As a result of the recent publication in English for the first time of the series of annual lectures given by Michel Foucault from 1970 to 1984, recent debates attempt to critically rethink Foucault’s ideas, both in relation to new areas of application and in relation to developing new theories and methods appropriate to tracking the transformations in power, governance, self, control, democracy, conduct, space, security, environment and citizenship taking place in contemporary societies across the world. For us, this entails that studies of new territories of power and new 'technes' of governance should be, first and foremost, empirical and analytical examinations of the ways that the rationalities and apparatus of governmentality are at work, both through assemblages of materialities, social arrangements, discursive and textualities, rather than through the distinct and segregated realms of the technological and ideational, and at the level of everyday practices, rather than just institutions of governance. In the broader domain of discourse studies, a number of scholars have touched upon or pointed towards the potential of Foucault’s work. However, whereas these earlier studies, to varying degrees, are concerned with the relationship between the conception of discourse and Foucault’s thought, none of them in any detail discusses and demonstrates the methodological and analytical consequences of the confluence of discourse studies with studies of governmentality. Contributions to the colloquium engage with the impact of conceptual innovations and the subtleties of thinking about governmentality on the development of innovative approaches in discourse studies. Contributions are also based on empirical analysis and they investigate the interconnectedness of the textualities, interactionalities and discursivities that are co-constituted in practices of the conduct of conduct, as well as the rationalities, technologies, programmes and materialities of governmentality. Topics include:

– The discursive strategies, technologies and routines by which the conduct of individuals is increasingly governed across and beyond national territories.

– The relationship between different technologies (techne) and discursive rationalities (episteme) of government.

– The relationship between the attempt to discursively conduct the conduct of others and the attempt to conduct the conduct of oneself, eg. as citizens.

– Various forms of communicative resistance, protest or counter-conduct within current forms of advanced liberalism.

– Social media and individual/collective resistance to the regulation of the actors’ conduct with the new arts of governmentality (securitization, transnational governmentality, ethnification, etc.) that often employ internet and digital technologies.

Individual contributions:


Joel Rasmussen: New public management and discursive regulation: From doing work to communicating work in Swedish public institutions

Laura Bang Lindegaard: Negotiating the discursive intersection of the government of others and the government of self in the face of climate change

Janne Solberg: The discourse of enablement in activation encounters: Enacting resistance through “apparent conformity”
Shirley Tate: The governmetalility of black beauty shame: discourse, iconicity, resistance
Paul McIlvenny: Interactional and Categorial Practices in the Strange Case of the United Nations Weapons Inspections
Derek Wallace: Governmentality through Intertextuality: Strategic Planning Discourse in the Administration of Tertiary Education
Reinhard Messerschmidt: Questionable Experts or False Prophets? The Regimes of Veridiction in Contemporary German Population Discourses

Keywords: Power, Governmentality, Conduct.