

# Editorial

## Journal of Language and Politics – Broadening the horizons and opening a new phase

Michał Krzyżanowski  
University of Liverpool

With Issue 17:1, 2018, the *Journal of Language and Politics* (JLP) opens the seventeenth year of its activity. It does so as a very mature, well-established, and highly-ranked international publication which, with six issues per year, continues to have the major impact on the lively and indeed ever-more complex interdisciplinary field of research of language and politics.

Having seen a very rapidly increasing number of submissions from not only (critical) discourse studies or linguistics, but also the wider field of critical, social-scientific research on language, communication and contemporary politics, JLP has recently been progressively broadening its scope of interests. At the moment, the Journal is widely perceived as a strongly interdisciplinary and critical forum for analysing and discussing the various dimensions of the interplay between language and politics. It is located at the intersection of several social science disciplines including, but not limited to, communication and media research, linguistics, discourse studies, political science, political sociology and political psychology. We continue to be predominantly devoted to empirically-founded research on the role of language and wider communication in all social processes and dynamics that can be deemed as political. JLP's focus is, however, not limited to the 'institutional' field of politics or to the traditional channels of political communication. Indeed, it extends onto a wide range of social fields, actions and media (incl. traditional and social/online) where political and politicised ideas are linguistically, as well as discursively, constructed, and communicated.

Articles submitted to JLP have been bringing together social theory, sociological concepts, political theories, and in-depth, empirical, communication- and language-oriented analysis. They have continued to be problem-oriented and have relied on well-informed, contemporary, and historical contextualisation of the

analysed social and political dynamics. The methodologies of the publications in our Journal have been both qualitative and quantitative – or even employ a mix of the two – yet in any case they are always systematic and anchored in relevant social science disciplines, as well as being highly suited to exploring various dimensions of political communication in general, and of political language and discourse in particular.

The growing scope of the JLP's interdisciplinary interests has not only been reflected in the regular incl. widely-read individual papers submitted to our Journal but also in the number of Special Issues which we have published in the last three-year phase of our activity. Our recent Specials have focussed on, inter alia, *Discourse Analysis and Borders of EU Identity* (13:1), *Multimodality, Politics and Ideology* (15:3), or *Occupy Hong-Kong: Historicising Protest* (15:5). Just like previously, some of our most successful recent Special Issues – including very notably that on *Language & Citizenship* (13:1) – have also eventually come to be reprinted as part of John Benjamin's Current Topics Series.

Our Special Issues have also helped us strongly emphasize the interdisciplinary and dialogue-oriented character of our Journal. Of the recent Specials, issue 16:1 focussed on *The Micro Politics of Sequential Organization* and furthered the dialogue between conversation analysis, ethnomethodology and the wider field of discourse studies all seen as approaches to political practice. Similarly, our most recent and already widely-acclaimed Special – on *Right-Wing Populism in Europe & the USA: Contesting politics and Discourse beyond 'Urbanism' and 'Trumpism'* (16:4) – has continued our contribution to problem-oriented research on current political dynamics. It has been a very well received, critical response of academics to the pathologies of contemporary populist and post-truth politics as seen from a number of disciplines involved in social and political research.

To be sure, such forms of interdisciplinary dialogue will go on further within the JLP and will certainly be continued in our forthcoming publications. These will include, inter alia, the 2018 Special Issue on *Re/Constructing Politics through Social and Online Media: Ideologies, Discourses & Mediated Political Practices* (17:2) which aims to reassert JLP's role as they key forum of dialogue between various approaches, theories and methodologies covering contemporary transformation and change of both mediated and everyday politics.

We open this exciting new phase of activity with the unchanged core editorial team of scholars who in the past few years have been standing behind the success of the Journal. *Michał Krzyżanowski* (University of Liverpool, UK, and Örebro University, Sweden) remains as the JLP's Editor-in-Chief and continues leading the Journal in all key aspects of its activity. He will continue to be supported in doing the latter by the JLP Senior Editor *Ruth Wodak* (University of Vienna, Austria, and Lancaster University, UK) as well as by *David Machin* (Örebro University,

Sweden), who remains the Journal's supporting Editor. The editorial team will, as previously, also rely on the Journal's Assistant Editor *Sam Bennett* (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland), as well as on our Book Review Editor *Ana Tominc* (Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, UK).

