

ICA 2018 PRECONFERENCE | THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018

VOICE AND VOICES: EXPLORING TENSIONS BETWEEN PLURIVOCITY AND UNIVOCITY

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As pointed by Robichaud et al. (2004), any (individual or collective) actor, in order to exist and be recognized as such, has at some point to be able to speak in one voice. Given the multivocality that always characterizes persons and collectives, these passages from polyphony to monophony and from monophony to polyphony are not without creating tensions between what Bakhtin (1981) identified as *centripetal* vs. *centrifugal* forces. In this preconference, we encourage scholars and researchers from many divisions to explore the nature, dynamics and regulation of these tensions by focusing on communicational events, whether in the context of organizations, political parties, governments, public debates, tribunals, psychiatric treatments or mundane conversations. We particularly encourage participants to theorize and analyze the mobilization, articulation and conciliation of alternative voices, such as the voices of facts, absent or dead persons, ecosystems, spirits, or texts, among others.

By organizing this preconference, we hope that scholars representing various divisions of the International Communication association will come together to speak about this key tension between voice and voices. We are especially thinking of members of the following divisions: Language and Social Interaction (LSI), Organizational Communication, Environmental Communication, Political Communication, Philosophy, Theory and Critique (PTC), and Public Relations, among others. As in the previous ICA preconferences we organize, a book, probably published by Routledge, could be edited from the best papers presented during this one-day event.

How to participate

For this preconference, we would like to encourage scholars to submit 500-word abstracts that explicitly (1) deal with questions related to the tensions between monophony and polyphony and (2) illustrate their approach or idea by examining a specific phenomenon or case study.

Any kind of perspective – Conversation Analysis (Pomerantz & Fehr, 1997; Sacks & Jefferson, 1992; Sanders, 2005), Actor Network Theory (ANT) (Latour, 1986; Law, 1991), CCO (Communicative Constitution of Organization) (Benoit-Barné & Cooren, 2009; Bourgoin & Bencherki, 2015; Martine et al., 2016; Taylor & Van Every, 2014), Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough, 2013; Fairclough & Wodak, 1997; van Dijk, 1993), ethnography of communication (Carbaugh & Boromisza-Habashi, 2015; Hymes, 1964; Kalou & Sadler-Smith, 2015), Relational Ontology (Kaufmann & Clément, 2015; Martine & Cooren, 2016), etc. – is welcome as long as these two requirements are met.

This preconference is officially sponsored by the following divisions: **Environmental Communication; Language and Social Interaction (LSI); Organizational communication; Philosophy, Theory and Critique (PTC), Political Communication, and Public Relations.** Representatives of other divisions are, of course, also welcome.

Please submit a 500-word abstract by January 15, 2018 to f.cooren@umontreal.ca.

Decisions will be communicated to the authors by February 1, 2018.

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