



Course Code & Title	LISS336 Security, Ethnography and Discourse				
Convenor(s)	Dr Constadina Charalambous , European University Cyprus Dr Louise Eley , School of Education, Communication & Society Dr Emma Mc Cluskey , University of Westminster Prof Ben Rampton , School of Education, Communication & Society				
Institution	King's College London	Department	LISS DTP		
Academic Year	2021-22	Term	Autumn		
Number of Sessions	5	Length of Session(s)	2 hours	Research Platform	Social Theory & Epistemology
Day, Date		Start : End		Room Location	
26 October 2021		14:00-16:00		Online via Zoom	
2 November 2021		14:00-16:00			
9 November 2021		14:00-16:00			
16 November 2021		14:00-16:00			
23 November 2021		16:00-18:00			
Enrolment Link:	Available to book on Skillsforge from 24 th September. (Click to log in and register) Questions? Visit our Training FAQ here: https://liss-dtp.ac.uk/our-training-programme/				

Course Description:

In a post 9-11 world, issues of unease and (in)security permeate people’s everyday lives ever more deeply. Schools, nurseries, hospitals and community centres are becoming sites of (in)security, while security apparatuses are becoming ever more diffuse and banal. For research, these processes necessarily draw the study of conflict and security closer to fields like sociolinguistics, anthropology and education, which focus on everyday practice in institutions and communities. At King’s, we are exploring these links at the Language (In)security & Everyday Practice Lab, a collaboration between researchers in Critical Security Studies and Sociolinguistics (www.kcl.ac.uk/liep).

This short course builds on this discussion. It connects the robust perspectives on language and situated practice with the study of International Relations and Security Studies by introducing key methods and approaches from Linguistic Ethnography. It is taught in five interactive sessions (2hrs each) which mix empirical data with articles from IR and Sociolinguistics.

The course is designed both for IR students interested in the everyday dimensions and communicative dynamics of phenomena like surveillance, migration, borders and states of exception, and for language researchers committed to understanding how contemporary communicative practice is increasingly affected by security concerns.

Course elements:

- Session 1: Interviewing geo-political elites
- Session 2: The institutional enactment of security policy in language education
- Session 3: Conflict and the practice of diaspora
- Session 4: Surveillance in the everyday
- Session 5: Questions and issues from student projects



Course Outline

Session 1 – Tuesday 26 October 2021, 1400 – 1600

Interviewing geo-political elites

(Dr Emma Mc Cluskey & Prof Ben Rampton)

Before the session: Please watch the two short videos in the Session 1 Dropbox:

- SED1.1 Introduction to the course (15 minutes)
As well as explaining our rationale, introducing the course, this covers our transdisciplinary dialogue aimed at illuminating practices of (in)security that have made ever deeper inroads into day-to-day life.
- SED1.2 Introduction to analyzing (elite) interviews (8 minutes)
This video suggests that as well as using them as sources of information, research interviews need to be analysed as interactional encounters taking place in particular socio-historical contexts.

During the synchronous webinar: During the webinar itself, we will turn to the specific problem of how to analyse 'elite knowledge' and elite interviews using techniques associated with the 'everyday'. You can find the transcript that we will use in the Session 1 Dropbox.

- SED1.3 Elite interview transcript for webinar data session

For IR scholars, this will offer new and innovative ways to analyse data beyond simply looking at content, bringing to light the way in which the interview plays out as an interactional encounter, drawing attention to micro power relations and the moment-to-moment construction of subjectivities. For sociolinguists, it is an opportunity to start exploring how sociolinguistic analysis can constructively complicate our understanding of elite actors in international institutions, regrounding them in rather particular social and historical niches.

After the webinar: If you would like to know more about the kinds of concept that we can use to analyse interviews as historically situated social interactions, you can watch:

- SED1.4 Elite interview follow-up: Sociolinguistic concepts (23 minutes)

Reading to accompany this session:

- Bigo, D and Mc Cluskey, E. (2018) "What is a PARIS Approach to (In)securitisation? Political Anthropological Research in International Sociology" in OUP *Handbook of International Security*, Alexandra Gheciu and William C. Wohlforth (eds), Oxford University Press
- Blommaert, Jan (2005) Bourdieu the ethnographer: The ethnographic grounding of habitus and voice. *The Translator*, 11 (2). pp. 219-236 (currently available on-line [here](#))
- Charalambous, C., Charalambous, P., Khan, K., Rampton, B. (2015). Sociolinguistics and Security. [Working Papers in Urban Languages and Literacy 177](#)
- Rampton, B., C. Charalambous et al 2019. Dialogue: Sociolinguistics & everyday (in)securitization. [Working Papers in Urban Language & Literacies](#) 264
- Vaughan-Williams, Nick, and Daniel Stevens (2016) Vernacular theories of everyday (in) security: The disruptive potential of non-elite knowledge. *Security Dialogue* vol. 47 (1):40-58



Session 2 – Tuesday 2 November 2021, 1400 – 1600

The institutional enactment of security policy in language education (Dr Constadina Charalambous & Prof Ben Rampton)

The session will focus on examining enactments of de-securitization and ‘everyday peace’ in institutional settings focusing particularly on language education. Taking the case of people learning the language of the (former) enemy in Cyprus, the session will analyse institutional practice, mapping the dynamics (affordances and limitations) of educational settings and the links with larger scale political processes. By doing so, and working with empirical data, we will investigate the conditions that may enable or inhibit (in)securitization/securitization processes. Finally we will look at the “transformation”/“translation” of larger policies in institutional practices and the implications for the actors involved.

