

“Language as an instrument of power: Verbal antisemitism”

Spring 2019

Moses-Mendelssohn-Zentrum, University of Potsdam

Instructor: Matthias J. Becker

Course level: Undergraduate

Type of course: Seminar

Evaluation: Preparation and presentation of a teaching unit and a term paper.

Syllabus

1.) Introduction Linguistics & Discourse Analysis: Language and Power, verbal Discrimination and the Impact of Speech Patterns

Literature: Bolinger 1980, Graumann 1998, Markefka 1999, Reisigl/Wodak 2001, Meibauer 2013

2.) Introduction Cognitive Science: Concepts, Stereotypes, and Prejudices

Overview of conceptual units that represent the basis for hate speech.

Literature: Schoeps/Schlör 1996, Schwarz-Friesel 2010

3.) Antisemitism from Antiquity to Modern times

Definition of (verbal) antisemitism: Antisemitism as a “cultural code” (Volkov), as “a mental system of belief and of interpretation of the world has been passed down through the centuries, always adapted to current conditions and correspondingly modified, yet without changes in the underlying conceptual constants, according to which Jews categorically function as THE OTHER.” (Manichaeism)

Literature: Wistrich 2010, Nirenberg 2013, Schwarz-Friesel & Reinharz 2013

4.) Communicative Strategies for construing “the Enemy”: historical Antisemitism in Medieval times

Characteristics of anti-Judaism/religious antisemitism

Common words, esp. metaphors representing antisemitic stereotypes, strategies of demonization and dehumanization.

Literature: Hartzitz 1996 and 2005, Schwarz-Friesel 2007, Schwarz-Friesel & Reinharz 2013

5.) Communicative Strategies in racial and especially Nazi Antisemitism

Overview and contrastive analysis with regard to anti-Judaism.

Sources: Speech and image examples of the *Stürmer* and Hitler's Speech „Warum wir Antisemiten sind“ [“Why We Are Antisemites”] (Munich, 1920)

Literature: Hartzitz 1996 and 2005, Schwarz-Friesel & Reinharz 2013

6.) Extremist forms of Antisemitism and public Radicalization: Verbal Manifestations of right-extremist Hatred and Violence (e.g. song texts of Neonazis and expressions in football stadiums)

Overview and contrastive analysis with regard to the racist-eliminatory antisemitism of the Nazis.

Literature: Dembowski/Scheidle 2002, Pörksen 2005, Schwarz-Friesel 2007, Busch 2010, Reichelt/Ribler 2010, Richardson/Wodak 2009

7.) Anti-Zionism on the Left: Demonisation, Dichotomic Worldviews, and Conspiracy Theories

History of antisemitism on the Left and Characteristics.

Relation between antisemitism and anti-Zionism.

Nationalist concepts in left rhetorics.

Sources: Texts of “Rote Fahne”, “junge Welt”, “Der Spiegel”, “Die Zeit”

Literature: Haury 2002, 2004 and 2005, Orland 2006, Kloke 2010, Voigt 2015, Rich 2016, Fine & Spencer 2017, Hirsh 2017, Becker 2018a

8.) Antisemitism in Muslim communities & in Islamist movements: History and Characteristics

History of antisemitism in Arab states, Muslim communities, and in extremist movements.

Perspectives on the Holocaust.

Strategies for developing empathy.

Relation between Muslim and Islamist antisemitism and left anti-Zionism.

Literature: Küntzel 2007, Patterson 2010, Wistrich 2010, Jikeli 2015, Mansour 2015, Özyürek 2018

9.) Israel-related antisemitism

Characteristics of the “new” antisemitism, “communicative detour”, transfer of stereotypes onto the Jewish state.

Projection of historical injustices onto the Jewish state, deflection of guilt (Nazi and colonialism analogies).

Differentiation between Israel-related antisemitism and criticism of Israel.

Sources: Readers' comments of “Die Zeit” and “The Guardian”

Literature: Sharansky 2004, Schwarz-Friesel & Reinharz 2013, IHRA 2016, Becker 2018b

10.) Latent communication in Post-war Germany, *secondary* antisemitism

Implicit Radicalism: Implicatures and the Power of Subtlety on the example of implicit Holocaust Denial and Relativization.

New/adapted forms of antisemitic hate speech for avoiding sanctions in German mainstream discourse.

Literature: Wagner 2001, Rensmann 2004, Eitz & Stötzel 2007 & 2009, Wamper 2008, Schwarz-Friesel 2009b, 2010b, Schwarz-Friesel & Reinharz 2013, Becker 2018a

11.) Research on antisemitism: How to measure antisemitism?

Overview and comparisons of German and international surveys on antisemitism in last 15 years.

Comparison of results in qualitative and quantitative studies.

Problematization of factors such as social desirability, reactivity effects, etc.

Literature: Zick, Küpper & Hövermann 2011, ADL 2015, Bertelsmann 2015, Dencik & Marosi 2016, Staetsky 2017

12.) Pedagogical challenges while addressing antisemitism

Problematizing antisemitic expressions in classrooms without fostering their presence in the audience (handling of images, “exiting” the argumentation and focusing the reasons for the expression of antisemitic thinking).

Literature: Radvan 2010, Schäuble 2012