

## CALL FOR PAPERS for December 2024 ISSUE of LDS

### Gender and Language

**“Narratives and discourses related to naming, with a special focus on contemporary practices of women's choice of name after marriage and/or divorce in various socio-cultural contexts around the world”**

#### Important dates:

- **10th December 2023:** Submission of abstract (1000 words), indicating major references (not included in the word limit)
- **15th January 2024:** Notification from editors on acceptance
- **30th June 2024:** Due date for submission
- **1st September 2024:** Feedback from reviewers
- **1st October 2024:** Submission of revised articles

This thematic issue will be published in **December 2024**.

#### *Guest Editors:*

**Erzsébet Barát** (Central European University, Vienna, Austria)

**Joanna Pawlowska** (The Maria Grzegorzewska University, Poland)

Recently, the topic of choosing ‘surnames’ after marriage and choosing family names for children has become common and widely discussed around the world. A few years ago, the Tokyo High Court dismissed an appeal by several women who challenged a century-old law requiring only one surname in the family. This law means that in practice the vast majority of women are forced to take their husband's surname. Meanwhile, according to the judgment of the Constitutional Court in Italy from April 2022, children will also be able to receive their mother's surname, not only their father's. The Tribunal (Constitutional Court) found the exclusive practice of assigning the father's surname inconsistent with the Italian Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights. The justification emphasized that the previous rule made the mother "invisible" and is a sign of inequality between parents. It seems that the issue of naming is gaining in importance today, indexing a social tension in the patriarchal social order. Therefore, we invite papers that revisit the power to name and categorize through a nuanced analysis, exploring the different forms of social injustice mediated by linguistic practices of naming as well as exploring examples of their successful contestations. The focus is on narratives related to women's lived experience of choosing their name after marriage in various socio-cultural contexts around the world, situated in the broader context of naming in women's life. We expect studies analyzing the normalizing as well as the disruptive potential of naming practices, drawing on data collected through diverse methods, such as ethnographic, netnographic, or archival ones. We call for papers that consider language use as a topic for analysis instead of considering linguistic data as a mere source of knowledge. We invite papers that are focused on the contemporary social scene, exploring the reasons for the changes in naming, and the effects of particular choices of names in women's life.

In anticipation of papers studying the relationship between naming and power, the possible areas of exploration may cover but are not limited to:

- the role of a surname in a person's presentation of identity in different institutions;

- the influence of cultural institutions and established habits on shaping a woman's decision on naming in the context of marriage;
- the narratives of identity about the choice of surname;
- the perception of the choices women make by women themselves and those around them;
- the difference gay marriage may make to these conventions;
- working on linguistic styles in self-construction and self-presentation through naming practices;
- the intersection of various power relations (such as class, race, religiosity, etc.) played out in the choice of names;
- naming and contemporary plights of women fighting the resurgence of the patriarchal order, the hardening of exclusionary practices of gender;
- the role language (specifically naming practices) plays in women's struggles against their oppression/invisibilization through the legislator's renewed attempts at normalizing family names, titles, and professional identity.

We are particularly interested in the clearly presented methodological and theoretical approaches selected by the Authors of the proposed articles. Research-based papers will be given priority.

Please refer to the guidelines for Authors: <https://www.language-and-society.org/language-discourse-society/instructions/>

Contributors should submit the e-copy of their manuscript to the editors of this Special Issue at [jpsd16@aps.edu.pl](mailto:jpsd16@aps.edu.pl); [zsazsa@lit.u-szeged.hu](mailto:zsazsa@lit.u-szeged.hu)

The language of submitted articles should be English.

Please follow the author guidelines indicated in the URL, which includes a template for formatting (Point 11 in Author guidelines). It is only manuscripts that meet the formal requirements that will be reviewed and considered for publication.