



Parliamentary Discourse Research in Sociology: Literature Review

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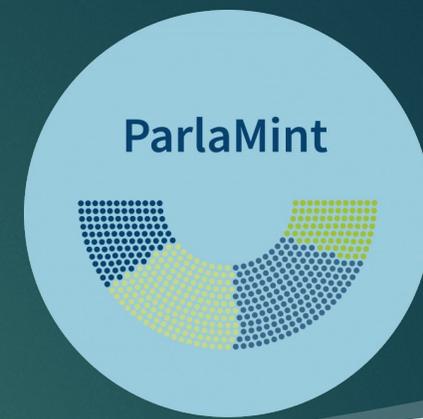
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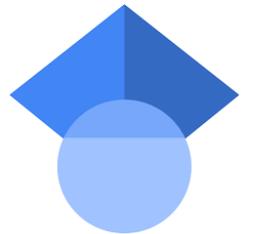
MOTIVATION



- ▶ Parliamentary debates as an important source of sociologically relevant content
- ▶ **Main aim:** to identify the potential of better integration of corpus-based approaches and parliamentary corpora into sociological research.
- ▶ Structure:
 - ▶ **Part 1:** Overview and analysis of the most commonly used methods in sociology
 - ▶ **Part 2:** Overview and analysis of the most prominent sociological topics in parliamentary debates, approaches to data collection and analysis
 - ▶ **Discussion:** prerequisites and affordances for sociological research to benefit from ParlaMint corpora and vice versa

METHODS

- ▶ Reviewed qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods approaches in sociology
- ▶ Various search engines for collection of papers
- ▶ Applied filters:
 - ▶ Publication period: 2012 – 2022
 - ▶ Discipline: Sociology and Social Science
 - ▶ Article ranking: “most relevant” and/or “most cited”
- ▶ Sociological journals: Discourse and Society, European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology, Gender and Society, etc.
- ▶ Relevant papers further researched



Semantic Scholar

TOPICS AND METHODS

- ▶ Total number of papers: 37 (available here: <https://bit.ly/3mg0Lpd>)
- ▶ Number of reviewed papers: 16
- ▶ Number of topics: 6
 - ▶ Immigration and minorities (4 papers),
 - ▶ Health and social care (3 papers),
 - ▶ Victimization and criminalization (3 papers),
 - ▶ Gender and discrimination (3 papers),
 - ▶ Ideology, national identity, and political affiliation (2 papers), and
 - ▶ Populism and addressing the public (1 paper).
- ▶ Methods employed:
 - ▶ Discourse Studies (Discourse Analysis, Critical Discourse Analysis, Discourse Historical Approach) – 60%
 - ▶ Content Analysis
 - ▶ Mixed-methods approach (keyword + content analysis, corpus-based + survey-based approach)



FINDINGS



- ▶ Sociologists identified as an **important user group of ParlaMint database**, but they are **not accustomed to using corpora data** in their research.
 - ▶ Manual, time-consuming data collection methods
 - ▶ Data collected *hic et nunc*, interested in real-time, current and recent events, data would need to be as updated as possible

EXAMPLES:

Cheng E, Jennifer. (2015). Islamophobia, Muslimophobia or racism? Parliamentary discourses on Islam and Muslims in debates on the minaret ban on Switzerland. *Discourse and Society*, 26(5): 562 – 586.

Gianfreda, Stella. (2019). Using a Mixed-Method Approach to Examine Party Positioning on Immigration and the European Union in Parliamentary Proceedings. *SAGE Research Methods Cases Part 2*.

Goenaga, Austin. (2019). Defending popular sovereignty: discursive conflict in French and Swedish parliamentary debates on immigrant voting rights (1968-2017). *Citizenship Studies*, 23(8): 870-891.

FINDINGS



- ▶ **Intertwining corpus-assisted methods with qualitative sociological analysis can produce results which would otherwise go unnoticed.**

EXAMPLE:

Bijeikiene, Vilma and Utka, Andrius. (2006) Gender-Specific features in Lithuanian parliamentary Discourse: An interdisciplinary sociolinguistic and corpus-based study. *SKY Journal of Linguistics*, 19: 63 – 99.

- ▶ Sociologists have **highly specific needs for parts of parliamentary discourse** relevant for their study, **for example PMQs. Explicitly marked sections and semantic annotations indicating subject of discussion** would be useful.

EXAMPLES:

Fetzer Anita and Weizman, Elda. (2018). 'What I would say to John and everyone like John is...': The construction of ordinariness through quotations in mediated political discourse. *Discourse and Society*, 29(5): 495-513.

Redd, Curtis and Russel K., Emma. (2020). It all started here and it all ends here too: Homosexual criminalization and the queer politics of apology. *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 20(5): 590-603.

FINDINGS



- ▶ Instead of using corpora, **sociologists collect, code, and analyze data on their own.** They should be shown the amount of **data that has already been collected** and shown **how to effectively use it.**

EXAMPLES:

Bijeikiene, Vilma and Utka, Andrius. (2006) Gender-Specific features in Lithuanian parliamentary Discourse: An interdisciplinary sociolinguistic and corpus-based study. *SKY Journal of Linguistics*, 19: 63 – 99.

Gianfreda, Stella. (2019). Using a Mixed-Method Approach to Examine Party Positioning on Immigration and the European Union in Parliamentary Proceedings. *SAGE Research Methods Cases Part 2*.

Riihimäki, Jenni. (2019). At the heart and in the margins: Discursive construction of British national identity in relation to the EU in British parliamentary debates from 1973 to 2015. *Discourse and Society*, 30(4): 412-431.

- ▶ Ensuring **smooth export and import options** from the concordancer **to add additional annotation** and **combine parliamentary data with other data** sources.

EXAMPLE:

Joergensen, Kim and Praestegaard, Jeanette. (2017). Patient participation as discursive practice—A critical discourse analysis of Danish mental healthcare. *Nursing Inquiry* 25(2): 1-11.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS



- ▶ To **encourage the use of corpora** and **train sociologists to use them**, rich and user friendly **workshops, tutorials** and **user manuals should be developed** and **documentation** on how the data is collected and annotated should be **clear and transparent**.
 - ▶ User manuals and tutorials demonstrate the use of ParlaMint corpora and features of the concordancers
- ▶ Use of corpora would encourage sociologists to **conduct more international research**
 - ▶ ParlaMint offers corpora for 17 European countries and more are being developed
- ▶ **Machine translations** of the documents and transcripts would enable **cross-lingual research** of parliamentary discourse.



“Thank you for your attention!”