



Viadrina Summer Courses 2025

Lecture Period:
June 2 - July 14, 2025



Humanities and Social Sciences Track

- 3 Narratives in European and International Politics. Theories and Cases
- 8 Power, Resistance and Digital Capitalism
- 11 From Gender Linguistics to Queer Linguistics



Narratives in European and International Politics. Theories and Cases (6 ECTS)

Name: Prof. Jürgen Neyer
 Office: LH004
 E-Mail: neyer@europa-uni.de
 Tel.: +49 335 55342531
 Office Hours: on appointment

The class analyses the role of narratives in European and international politics. It is structured in two blocs of 12 hrs., each block combining three sessions per four hours. Both blocs start with reading pertinent literature and understanding what narratives are, how they evolve, and their effects. In both blocs, students will work in pairs and produce short empirical analyses of narratives in European or international politics. Both blocs entail a supervised session with teamwork and a session in which the products will be discussed in plenary. Students will discuss scientific articles, produce empirical analyses, and present their work. The learning goal of the class is to understand how immaterial forces shape policymakers' perceptions and how ideas matter in European and international politics. A final paper summarizing all work will be submitted by 08/15/2025.

Workload: 24 hours in-class / 100 hours independent study (6 ECTS)

GRADING:

Home essay (8 pp.):	40 %
2 presentations (10 minutes each):	50 %
Participation/Engagement:	10 %

TERMS

Presence

Students are requested to attend to classes in order to get graded. **More than one absence will automatically lower your final grade after your point total is calculated**, unless you can ***document*** that **all** the absences are related to an illness and/or official university event. For each additional absence your final grade will be lowered by 1/3 (a B becomes a B-, etc.). Late arrival and early departure will not be tolerated.



Policy on Academic Integrity. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Your writing must be your own work. If you plagiarize egregiously on an assignment, you will fail the course. Simple rule of thumb: “If you use words or ideas that are not your own you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism.”

COURSE STRUCTURE

Date	Topic	Readings	Recommended
Monday, 2 June (09:15- 12:45)	Theory: Making of Narratives	Cromm/ Neyer, Narrating European Politics, Ms.; Freistein, K. et al., Studying Narratives in International Relations, International Studies Perspectives, forthcoming.	Beaudonnet, Laurie, Celine Belot, Helene Caune, Anne- Marie Houde, and Damien Pennetreau. 2023. “Narrating Europe: (Re-)Constructed and Contested Visions of the European Project in Citizens' Discourse.” JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies 61, no.1: 161-178. Manners, Ian, and Philomena Murray. 2016. “The End of a Noble Narrative? European Integration Narratives after the Nobel Peace Prize.” Journal of Common Market Studies 54, no. 1: 185–202. McMahon, Robert, and Wolfram Kaiser. 2021. “Narrative Ju-Jitsu: Counter- Narratives to European Union.” Journal of



			Contemporary European Studies 30, no. 1: 1–9.
Monday, 16 June (09:15- 12:45)	Elaboration in class		/
Monday, 23 June (09:15- 12:45)	Presentation		/
Monday, 30 June (09:15- 12:45)	Theory: Effects of Narratives	<p>Krebs RR. How Dominant Narratives Rise and Fall: Military Conflict, Politics, and the Cold War Consensus. <i>International Organization</i>. 2015;69(4):809-845. doi:10.1017/S0020818315000181</p> <p>De Vries, Catherine E. 2023. "How Foundational Narratives Shape European Union Politics." <i>JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies</i> 61, no. 4: 867–881.</p> <p>Thomas Müller, Narratives, Knowledge Objects, and the Making of Great Power Competition, Global</p>	<p>Lerner, Adam B., and Ben O'Loughlin. 2023. "Strategic Ontologies: Narrative and Meso-Level Theorizing in International Politics." <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 67, no. 3: sqad058.</p> <p>Faizullaev, Alisher, and Jérémie Cornut. 2017. "Narrative Practice in International Politics and Diplomacy: The Case of the Crimean Crisis." <i>Journal of International Relations and Development</i> 20, no. 3: 578–604.</p> <p>Jones, Michael D., and Mark K. McBeth. 2010. "A Narrative Policy Framework: Clear Enough to Be Wrong?" <i>Policy</i></p>



		Studies Quarterly, Volume 4, Issue 3, July 2024, ksae059, https://doi.org/10.1093/isagsq/ksae059	Studies Journal 38, no. 2: 329–353. De Wilde, Pieter. 2023. “Peace, Prosperity and Protection: Narratives of Integration and the ‘Justification Jungle’ of Europe's Public Spheres.” JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies 61, no. 5: 1194–1210.
Monday, 7 July (09:15-12:45)	Elaboration in class		/
Monday, 14 July (09:15-12:45)	Presentation		/

COURSE READINGS

Beaudonnet, Laurie, Celine Belot, Helene Caune, Anne-Marie Houde, and Damien Pennetreau. 2023. “Narrating Europe: (Re-)Constructed and Contested Visions of the European Project in Citizens' Discourse.” JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies 61, no.1: 161-178.

