

under. docs

Conference on Communication

Categories, Types and Stereotypes in the Humanities and Social Sciences

CALL FOR PAPERS

Once you label me you negate me.

– Søren Kierkegaard

A large degree of inaccessibility, precarious working conditions, and a difficult field for production complicate matters for future academic research within the scientific community. It is essential to counter these barriers. To this end, our under.docs team is organizing a second conference from **October 20 – 22, 2016** at the University of Vienna. Organized by students, the conference is intended for academics working before and at the pre-doctoral level, who aspire to an academic career, come from sociology or humanities backgrounds in the fields of communication and/or media, with reference to the thematic areas **Categories, Types and Stereotypes**. Young academics and students are hereby given the opportunity to present, discuss, and further develop their **completed or current pursuits within their Bachelor, Master, or PhD programs or other academic, research, and term-paper projects**.

The conference provides a platform for new sciences, disciplines, and academic fields, and treats this year's conference theme "Categories, Types, and Stereotypes" from within an integrative environment. Essential is the productive, appreciative, and professional exchange, which also offers possibilities for networking during the conference's events.

CATEGORIES, TYPES AND STEREOTYPES IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



LECTURE SERIES

For the two-day series of lectures and discussions, we are pleased to consider submissions that concern various aspects of Categories, Types, and Stereotypes in the humanities and social sciences, and we particularly welcome those with an inter- and transdisciplinary focus or an unconventional research approach. The thematic focus should lend the conference a common perspective and can be understood as both a contextual-theoretical as well as methodological point of departure.

Possible lines of questioning that should be inspiring and not at all limiting, could be expressed as follows:

What meaning can be ascribed to Categories, Types, and Stereotypes in communicative processes? How are stereotypes constructed, continued, and augmented by media, and how are they possibly undermined or broken down by media? What can the scientific disciplines that deal directly with categories (for example gender research, critical racism theory, among others), contribute and achieve in this area? How can the thematic field be enriched by historical perspectives? To what extent do scientific findings on so-called personas imply, for example in technological developments, concepts of (stereo-)types? To what degree does science contribute to the reinforcement and perpetuation of stereotypes? What can an intersectional perspective do for communication research and participants in communications? From which sources does socially categorizing thinking come and how does it precipitate in the process of scientific research? To what extent do researchers understand social group affiliations understood by researchers as relevant categories in research studies? To what extent do stereotypes manifest in spheres of (mass-)medial communication? How could these be reconstructed? What socially political consequences can (mass-)medially transported stereotypes have? What role is played by a counter public for building up, dismantling, and transforming social categories? How do the targets of (stereotypical) media content dispute attacks; what role does their social position play in this, and how does the construction of stereotypes affect one's social position? Which means can be used to break down stereotypes? Which social spaces for action exist? To what extent are the humanities and social sciences dependent on generalizations for the building of categories? When do generalizations become unsupportable?

These question examples are able to cover only a sample part of this thematic complex. Further lines of questioning and perspectives are very welcome!

Submissions to the Lecture Series

The Extended Abstracts must be submitted in German or English² and comprise between **4.000 and 6.000 characters** (including spaces and excluding references, illustrations, and tables). They should include a separate cover sheet with the lecture title, name, academic title, former and current study program (Bachelor, Master, or PhD studies) including name of institute and university as well as contact information. Including the number of completed semesters in a current program is optional. For exact information on the formal criteria, please refer to the website <http://underdocs.univie.ac.at/einreichung>.

Lectures should last a maximum of twenty minutes, followed by a discussion of approximately 15 minutes.

² The primary language of the conference is German. We are also pleased to receive English language submissions. This option allows us to offer a selection so that the largest possible number can participate in the language they feel most comfortable.

All submissions will undergo an anonymous peer review process in which the following criteria will be considered: relevance to the conference topic, quality of the theoretical foundation, relevance and originality of the line of questioning, adequacy of the method and/or process, conciseness of presentation, and adherence to the formal criteria.

The Extended Abstracts may be submitted electronically as a pdf document until **11 July 2016** at the following email address: call.underdocs@univie.ac.at. The results of the peer review process be expected at the end of August 2016.

Publication

Publication of an anthology of the conference papers has been planned.