Reflecting the maturity of our publication we introduce, as of Issue 17:1, two new Boards that will be supporting our Journal's editorial activities.

On the one hand, we install the newly-created *JLP Honorary Board* consisting of world-class academics of high-international standing in interdisciplinary research on language, communication and politics. The task of the JLP Honorary Board members will be to remain in an advisory capacity and help the editorial team develop JLP's overall strategy, as well as keep some of its traditional directions. We are delighted to welcome on our Honorary Board *Deborah Tannen* (Georgetown University, USA) and *Philip Schlesinger* (University of Glasgow, UK), as well as colleagues who have, often for several years, previously supported us as members of our Editorial Board: *Aaron Cicourel* (University of California – San Diego, USA), *Teun van Dijk* (University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain), *Norman Fairclough* (Lancaster University, UK), and *Anton Pelinka* (Central European University, Budapest, Hungary). We are also pleased that one of JLP's Founding Editors, *Paul Chilton* (University of Warwick, UK), will remain closely linked to the Journal and join our newly-established Honorary Board.

With 17:1, we also witness some significant changes to the *JLP Editorial Board* which, as in previous years, will remain an assembly of esteemed international experts closely supporting us in the day-to-day running of our Journal by, in particular, providing opinion on JLP submissions and proposed Special Issues. Reflecting the growing scope of JLP, we welcome on our Editorial Board: *Anna de Fina* (Georgetown University, USA), *Mats Ekström* (University of Gothenburg, Sweden), *Dariusz Galasiński* (University of Wolverhampton, UK), *Michael Higgins* (University of Strathclyde, UK), *Veronika Koller* (Lancaster University, UK), *Michelle M. Lazar* (National University of Singapore), *Tommaso M. Milani* (University of Gothenburg, Sweden), *Kay Richardson* (University of Liverpool, UK), *Ian Roderick* (University of Waterloo, Canada), *Carlo Ruzza* (University of Trento, Italy), *Otto Santa Ana* (University of California – Los Angeles, USA), *Hans-Jörg Trenz* (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), *Joshua A. Tucker* (New York University, USA), *Cristian Vaccari* (Loughborough University, UK) and *Scott Wright* (University of Melbourne, Australia). We very sincerely welcome all new members of the Editorial Board, but we are also happy to say that it now includes both many good friends and new colleagues, several of whom bring new disciplinary backgrounds and interdisciplinary expertise into JLP and will thereby help us reflect the Journal's constantly growing scope.

We are, at the same time, equally delighted that a number of esteemed colleagues will remain members of our JLP Editorial Board: *Peter Berglez* (Jönköping University, Sweden), *Jan Blommaert* (University of Tilburg, the Netherlands), *Michał Buchowski* (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland), *Carmen Rosa Caldas-Coulthard*, (University of Santa Catarina, Brazil), *Nico Carpentier* (Uppsala University, Sweden), *Anita Fetzer* (University of Augsburg, Germany), *Bernhard Forchtner* (University of Leicester, UK), *Helmut Gruber* (University of Vienna, Austria), *Adam Jaworski* (University of Hong Kong), *Barbara Johnstone* (Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA), *Majid KhosraviNik* (University of Newcastle, UK), *Manfred Kienpointner* (University of Innsbruck, Austria), *Lorenza Mondada* (University of Basel, Switzerland), *John Richardson* (Loughborough University, UK), *Hailong Tian* (Tianjin Foreign Studies University, China), and *Anna Triandafyllidou* (European University Institute, Florence, Italy). We are extremely grateful to all remaining members of the JLP Editorial Board for their ongoing support and for helping us continuously shape the JLP and its strongly critical an interdisciplinary character.

Last but certainly not least we would like to thank those colleagues who, as of 2018, leave the JLP Editorial Board: *Christine Anthonissen* (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa), *John Flowerdew* (City University of Hong Kong), *Susan Gal* (University of Chicago, USA), *Monica Heller* (University of Toronto, Canada), *Theo van Leeuwen* (University of Southern Denmark) and *Bo Stråth* (University of Helsinki, Finland). We remain truly grateful for all their help and all the work they have done for the JLP over the years.

We also take this opportunity to express our final words of gratitude and, very sadly, our final farewell to a great colleague and friend and former Editorial Board member *Anna Duszak* (University of Warsaw, Poland) who passed away in late 2015.