post-truth, Russian-Ukrainian conflict, Romanian media, Romanian politicians, political discourse

Bionote: Iulia Ticăreanu is a PhD candidate and a teaching assistant at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania. She teaches Romanian language seminars (Normative Grammar, Language and Communication) and Romanian as a foreign language. She is currently involved in research projects CORECON and PATLIRO (Preservation, Transformation and Study of the Romanian Linguistic Patrimony in the Context of Globalization).

Loredana Marcela Trancă, David Lungu

Response in crisis: The design, implementation, and adaptation of Social Services for Ukrainian Refugees in Timișoara

Abstract: This qualitative research explores the design, implementation, and adaptation of social services for Ukrainian refugees in Timișoara within the context of the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. Emphasizing the human factor in crisis management, the study investigates the challenges and solutions identified at the managerial level. Through in-depth interviews, the research examines three key dimensions: the initial needs assessment process and its impact on service design, the dynamics of collaboration among organizations involved in crisis response, and the role of technology in coordinating and delivering social services. The study's respondents include key stakeholders directly involved in the humanitarian response, such as 10 representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local government officials, social workers, volunteers, and refugee community leaders. Their diverse perspectives provide a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms that shaped service provision and adaptation. The data collected were analyzed using thematic analysis, identifying recurring patterns, challenges, and best practices. Findings reveal the importance of flexible and adaptive service models, the significance of inter-organizational cooperation, highlights the importance of funding programs in crisis situations, community awareness and involvement and the potential of technology in enhancing service delivery. However, challenges such as bureaucratic constraints, resource limitations, and digital divides also emerge. The analysis highlights critical themes, including the effectiveness of rapid assessment tools, the role of trust and communication in collaboration, and the extent to which digital platforms facilitated or hindered service accessibility. This study offers insights into best practices and areas for improvement in crisis response strategies, with implications for future refugee support initiatives.

Keywords: refugee support, social services, adaptation, crisis response

Bionote: Loredana Marcela Trancă is a lecturer in the Department of Social Work at the West University of Timișoara, Romania. She holds a PhD in Sociology and an MA in Social Work Management from the same institution. She actively contributes to various institutional development, research, and social intervention projects. Her research interests encompass social work practice, social work education, and equal opportunities for vulnerable groups.

David Lungu holds a bi-national bachelor's degree in Social Work from West University of Timișoara and BTU Cottbus. With over 3.5 years of experience, David has worked with refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers in both Timișoara and Cottbus. David was a key figure in Timișoara's response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis from the war's onset until last year. Currently, David is studying for a master's degree in Management in Social Work Services at West University of Timișoara.

Bogdan Vătavu

War and violence: Terrifying, cruel, barbaric, ferocious and sexual. Indirect and direct violence as reported in the Romanian and English online media concerning the Russian-Ukrainian conflict

Abstract: All wars are inherently violent, but not all wars are the same in the violence they perpetrate. The violence of the Cold War is particularly remembered today for its more indirect aspects: the Red Scare in capitalist societies, the looming threat of Western imperialism in the communist bloc, and the atomic fear felt at the global scale. It is crucial, therefore, to comprehend violence, even when not directly related to war, not only in its personal and physical manifestations, but also in its indirect, less apparent structural aspects. This broad understanding of violence, advanced and refined by Johann Galtung (1969, 1990), and further explored by Paul Farmer (2004) and others, serves as the conceptual foundation for this paper. The study aims to explore the representation of violence in all its forms in Romanian and English online media reporting on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. To achieve this, a corpus of texts spanning the first two years of the war was manually and automatically collected from various media outlets across Romania and the English-speaking world. The methodology employed here is that pioneered by Alan Partington (2004) and Paul Baker (2006, 2023) under the name of Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies. It involves using software tools like LancsBox X to derive quantitative computational analyses of the texts in our corpus, aiming to provide a deeper understanding of the media reporting on the violence brought about by the war in Ukraine. The research questions that inform this study are: What are the types of violence that are reported? Who are the perpetrators (other than the military)? Who are the victims? Is indirect violence as present in the media discourse as the direct violence that is usually associated with war?

Keywords: representation, violence, corpus-assisted discourse studies

Bionote: Bogdan Vătavu is Assistant Professor at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, where he teaches various disciplines in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS). He is a graduate in History at Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania, where he also obtained his PhD title in 2019. His academic interests span from social history to library and information science and the digital humanities. His work is focused on the history of crime in Romania and its representations in popular culture and, more recently, critical information literacy, the state of librarianship in Romania, digital collections.

Przemysław Wilk

(De)legitimization in online discourse: A case study in the coverage of the Russian-Ukrainian war

Abstract: From a theoretical framework anchored in Critical Discourse Analysis, the study focuses on the crucial role of language in enacting legitimization. It examines (de)legitimization strategies in online discourse on the 2022 Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict. Based on van Leeuwen's (2007) and Reyes' (2011) frameworks of (de)legitimization, the study catalogues some linguistic strategies instantiating (de)legitimization as utilized by the Polish reporter Marcin Ogdowski on his Facebook profile. Additionally, it sheds some light on the affordances of the social-media-specific genre of post with respect to language and style.

Keywords: (de)legitimization, social media, war reporting, subjectivity

Bionote: Przemysław Wilk is a senior lecturer with a PhD in linguistics at the Department of English, Institute of Linguistics, University of Opole. He specializes in media discourses from a cognitive and critical perspective, working extensively on figurative mechanism of creating meaning and different metaphorical conceptualizations in politics and rhetoric of political discourse. He has experience supervising university students' BA and MA projects (over 100). He has participated in FORTHEM Multilingualism Lab, Erasmus+ Teacher Academies project and CORECON.

