

Call for Papers

International Conference 2013: Rhetoric in Europe

9.-13.10.2013 / Universität des Saarlandes / Université du Luxembourg

In autumn 2013, a conference on rhetoric will take place at the University of Saarland and the University Luxembourg. This conference will be international and multidisciplinary. The central theme of the symposium is 'Rhetoric in Europe'. At the same time, we examine what is European in rhetoric and what is rhetorical in Europe. Because 2013 is an anniversary year in the history of rhetoric, the conference will be held in 2013. Presumably, 387 AC, 2400 years ago, Isocrates founded his school of rhetoric and philosophy.

Since antiquity, rhetoric has reigned as one of the great European traditions in education. Currently, as the importance of media of all kind is growing in daily communication, rhetoric is prevailing as an educational topic. The importance of intercultural communication is growing internationally as well as domestically, economically, and politically. Often political changes (from war, refugees, work migration, economical pressure, etc.) impact the crisis that the education system aggravates, (especially in the primary and secondary area), and this not since PISA. The worlds of work, along with public and everyday life, are altered since political (1989/1990), cultural (1968 and again 1989/90), and economical changes are not initiated, but accelerated by the globalization. Even this raw draft shows that schools, universities and adult education have important tasks and responsibilities in the formation of qualified teachers, university professors, and adult educators as well as in the research that is the basis for these formations. Because communication is the central category of the intercultural, medial, interpersonal problem, rhetoric is needed urgently in the mediation of "communication competence", since media rhetoric, economical rhetoric, intercultural rhetoric, political rhetoric, and forensic rhetoric can advance the sectoral rhetorics at will.

Research on rhetoric from a European perspective means to explore historical and contemporary rhetoric as a discipline; it also encompasses the practice of rhetoric as communication in terms of intercultural and transcultural relations. Thus, to pursue a question, such as: Can the transculturality of rhetoric as a discipline be of use or not in the history of a rhetoric of intercultural communication? How can the transculturality of rhetoric be made interculturally fruitful in various sectors, especially forensics, politics, economy and science? Speakers and participants will be scholars from all of Europe, the Arab world, Israel, and the USA.

Possible sections (working title)

1. Credibility of the speech.
2. Speaking and learning. Rhetoric of the classroom.
3. Speaking and healing (the medical dimension of words or therapeutical rhetoric).
4. Rhetoric and translation (to understand one another's speech).
5. Sarcasm and irony.
6. Rhetoric and sports (faster, higher, faster, stronger - citius, altius, fortius).
7. The power of the image.
8. Aesthetics and rhetoric.
9. Rhetoric and sustainability.
10. Rhetoric and Policy.
11. Rhetoric and hermeneutics.
12. Logic and argumentation.
13. Mnemotechnic.
14. ...