



Photo: Alessandro Pellanda

The University of Duisburg-Essen's Department of Anglophone Studies is pleased to announce an invited talk and workshop by:

Prof. Dr. Crispin Thurlow University of Bern

Date: Monday 5 September 2022

Venue: Glaspavillon R12 S00 H12

Times: Talk: 11:00-12:00 / Workshop: 13:30 - 15:30

TALK: *Linguistic Hauntings and the Discursive Chronotopes of Waste*

This talk emerges from my own recent turn to waste as an attempt to consider what kind of contribution sociocultural linguists might make to the interdisciplinary field of discard studies (see Thurlow, 2022). In the talk, and drawing on collaborations with my students, I will present two examples of the discursive chronotopes by which domestic waste is organized as a linguistic, spatial, and temporal configuration. The two examples are both quintessentially urban practices marked by their liminality and temporal laminations. As such, my talk is a deliberate attempt to complicate current research on linguistic or semiotic landscapes. The simple fact is that the language of waste is not always visible or even expressed; this makes it somewhat incompatible with our usual methodologies. Indeed, waste is often deliberately rendered invisible – under the cover of darkness, behind closed doors, or sent elsewhere – and thereby often functions as an act of discursive suppression. For this reason, precisely, my collaborators and I have been exploring the possibility of a more hauntological approach to things.

WORKSHOP: *Messy Methods and the Semiotics of (Urban) Waste*

In this hands-on workshop, and following on from my more conceptual talk earlier in the day, I will introduce my own approach to so-called messy methods (cf Law, 2004). In short, messy methods is about finding ways of doing research which respects the messiness of everyday life; this is done partly by resisting the usual academic impulse to tidy things up for own analytical convenience. Messy methods is inevitably allied with a range of newer methodologies in the social sciences and humanities which uphold non-representational ways of knowing and doing, as well as performative ways of writing. It is, I think, no coincidence that messy methods offers itself as an ideal framework for pinpointing and grappling with the semiotic entanglements of waste. In this regard, participants will be invited to think through the geographies, trajectories, and sensuous materialities at the heart of their own work; they will also be asked to consider how their work is structured by waste and wasting. More instructions to follow.

Crispin Thurlow is Professor of Language and Communication in the Department of English at the University of Bern, Switzerland. His most recent books are *The Business of Words: Linguists, Wordsmiths, and Other Language Workers* (Routledge) and *Visualizing Digital Discourse: Interactional, Institutional and Ideological Perspectives* (De Gruyter). He serves on the editorial board of journals such as *Discourse, Context & Media*; *Language in Society*; *Critical Discourse Studies*; *Linguistic Landscape*; and *Visual Communication*. More information about his work can be found at: www.crispinthurlow.net.

This talk and workshop are being organized by Prof. Dr. Maida Kosatica; please direct any questions about the academic program to her (maida.kosatica@uni-due.de). For registration and any practical enquiries please write to the workshop administrator Ms. Laura Imhoff (laura.imhoff@uni-due.de). Register with a short research biography by 15 August 2022.