Cromm/ Neyer, Narrating European Politics, Ms.; Freistein, K. et al., Studying Narratives in International Relations, International Studies Perspectives, forthcoming.

De Vries, Catherine E. 2023. “How Foundational Narratives Shape European Union Politics.” JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies 61, no. 4: 867–881.



De Wilde, Pieter. 2023. "Peace, Prosperity and Protection: Narratives of Integration and the 'Justification Jungle' of Europe's Public Spheres." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 61, no. 5: 1194–1210.

Faizullaev, Alisher, and Jérémie Cornut. 2017. "Narrative Practice in International Politics and Diplomacy: The Case of the Crimean Crisis." *Journal of International Relations and Development* 20, no. 3: 578–604.

Jones, Michael D., and Mark K. McBeth. 2010. "A Narrative Policy Framework: Clear Enough to Be Wrong?" *Policy Studies Journal* 38, no. 2: 329–353.

Krebs RR. How Dominant Narratives Rise and Fall: Military Conflict, Politics, and the Cold War Consensus. *International Organization*. 2015;69 (4):809-845. doi: 10.1017/S0020818315000181.

Lerner, Adam B., and Ben O'Loughlin. 2023. "Strategic Ontologies: Narrative and Meso-Level Theorizing in International Politics." *International Studies Quarterly* 67, no. 3: sqad058.

Manners, Ian, and Philomena Murray. 2016. "The End of a Noble Narrative? European Integration Narratives after the Nobel Peace Prize." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 54, no. 1: 185–202.

McMahon, Robert, and Wolfram Kaiser. 2021. "Narrative Ju-Jitsu: Counter-Narratives to European Union." *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* 30, no. 1: 1–9.

Müller, Thomas 2024. Narratives, Knowledge Objects, and the Making of Great Power Competition, *Global Studies Quarterly*, Volume 4, Issue 3, July 2024, ksae059, <https://doi.org/10.1093/isagsq/ksae059>



Power, Resistance and Digital Capitalism (6 ECTS)

Name: Prof. Dr. Miglė Bareikytė

Office: CP 140

E-Mail: bareikyte@europa-uni.de

Office Hours: on appointment

“[W]e are a people on the verge of amusing ourselves to death”, said the media scholar Neil Postman in his critique of the television-oriented society of 20th century America (2006: 4). Today, as Shoshana Zuboff vividly demonstrates in her book "The Age of Surveillance Capitalism" (2018), it is Big Tech companies and their owners who are redefining how power is re-constituted in the 21st century with the help of digital platforms, data extraction practices, behavioural manipulation and the co-optation of audience attention. The compact seminar sets the task of asking big questions: What is power and what are the practices of resistance in the "age of surveillance capitalism"? What is the role of (digital) media technologies in shaping power relations? How has power been conceptualised by political theorists in the 20th century? To explore these questions, the seminar participants will read and discuss a selection of seminal texts that examine power and resistance with a focus on digital capitalism. Students will also be asked to research and present cases that illustrate the most acute trends in the constitution of power in contemporary digital capitalism.

GRADING:

Home essay (6 pp.):	40 %
1 presentation (20 minutes):	20 %
Participation/Engagement:	40 %

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COURSE STRUCTURE

Date	Topic	Readings
Friday, 4 July 3 sessions, (9:15-15:45)	Introduction to the seminar Media power	Neil Postman: <i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i> (1985), Ch. 1 and 11. Shoshana Zuboff: <i>The Age of Surveillance Capitalism</i> (2018), Introduction
Saturday, 5 July 4 sessions, (9:15-17:45)	Power and Resistance: conceptual outlines	Hannah Arendt: <i>On Violence</i> (1970), excerpt Michel Foucault: <i>The History of Sexuality, Vol. I: The Will to Knowledge</i> (1998), excerpt Tiqqun: <i>The Cybernetic Hypothesis</i> (2020), excerpt
Friday, 11 July 3 sessions, (9:15-15:45)	Power in Digital Capitalism	Arne Hintz and Stefania Milan: <i>Through a glass, darkly: Everyday acts of authoritarianism and surveillance cultures in the West</i> (2018) Gregory Asmolov: <i>The Disconnective Power of Disinformation Campaigns</i> (2018)



		Film screening and discussion: tba
Saturday, 12 July 4 sessions, (9:15-17:45)	Resistance in Digital Capitalism	Nuno Oliveira: <i>Digital capitalism, subjectivation...and the end of resistance?</i> (2024) Stefania Milan and Lonekke van der Velden: <i>The alternative epistemologies of data activism</i> (2016) Guest talk on activist digital journalism

COURSE READINGS

Appelbaum, Anne (2024). *Autocracy, Inc: The Dictators Who Want to Run the World*. Allen Lane: Bristol.

