

The Crisis of Rhetoric: Renewing Political Speech and Speechwriting

Workshop 2: Concepts

Tuesday 12 December 2017; Room 201, Arts Building, University of Birmingham

Scholars researching rhetoric and political speech share a tradition of thought and practice which may provide a common vocabulary for analysis and evaluation. However, such scholars are also embedded in very different disciplines with their own concepts and methods and their own ways of using classical ideas. That may mean that we misunderstand or misuse each other's thinking or that we are failing to see areas where conceptual development and clarification are required.

With that in mind the aim of this workshop is to strengthen our understanding of each other's disciplinary approach to the study of rhetoric, oratory and political speech and to do so in ways which enable us to reflect on Workshop 1 and on the current 'crisis' of political speech.

Questions that will guide presentations and discussion include:

What can the present learn from classical theories and practices of Rhetoric? How do Classical scholars (and classical texts) define or specify the subject matter of 'rhetoric'?

How do scholars in language and linguistics conceive of political speech? How is persuasion understood within such approaches? Are linguistic and rhetorical analyses rivals, complementary or doing very different things?

How has political theory conceived of debate, deliberation and argumentation and what is the place of rhetoric or political speech in these? Does a political approach to political speech emphasise things other approaches might not – and does it miss things?

Schedule

9.30 Arrival, Registration, Coffee

10.00 Introduction to the workshop (Henriette van der Blom and Alan Finlayson)

10.15 Session 1: **Language Studies**
Deborah Cameron (Rupert Murdoch Professor in Language and
Communication, University of Oxford)
Joe Bennett, (Lecturer in Applied Linguistics, University of Birmingham)

11.30 Coffee

11.45 Session 2: **Classics**

Gesine Manuwald (Professor of Latin, University College London)

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Session 3: **Political Theory & Political Science**

James Martin (Professor of Politics, Goldsmith's University of London)
Alan Finlayson (Professor of Political Science and Theory, University of East
Anglia)

15.15 Coffee

15:30 Closing Discussion and 'Next Steps'