

Engage / ReSIC Doctoral Days

# OPENING THE BLACK BOX : COMMENT FAIRE DES CHOIX ÉPISTÉMOLOGIQUES ET MÉTHODOLOGIQUES EN SIC ET EN SCIENCES SOCIALES ?

**JUNE 1 AND 2, 2023**  
9H30 - 17H30 — ROOM P02

## SPEAKERS & SESSIONS :

- **The epistemological stakes in communication science** : Prof. Dr. Laurent Morillon (Université des Antilles)
- **Ethnographic methods in social science** : Prof. Dr. Philippe Cardon (Université de Lille)
- **Content analysis and quantitative approaches in communication science** : Prof. Dr. Sarah Van Leuven (Universiteit Gent)
- **Theories and methods of discourse analysis** : Prof. Dr. Jan Zienkowski (Université libre de Bruxelles)
- **The triangulation, coarticulation, and combination of different methodologies and theories** : Prof. Dr. Thomas Jacobs (Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles)
- **Multimodal analysis in communication science** : Prof. Dr. Andrea Catellani, (Université Catholique de Louvain)



**Registration until  
May 18th 2023**

This event is organised with the support of the Écoles Doctorales FNRS and the Écoles Doctorales FSR  
Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles



**UCLouvain**  
SAINT-LOUIS BRUXELLES

**UNIVERSITÉ SAINT-LOUIS - BRUXELLES**  
Rue du Marais, 119 (entrée parking, Préfecture)  
1000 Bruxelles

## PRACTICAL INFOS :

**When?** 1st and 2nd of June 2023, from 9:30 to 17:30

**Registration deadline:** 18th of May 2023

**Registration :** [click on this link](#)

**Where:** Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles

Room P02 (bâtiment Préfecture)

119, Rue du Marais (Parking entrance)

**Languages :** French and English

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The main objective of this doctoral school, entitled “Opening the black box of interpretation and coding: comment faire des choix épistémologiques et méthodologiques en SIC et en sciences sociales?” is to reveal the internal mechanics of scientific work to doctoral students via direct contacts and discussions with experienced researchers.



*How can I code my interviews the best way? Is a combination of manual and digital coding realistic? What do I need to be mindful of when interpreting and analyzing discourses?*

After two years marked by confinement and the slowdown of academic meetings and scientific discussions, it feels crucial to us to offer young researchers in communication and social sciences a platform to discuss these questions in person, and to exchange about the methodological and epistemological issues and struggles that we all face.

Our pedagogical project wants to:

- (1) raise awareness about the epistemological issues related to the use of certain methodologies;
- (2) present different methods and approaches to the coding, processing, and interpretation of data and observations in communication science and social science;
- (3) help render more explicit the reasonings that motivate decision-making regarding epistemological and methodological issues.

Over the course of these two days, students will have the opportunity to learn from and discuss with six social scientists who work in a variety of disciplines, on a variety of different problems, and with a diverse range of methods and approaches. Each of them will explain how he or she tackles concrete methodological and epistemological dilemmas in his or her research. Through these testimonials, the participants can learn what it takes to make autonomous and informed choices with regard to these issues.

In total, this doctoral schools comprises six sessions:

- The epistemological stakes in communication science (Prof. Dr. **Laurent Morillon**, Université des Antilles)
- Ethnographic methods in social science (Prof. Dr. **Philippe Cardon**, Université de Lille)
- Content analysis and quantitative approaches in communication science (Prof. Dr. Sarah Van Leuven, Universiteit Gent)
- Theories and methods of discourse analysis (Prof. Dr. **Jan Zienkowski**, Université Libre de Bruxelles)
- The triangulation, coarticulation, and combination of different methodologies and theories (Prof. Dr. **Thomas Jacobs**, Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles)
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The doctoral school is divided into **six sessions** of two hours each. Each session will provide:

- (1) a brief introduction into the research perspective as well as the epistemological issues involved;
- (2) an in-depth discussion of the associated interpretation and coding procedures illustrated with discussions of examples and dilemma's;
- (3) a discussion of the type of research results enabled by these procedures. Every session will take about 1 hour and 20 minutes, followed by a forty-minute round of Q&A. This bilingual (french/english) event is meant to facilitate exchanges between different language communities and theoretical traditions. Participants will have the possibility to ask questions and articulate themselves in their language of choice.

This seminar is meant for young scholars in media and communication studies, as well as in the social sciences more generally. More specifically it addresses doctoral students at the beginning of their academic career. We also welcome Master students who take an interest in scientific research and are considering a doctoral trajectory. The conference tries to address choices having to do with research design (e.g. qualitative and/or quantitative research, how to deal with multimodal data), as well as with the numerous analytic decisions that have to be taken in the processes of coding and interpretation. The invited speakers will open up the black box of how they make such choices. As such, this doctoral school tries to offer a rich but non-exhaustive panorama of the ways in which research in media studies, communication science and the social sciences more broadly can be carried out.

This event is organised by Engage — Research Center for Publicness in Contemporary Communication, from Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles & ReSIC — Centre de Recherche en Information et Communication, from Université libre de Bruxelles. With the support of the Écoles Doctorales FNRS and the Écoles Doctorales FSR Université Saint-Louis