Chayka, Kyle (2024). *Filterworld: How Algorithms Flattened Culture*. Doubleday: New York.

Doctorow, Cory (2023). *The Internet Con: How to Seize the Means of Computation*. Verso Books: London.

Debord, Guy (1983). *Society of the Spectacle*. Black & Red.

Postman, Neil (2006). *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. Penguin Books: New York.

Tiqqun (2020). *The Cybernetic Hypothesis*. Semiotext(e): Los Angeles.

Zuboff, Shoshana (2018). *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*. Public Affairs: New York City.



From Gender Linguistics to Queer Linguistics (6 ECTS)

Name: Dr. Miriam Lind

Office: Logenstraße 4, AM 135

E-Mail: lind@europa-uni.de

Tel.: +49 335 5534 2743

Office Hours: on appointment

This seminar critically engages with the ways language, gender, and sexuality are interconnected. We study how gender as a grammatical category relates to social understandings of gender in different languages, which parts of our linguistic inventory are relevant for the expression of gender and sexuality, and how we construct and perform gender and sexuality as socially meaningful categories through interaction and discourse. We will apply comparative perspectives on policies and attitudes towards gender-fair and inclusive language in different countries and culture, and connect these discussions to questions of power, hegemonic discourse, and normativity in relation to gender and sexuality. In this class, we will discuss academic literature, analyse case studies, and learn how to conduct small research projects on the interrelations of language, gender, and sexuality. The overall aim of this seminar is to equip students with a deepened understanding of how language and discourse shape our understanding of gender and sexuality and how, simultaneously, societal conceptualizations of gender and sexuality shape discourse and language use.

Workload: 24 hours in-class / 130 hours independent study (6 ECTS)

GRADING:

Home essay (8 pp.):	40 %
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Date	Topic	Readings
Monday, 2 June (14:15- 17:45)	Introduction to the course Foundations of language and gender research	Eckert/McConnell-Ginet (2013), chapters 1+2
Monday, 16 June (14:15- 17:45)	Grammatical gender, inclusion, and gender-fair language	Kiesling (2024), chapter 7 - Policies and guidelines on gender-fair language/inclusive language from your country of origin/a country you are familiar with
Monday, 23 June (14:15- 17:45)	Gender/sexuality in interaction: from communication to voice	Kiesling (2024), chapter 9 Podesva/Kajino (2014)



Monday, 30 June (14:15- 17:45)	Queering language: pronouns and identity labels	Amant et al. 2024 Kolker/Taylor/Galupo (2020)
Monday, 7 July (14:15- 17:45)	Coming-outs linguistically: performative speech acts of gender and sexuality	Zimman (2009) Motschenbacher (2020)
Monday, 14 July (14:15- 17:45)	Gender, sexuality, and nation states: femonationalism and homonationalism	Montiel-McCann (2024) Milani/Levon (2016)

COURSE READINGS

Amant, Manon St./Cai, Jieyi/Rider, G. Nic/Lee, Richard (2024): Nonbinary identity and pronoun use: A qualitative analysis. In: *International Journal of Transgender Health*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2024.2362916>.

Eckert, Penelope/McConnell-Ginet, Sally (2013): *Language and Gender*. Second Edition. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Kiesling, Scott F. (2024): *Language, gender, and sexuality. An introduction*. Second Edition. London/New York: Routledge.

Kolker, Zoe M./Taylor, Philip C./Galupo, M. Paz (2020): „As a sort of blanket term“: Qualitative analysis of queer sexual identity marking. In: *Sexuality & Culture* 24, 1337-1357. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-019-09686-4>.

Milani, Tommaso, M./Levon, Erez (2016): Sexing diversity: Linguistic landscapes of homonationalism. In: *Language & Communication* 51, 69-86. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.langcom.2016.07.002>.

Montiel-McCann, Camila (2024): Hegemonic femininity, femonationalism and the far-right. Boris Johnson’s textual representation of the burka and his rise to power in the UK. In: *Journal of Language Aggression and Conflict*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1075/jlac.00115.mon>.



Motschenbacher, Heiko (2020): Coming out – seducing – flirting: Shedding light on sexual speech acts. In: *Journal of Pragmatics* 170, 256-270. DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2020.09.014>.

Podesva, Robert J./Kajino, Sakiko (2014): Sociophonetics, Gender, and Sexuality. In: Ehrlich, S./Meyerhoff, M./Holmes, J. (eds), *The Handbook of Language, Gender, and Sexuality*. Second Edition. Malden/Oxford/Chichester: Blackwell.

Zimman, Lal (2009): “The other kind of coming out”: Transgender people and the coming out narrative genre. In: *Gender and Language* 3 (1), 53-80. DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1558/genl.v3i1.53>.