Andrii Yaroshchuk, Guillem Suau-Gomila

Framing victory in media coverage of the Russia-Ukraine war in Poland, Spain and the UK in 2022-2023

Abstract: The concept of victory in war remains complex and contested. While victory is traditionally understood in military terms, it operates as a political construct. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has amplified debates about victory, particularly in the media, where narratives of success and defeat shape public opinion and political discourse. Based on quantitative and qualitative content analysis methodology, this study examines how victory in the Russia-Ukraine war was framed in mainstream media coverage in Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom in 2022 and 2023. It explores key dimensions of victory narratives, including how victory is defined, the levels at which it is presented, the actors and sources contributing to the narrative, the potential consequences of such a victory, and how the concept is adapted to national contexts. The key findings reveal that the victory topic was predominantly secondary in media coverage across all three countries, framed mostly from a strategic perspective and often portrayed as an aspiration rather than a definitive outcome. Despite world leaders often framing the war as a battle between democracy and autocracy, media coverage in all three countries largely adhered to a military framing of victory. Spanish and Polish media presented the victory narrative equally from both Ukrainian and Russian perspectives, whereas UK media showed a slight preference for the Ukrainian viewpoint, focusing on the potential for Ukraine to achieve victory and its implications for the country. Russian authorities and Ukraine were the dominant actors in the victory narratives, with journalists as the primary sources. Experts and officials from countries supporting Ukraine were frequently cited. The concept of victory was not domesticated in any of the countries, and the potential consequences of victory were either left unaddressed or viewed through a geopolitical lens.

Keywords: Russia-Ukraine war, war framing, media framing, victory narrative, war media coverage

Bionote: Andrii Yaroshchuk is a PhD student in the Department of Communication at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF). His academic interests include media coverage of violent conflicts, war and conflict narratives, and narrative analysis within international relations frameworks. He holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in International Economic Relations from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, along with a Master's degree in Marketing and Business Strategies from the University of Castilla-La Mancha. In addition to his academic work, he has extensive professional experience in scientific communication for European projects.

Guillem Suau-Gomila holds a PhD in Communication from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), a master's degree in social communication from the UPF and a degree in Audiovisual Communication from the Universitat de les Illes Balears. He is lecturer and academic coordinator of the Degree in Communication and Audiovisual Journalism at the University of Lleida (UdL), lecturer of the master's in public management and leadership at the UIMP-INAP and lecturer of the master's in political and Institutional Communication UPF/BSM. His research has focused on the analysis of political communication, crisis and emergency communication and hate speech in social media.



WORKSHOPS

Jędrzej Olejniczak et al.

Corpus linguistics in news discourse analysis: An overview of tools, categories, scripts and protocols used in CORECON

The workshop aims to showcase how the CORECON project corpora were collected and analyzed and to allow the participants to analyze our resources at their own discretion. To this end, the workshop participants will be given basic insights into several areas: scraping, corpus collection (incl. metadata) and corpus analysis. Then, the workshop will move onto conducting several small case studies based on selected dataset(s) in English, including keyword analysis and word sketches. Further insights and suggestions will also be shared with regards to more elaborate methods, such as sentiment analysis, uses of NLP, and diachronic analysis that we have conducted.

Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska et al.

An overview of interventions used to foster resilience against disinformation: from fact-checking and deepfake-spotting to critical media literacy

Communication scholars have been exploring many aspects of mis- and disinformation propagation with some studies prioritizing the questions of how to make (social) media users less susceptible to disinformation. Many resources for fact-checking and literacy interventions have been developed by established media institutes, and the outcomes of their applications are being assessed in the literature. Resilience interventions are often justified with reluctance to “censor” online communications, even though governments do take measures to eliminate other harmful elements from citizens’ environments. Apparently, it is assumed that “wrong” information will ultimately recede and is likely to be replaced by valuable information, as long as media users are responsible and resilient enough. In this workshop we draw on a collection of practical applications of resilience-oriented interventions, in the context of CORECON project. We take stock of the interventions that build resilience to disinformation, from myth busting to inoculation against fake news (prebunking), from gamified fictional exercises to spotlighting deepfakes, and from practical self-help tips to digital literacy lessons. We collect examples of interventions from websites of non-for-profit organizations, libraries and EU and national projects devoted to media literacy.

Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska and Ecaterina Ilis

Promotion of the publication of thematic issue of *Res Rhetorica* 12(2): Mediated rhetoric of recent conflicts

This thematic issue was conceived to explore the rhetorical dimensions of conflict discourses as reflected in contemporary media landscapes. It was aimed to show how established rhetorical categories and analytic protocols can be adapted to making sense of and explaining the mechanisms of today's conflicts, both real and imagined. It was developed in collaboration with scholars of the CORECON project (<https://grants.ulbsibiu.ro/corecon/>) that explores the coverage and reception of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in a multi-disciplinary perspective of language and rhetoric, journalism and mediation and politics and security studies. This thematic issue was ideated with the understanding that rhetoric can be strategically used to express conflicting views and values. While these conflicts may be represented as simple differences, contrasts, discords and dissents, they may escalate to arguments and attacks, opposition and abuse, hostility and even violence. The dozen articles collected in this thematic issue explore linguistic and mediated representations of recent conflicts and show how they depend on the cultural contexts and affordances of communication technologies (including online and social media platforms).

CORECON

The **C**overage and **R**eception of
the Russian-Ukrainian **C**onflict

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