

Venice, 26-28 February 2024

METAPHORS: Conceptualising Horizons of Meaning

In their influential book published in 1980 (i.e. *Metaphors We Live By*), George Lakoff and Mark Johnson revolutionised the way we think of metaphors, suggesting that, far from being a mere matter of language, metaphors constitute a powerful device deeply grounded in our conceptual system, which enables our understanding of the world. Their theory has had unprecedented implications in a vast array of research fields ranging from politics to psychology, showing that indeed metaphors constitute the core of human experience and knowledge. By recognising the fundamental role of metaphors in shaping our perception and interpretation of reality, and the centrality of metaphors in our everyday thoughts and language, this symposium seeks to unravel the intricate threads that connect metaphors to diverse disciplines, encouraging exploration and dialogue within and across different areas of knowledge and research.



We invite **scholars worldwide to submit abstracts** that discuss and analyse metaphors as devices for understanding all fields of knowledge and research from various perspectives.

Suggested perspectives include, but are not limited to:

- **Anthropology, Science and Technology Studies (STS), Human Geography:** Indigenous metaphors in rethinking human and non-human relationships, metaphors and feminist thought, re-evaluation of dominant metaphors, metaphor as a decolonising method, the possibility and impossibility of metaphors.
- **Archaeology and Heritage Management:** Exploring the metaphorical language employed in ancient texts, inscriptions, and material culture, unveiling the cultural and symbolic dimensions embedded in ancient civilisations.
- **Gender Studies:** Examining the use of metaphors to characterise, describe, and express gender identities in different contexts, eras, and cultures, and how the metaphors often define and shape these very identities; shedding light on love or sexual relationship as the metaphor of the power relation between the West and East.
- **Linguistics:** Investigating on how metaphors convey ideas and emotions by bridging the concrete and the abstract; exploring the multifaceted relationship between figurative and literal use of language.
- **Literary Studies and Literary Theories:** Eastern and Western literary theory of metaphors and textual analysis of how metaphors shape our imagination of the world in literary texts, especially with a comparative or a transcultural perspective.
- **Literary Urban Studies:** Approaching urbanism and architecture through the lenses of literature, by analysing the role of space as a metaphorical device and the relationship between physical spaces and their literary representations.

- **Philology and Language Phylogeny:** Exploring how metaphors constitute an integral part of the methodologies underlying some research fields such as Text Criticism (e.g. stemma codicum as metaphors of the tradition) and Linguistic History and Development (e.g. language trees).
- **Tourism Management and Marketing Communication:** "Orientational metaphors" is what sociolinguists use to describe the dynamic relationship between modern tourists and tourist destinations, as the local image of a destination and its associated meanings are the main reason why we are attracted to go there to seek the experience we desire. The correct use of metaphors in tourism discourse is also an important part of destination promotion in modern society.
- **Visual Arts:** Examining metaphors in visual arts, exploring the ways in which artists use metaphors to convey complex messages, evoke emotions, and challenge conventional interpretations.

We warmly invite abstract submissions from **emerging researchers, including PhD candidates, post-docs, early career researchers, and independent scholars**, across diverse disciplines. We specifically encourage abstracts that explore the **role and impact of metaphors within various research fields**, shedding light on how metaphors function and shape disciplinary frameworks. We welcome interdisciplinary and boundary-crossing approaches that foster innovative perspectives and connections.



Please submit your **abstract (max 250 words)** with an essential bibliography (3-4 sources), and a **short bio (max 150 words)** via e-mail to **metaphors@unive.it**

We kindly ask you to submit your abstract and bio **only in .pdf format**.

The abstracts will be evaluated, and the conference program will be finalised by a committee of PhD candidates from the Department of Asian and North African Studies at Ca' Foscari University of Venice for the academic year 2023-2024. This process will be completed by mid-December 2023.

Important Dates:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: 15 October 2023
- Notification of Acceptance: 30 October 2023
- Confirm Presence by: 30 November 2023
- Conference Dates: 26-28 February 2024

Venue: Ca' Dolfin Aula Magna Silvio Trentin, Dorsoduro 3825/e, Venice, Italy

This is an in-person event. Online participation can only be justified in specific cases at the discretion of the abstract-evaluation committee.

For more information and for queries please write to: **metaphors@unive.it**