

## **Message from the Guest Editors**

The present thematic issue of *Language Discourse and Society* focuses on the theme of *Political Discourse and Historical, Colonial and Neo-Colonial Regimes of Power*. The articles reflect the diffuse concept of power as reflected in various discourses. Influenced by Foucault's views on power, the issue accepted submissions that show power in various settings and in a constant state of negotiation. The articles reveal the discursive practices that shape the prevailing power structures, sustain and challenge them. The articles show that power is discursively defined, reinforced and redefined in varied social settings and institutions.

Meghan Tinsley's article looks at the competing frames by various parties of a massacre of striking workers in South Africa that reveals underlying competing discourses of domination. Levi Mitzen analyses political graffiti in Washington DC and shows it to be a community's fight for political legitimacy against a backdrop of the negative perceptions that shadow this artform. The concept of normalisation is analysed in the context of the historically strained Israeli-Palestinians relations. In the article, Mai Albzour shows how the discourse of normalisation has defined Arab identity in relation to Israeli settlers since the initial international peace efforts. From Brazil, Bruno Gonçalves and Alba Zaluar show competing religious discourses between conservative and fundamentalist evangelical Christians. Ojwang' looks at how Swahili communities in Kenya who have settled in the hinterland – rather than their ancestral coastal homeland – have had to fight to maintain their identity. The article by Mwangi and Mwangi focuses on how the Kenyan government dominates the discourse on terrorism and counterterrorism and assigns itself the role of defining who is a terrorist.

The issue thus presents diversity of topics and settings as well as outlooks on regimes of truth and power. The ensuing discussions show power being enacted, reproduced, challenged and resisted.

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