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Language of Politics, Language in Politics

The 25th volume of the journal *Slavia Meridionalis* is dedicated to discussing how language and politics interact, correlate, and amalgamate to create a very specific domain of human activity.

Language and politics seem to be co-constitutive as gleaned from Chilton's (2023, p. 6) pronouncement that "language is the very stuff of all political behaviour" and from Charteris-Black's (2011, p. 4) view of language as "the lifeblood of politics". Language and politics seem to have co-evolved in a symbiotic co-dependence as "it is debatable whether language would have developed in the first place without politics and certain that politics would never have developed without language" (Charteris-Black, 2011, p. 4). Indeed, politics invariably involves reconciling interpersonal and social differences, and it has been considered to do so (e.g. de Cillia & Wodak, 2005; Miller, 1984) through discursive and pragmatic practices such as discussing, negotiating, bargaining, etc. As Wodak (2009, p. 578) asserts, "[p]olitics necessarily includes persuasion, rhetoric, deceptive devices, and so forth."

The last decades have witnessed remarkable changes in the way people communicate – politically or otherwise. The technological advancements in existence as well as those anticipated have already transformed the way(s) in which *politics is conceptualized* and the way(s) in which *politics is enacted*. Today we can safely argue we are witnessing tectonic shifts in how individuals interpret politics and how they redefine their own place in it. Ensuing shifts affect how the media – both 'traditional' and 'social' – adjust to the new (technological) possibilities and requirements before them, and how they (re)create political realities in the contemporary networked society. Generally, these shifts are enabled and enhanced by changes in global communicative practices and they shape who the present political actors are and who can become a political actor in the future.

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Against this backdrop, we have compiled this volume in order to bring together scholars of political-communication-related disciplines who reason about the issues of *how people think (and talk) about politics* and *how political actors act (and think) while doing politics*. We see the first question as related to the way(s) people view the domain of politics 'from the outside'. We see the second question as related to the way(s) political actors view and enact politics 'within' the political domain.

We have included papers which address political communication issues of any scope: both individual and institutional issues have qualified for inclusion as have both local and global ones. Our particular preference, nevertheless, has been for contributions which display a direct association with South-East European peculiarities relating to how language and politics co-exist.

Among the topics on which the articles focus are:

- Language as political cognition: Cognizing and conceptualizing South-East European political topics, South-East European political realities and South-East European political futures
- Communicating alternative South-East political realities and futures
- Digital South-East political discourse(s) and realities
- Mediated South-East political discourse(s) and realities
- Discursive evolution in South-East politics and political realities
- Pandemic and post-pandemic political communication in South-East Europe
- Perspectives on South-East cross-language and cross-cultural dynamics

The articles in the volume are grouped in the following sections:

- *Language as Political Cognition*
- *Language as Political Action*
- *Language as Evolving Policies*
- *Imponderabilia*
- *Reviews*

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