

Call for papers

The Reflective Worker – Political Economies of Reflexivity

Panel organized by Jonas Hassemer, Linguistics Department, Vienna University at the
3rd International Conference on Sociolinguistics (June 16-19, 2020 in Hong Kong)

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Keywords: Reflective practice, reflexivity, political economy, ideologies of communication, language at work

Panel description: (Self-)Reflection is often seen as a critical element of achieving (desired) social change as well as individual learning. As such, it figures in diverse contexts such as, e.g., professional socialization and practice, social/political movements, and research methodologies and agendas. In different professions and workplaces, reflection on one's own work practice is given room to varying degrees and in a variety of forms. For a profession such as social work, institutionalized *reflective practices* (e.g. in the form of staff meetings) can be considered outright emblematic, while they are barely institutionalized in other work contexts. From a metapragmatic perspective, reflective practices are a specific form of *reflexivity* in communicative practice (subjects communicatively referring "back" to themselves), and as such not intrinsically conducive to emancipative change: they may entail rejecting and changing ways of doing, but also accounting for them, producing and fixating knowledge, and stabilizing hierarchies.

Solicited are hence contributions featuring ethnographic research on diverse forms of workers' reflective practices in different professional contexts and workplaces (e.g. chat during lunch or after work, meetings, trainings, supervision and counselling at work, as well as projects outside of the workplace, as activism and unionism). The aim is to contribute to understanding (1) what ideologies (of communication/social change) are being (re)produced in situated forms of reflective practice, and (2) how they are embedded in larger processes and conditions of political economy and social inequality. Specifically, the contributions to this panel will offer ethnographic accounts relating to the following questions:

- How do workers navigate situated forms of reflective practice?
- How do they claim space for reflective practice?
- Which forms of reflective practice are enabled, institutionalized and/or demanded from workers? To which ends?
- Who can engage in certain forms of reflective practice and who is excluded?
- What forms of inequality are (re-)produced by and in situated forms of reflective practice?
- What does this mean for the relationship between reflective practice in the field and the researcher's agenda/practice?

References

- Bourdieu, P. 2004. *Science of science and reflexivity*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Hall, C., Slembrouck, S. & Sarangi, S. 2006. *Language practices in social work*. London: Routledge.
- Pérez-Milans, M. 2016. Reflexivity and social change in applied linguistics. *AILA Review* 29, 1–14.
- Schön, D. A. 1983. *The reflective practitioner. How professionals think in action*. New York: Basic Books.

Contributions

If you wish to contribute, you are welcome to get in touch and send me your title + abstract (max. 300 words) by September 30, 2019 (mail to: jonas.hassemer@univie.ac.at).