

## Rhetoric and Politics

University of Warsaw, 12-13.11.2009

### Scientific Committee

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### Topics

The conference is devoted to research into the rhetoric of **political discourse** and **discourse about politics** in the past and today. According to the division of Aristotle, political communication is a *genus deliberativum*. Today's study of political communication, however, includes not only the speeches of politicians (advisory type), but also strategies for the positive and negative presentation (occasional type) and the related judgments of the actions of politicians (evaluational type).

Authors are invited to submit papers on the use of rhetoric for political purposes (in one language or comparative approaches), particularly in the three areas of interest:

#### 1. The rhetoric of political **discourse**:

- the evolution of political rhetoric in a changing political environment;
- political speech genres and their evolution;
- the ways of perceiving reality in a political language (propaganda, newspeak, manipulation, exploitation of rhetorical figures in promoting preferred ways of shaping reality);
- the relation of the language used by politicians to the language of communication experts and/or content expertise: the language of political negotiation and mediation).

#### 2. The rhetoric of presentation and self-presentation of **politicians**:

- the construction of the rhetorical *ethos* of a politician;
- the development of methods for self-presentation in politics;
- individual presentation styles in politics;
- the self-presentation in blogs, at electoral meetings and/or other forms of political communication;
- the impact of professionals (spin doctors, communication and/or rhetoric trainers) on the ways of (self-) presentation of politicians;
- promoting vs. destroying a politician: a politician about himself – others about a politician;
- rhetorical means of constructing *we / they* division, along with creating relevant images and evaluations;
- rhetorical mechanisms of scandalizing political events in the media;

### 3. The rhetoric of **political conflict**:

- linguistic and rhetorical means of creating, maintaining and resolving political conflicts;
- aggression and eristic in political communication;
- rhetorical ways of putting the blame on political opponents and justifying your own policy;
- past / present / future as argumentative categories used for justification or condemnation

### **Conference Languages:**

The conference will be held in Polish and English (the first day devoted to presentations in Polish, the second - for papers in English).

### **Paper Submission Guidelines:**

**Paper proposals** (20 min. presentation + 10 min. discussion) should be submitted in the following format:

- 1) name, affiliation
- 2) title
- 3) abstract (in Polish or English - depending on the language of the paper) - 300-400 words. Please highlight the *rhetorical aspects* of your topic.
- 4) a short bibliography (up to 5 references)

Underneath, please include the request for **accommodation** during the conference (optional):

- The day of arrival: ... ..
- The day of departure: ... ..

### **Deadlines:**

- September 13, 2009 – the deadline for submitting paper proposals (email: retoryka.ptr@gmail.com)
- September 20, 2009 – notification of the acceptance of the paper
- September 23, 2009 – the confirmation of accommodation request

### **Other information:**

Organizational details (conference fee, accommodation) will be given at a later date. Please check our website for upcoming updates.