Before the session: Please look at the data extract from a secondary school classroom in Cyprus in which Greek-Cypriot students are studying Turkish:

- SED2.1 Data on learning Turkish

Pre-reading:

- Charalambous, C., Charalambous, P., Khan, K. & Rampton, B. (2018) 'Security and language policy'. To appear in J. Tollefson & M. Pérez-Milans. *The Oxford Handbook of Language Policy and Planning*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Also available as [Working Papers in Urban Language & Literacies 194](#)

IR readings for sociolinguists:

- Emmers, R. (2013). Securitization. In A. Collins (Ed.), *Contemporary security studies* (3rd ed.) Oxford University Press. 131-143
- Bigo, D. (2014). The (in) securitization practices of the three universes of EU border control: Military/Navy–border guards/police–database analysts. *Security Dialogue*, 45(3), 209-225.

Sociolinguistics readings for IR researchers:

- Charalambous, C., P. Charalambous, K. Khan & B. Rampton 2016. Security & language policy. [Working Papers in Urban Language & Literacies 194](#).
- Rampton, B. & C. Charalambous 2013. Breaking classroom silences in London and Nicosia. [Working Papers in Urban Language & Literacies 116](#)
- Rampton, B., J. Maybin & C. Roberts 2014. Methodological foundations in linguistic ethnography. [Working Papers in Urban Language & Literacies 125](#)



Session 3 – Tuesday 9 November 2021, 1400 – 1600

Conflict and the practice of diaspora

(Dr Constadina Charalambous, Dr Emma Mc Cluskey & Prof Ben Rampton)

Rather than treating a diaspora as an objective group or entity, this session approaches diaspora as a *practice*, “used to make claims, to articulate projects, to formulate expectations, to mobilize energies, to appeal to loyalties” (Brubaker 2005:12; Ragazzi 2012:109-110). We will focus on data from a(n on-going) project with Greek-Cypriots in London and New York, probing at the relationship between diasporic practice and conflict in the homeland, at the role that discourses of conflict play in the constitution of diaspora and so forth.

Pre-reading;

- Brubaker, R. 2005. The ‘diaspora’ diaspora. *Ethnic & Racial Studies* 28/1:1-9
- Ragazzi, F. 2012. Diaspora: The politics of its meaning. *International Political Sociology*. 6/1:107-111
- Sankaran, L. 2021. Sri Lankan Tamil experiences of the home-land and host-land: The interaction between language and diasporic identity. *Language in Society* 1-24 <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047404520000731>

Session 4 – Tuesday 16 November 2021, 1400 – 1600

Surveillance in the everyday

(Dr Louise Eley and Dr Emma Mc Cluskey)

This session aims to open up possibilities for investigating how people experience being surveilled in everyday life. We will start with a collective discussion of what ‘counts’ as surveillance (e.g. in our own disciplines/fields and personal experiences) and how these aspects of surveillance could be investigated. This will be followed by a data session, which will centre on a video clip. We will present a framework for analysing the data, and we will discuss connections between the data, the pre-readings, and other relevant literature and concepts.

Before the session: Please read the points and reflect on the questions raised in the following document:

- SED4.1 Preparation for the webinar

Pre-reading:

- Green, N. and N. Zurawski 2015. Surveillance and Ethnography: Researching Surveillance as Everyday Life. *Surveillance & Society* 13/1: 27-43.
- Jones, R. 2017. Surveillant landscapes. *Linguistic Landscape* 3/2:149-186.

After the webinar: Follow-up reading:

- Eley, L. and B. Rampton 2020. Everyday surveillance, Goffman, and unfocused interaction. *Surveillance & Society* 18/2: 199-215.



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Session 5 - Tuesday 23 November 2021, 1600 – 1800

Questions and issues from student projects

(Course team)

In this session, we will discuss issues that the course has raised for students' own research projects.

In preparation, please write:

- a) a half-page summary of your project
- b) a half-page of questions and thoughts, either about the course's actual or potential relevance to what you're doing, or just about the course itself, and
- c) email this to emma.mc_cluskey@kcl.ac.uk, co.charalambous@euc.ac.cy, louise.eley@kcl.ac.uk, & ben.rampton@kcl.ac.uk and no later than **5pm, Thursday 18 November**.

Course team: Dr Constadina Charalambous, Dr Louise Eley, Dr Emma Mc Cluskey, Prof Ben Rampton

Number of students: 25