WORKSHOPS

The half-day workshops are directed toward students and young researchers whose scientific projects are still in progress, and they will be held in German. We invite proposal submissions by those who have already been active in the topic's focal points and who are interested in these and would like to augment their research work. The administration of the respective workshops will be assumed by postdoctoral students as well as professors, whose contributions align with constructive, productively supportive ideas and commentary.³ In small groups, the exchange among members will be intensified, providing for a high quality experience with the subject. Workshops are offered with the following concentrations.

Between Perpetuation and Deconstruction: Implementation of existing social categories in the research process

The scientific use of categories in research work frequently moves in the tensional field between the necessity of its implementation and the risk of reinforcing specific social criteria. This danger exists especially when there is no or little reflection of the research process as well as the selection and the origin of the respective categories. In the Workshop a discussion should follow which satisfies the demands of a scientific consideration of categories, to be able to recognize and deconstruct categories that have become problematic.

Power Relations as a Multilayered Topic: Intersectional perspectives on medial and communicative phenomena

The concept of intersectionality originates from the confrontation by black women with their specific positioning as a group affected by racism and sexism. Following these considerations, intersectional perspectives allow the overlapping of various power relations as for example heteronormativity, classism, ageism, and ableism to be taken into view and offer therefore the chance to avoid a one-dimensional and monocausal view of social relationships. The Workshop provides a group opportunity to think about how intersectionality, in the study of medial and communicative phenomena, can be applied methodologically as well as theoretically and contextually.

Working with (Systems of) Categories: A mix of methods in social scientific research

Working with (systems of) categories is a common practice in quantitative as well as qualitative social science research. An investigation into the complexity of the state of

³ Current information on the workshop leaders and contents as well as literature will be made available through the website: underdocs.univie.ac.at/workshops.

social affairs can be achieved using a mix of both methodological approaches. This combined approach however presents certain challenges to researchers. The Workshop should provide a forum to discuss the submitted work and to work out in common, strategies of possible solutions. In this, methods and methodological aspects are viewed from the point of view of approaches, problems, and chances with regard to exemplary lines of questioning.

Visual studies in social sciences: Categories, Types and Stereotypes in regards to images.

Types and stereotypes are reflected in visuals; moreover, categories are applied in the research of the aforementioned. Within social sciences visual communication is a wide ranging subject, comprising a spectrum of theoretical and methodical research approaches. During the workshop participants will present their research project briefly, so that thematic limitations and target-aimed research questions can be discussed. Additionally, suggestions in terms of methodical realization will be made.

Submissions to Lead Workshops

The Extended Abstracts to be completed in German or English should be approximately **3.000 to 5.000 characters** (including spaces and excluding references, illustrations, and tables). They should include a separate cover sheet with the lecture title, name, and academic title, former and current studies (Bachelor, Master, or PhD studies) including name of institute and university as well as contact information. Including the number of completed semesters in a current program is optional. For exact information on the formal criteria, please refer to the website <http://underdocs.univie.ac.at/einreichung>.

The Extended Abstracts may be submitted electronically as a pdf document until **11 July 2016** at the following email address: call.underdocs@univie.ac.at. To encourage intensive discussions and work, the workshops will be divided into small groups. For this reason, the number of participants in each workshop is limited. All Workshops are held at the same time, therefore participants are limited to only one. The Abstracts will be selected according to an internal review. The selection can be expected at the end of August 2016.

ALTERNATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Along with the classical character of presentation and workshop, we also offer the possibility of processing research results and experiences in a creative way, perhaps in the form of images, sculptures, or other artistic presentations.

Submissions for Alternative Presentations

In the Extended Abstracts to be submitted in German or English, the project should be described using **3.000 to 5.000 characters** (including spaces and excluding references and tables). Aside from this, please include the specifications and required infrastructure needed for the presentation.

The abstracts should include a separate cover sheet with the title of the presentation, name, academic title, former and current study programs (Bachelor, Master, and PhD studies) including name of institute, university, and contact information. Including the number of completed semesters in a current program is optional. For exact information on the formal criteria, please refer to the website <http://underdocs.univie.ac.at/einreichung>.

The Extended Abstracts may be submitted electronically as a pdf document until **11 July 2016** at the following email address: call.underdocs@univie.ac.at. The Abstracts will be selected according to an internal review. The selection can be expected at the end of August 2016.

If you have any questions at all, you are welcome to contact at any time underdocs@univie.ac.at or to visit our website <http://underdocs.univie.ac.at>.

We look forward to receiving your submission!

Best Wishes,
Your under.docs team