



Asociación Latinoamericana de Estudios del Discurso (ALED)
DiscourseNet International Association for Discourse Studies (DN)
through the
Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla
Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities “Alfonso Vélaz Pliego”
Faculty of Languages
Faculty of Philosophy and Letters
in collaboration with the
Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (Mexico)
University Center for Social Sciences and Humanities, Universidad de Guadalajara (Mexico)
Faculty of Letters and Communication, Universidad de Colima (Mexico)
Faculty of Languages and Letters, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (Mexico)
Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata (Argentina)
University of Valencia (Spain)
Open University (United Kingdom)

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

ALED-DN 2026 and the 10th ALED Mexico Congress

DISCURSIVE PANORAMAS

VOICES, PERSPECTIVES, CHALLENGES IN SOCIETIES OF GLOBAL CRISIS

AUGUST 25 TO 28, 2026 · PUEBLA, MEXICO · ON-SITE MOOD*

*Hybrid format (for doctoral students) · Official languages: Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French

Objective of ALED-DN 2026 and the 10th ALED Congress Mexico

This congress aims at bringing together research and reflections that critically analyze discourses that emerge, circulate, and transform in contexts of global crises. Through interdisciplinary approaches, it seeks to explore how different voices—whether institutional, media, academic, artistic, or community-based—shape meanings, construct realities, and dispute narratives about the challenges faced by contemporary societies. The event proposes a space to make diverse perspectives visible, including those traditionally silenced, in order to understand the discursive dynamics that accompany processes of conflict, resistance, exclusion, or social transformation in a world marked by uncertainty and change.

1. Description

The contemporary meaning of the concept of crisis varies depending on the field of knowledge. In economics, it is commonly associated with phenomena such as inflation, unemployment, or recession (Rosier, 2001; Carvalho, 2021). In political science, it refers to failures in leadership or in the capacity to manage structural problems (Habermas, 1976). From sociology, it is linked to social inequalities, loss of cohesion, or the transformation of traditional institutions. Psychology conceives it as a rupture of individual identity caused by internal or contextual factors, while for history, crises may result from abrupt technological changes or the disintegration of the social fabric (Dafermos, 2022).

For discourse analysts, this conceptual diversity does not represent a limitation but rather an opportunity, as it allows for investigating how discourses are constructed, circulate, and acquire meaning in contexts where what is usual breaks down, uncertainty predominates, and narratives face the challenge of legitimizing their version of events. Conceiving crisis as a situated and multidimensional phenomenon makes it possible to analyze its symbolic, rhetorical, and ideological manifestations across various social settings.

During periods of global crisis—whether social, political, health, or climate-related—discourses do not merely inform, but also shape ways of interpreting, resisting, or amplifying such crises. Various discursive genres reflect this from specific perspectives, with their own conventions, reach, and audiences. In the verbal sphere, these range from political speeches that seek to legitimize emergency measures—such as statements during wars or pandemics—to personal testimonies on social media, where the intimate acquires public resonance. In the symbolic realm, they manifest in artistic interventions, memes, or performances that express collective discontent through visual, affective, and often disruptive forms—such as transnational feminist acts or graphic representations of economic inequality. The cinematic genre, both documentary and fiction, addresses crisis through narrative resources that oscillate between denunciation, dystopia, or emotional metaphor.

Within this discursive fabric, ideology plays a fundamental role, as it no longer acts as a simple distortion of reality, but rather as a framework that structures our perception of the real. As Slavoj Žižek points out, “the function of ideology is not to offer us an escape point from our reality, but to offer us social reality itself as an escape from some traumatic, real core” (1992: 76). In this sense, discourses in times of crisis are not limited to narrating facts; rather, they frame collective experience, channel anxieties, reaffirm belief systems, or question them. Critical discourse analysis thus becomes an indispensable tool for unraveling how meaning is articulated in contexts marked by uncertainty and conflict.

All these discursive genres can be understood as specific forms of crisis discourses; that is, they are symbolic manifestations that emerge or intensify in the face of situations of rupture, threat, or transformation, and that seek to name what still lacks a stable language. These discourses not only reflect conflict or collapse, but also act as devices of interpretation, ideological positioning, and collective meaning-making. Their multifaceted and polyphonic nature requires a reading that addresses both their contents and their conditions of production, circulation, and reception.

Within this panorama, the media occupy a central place. They do not merely narrate events: they actively contribute to producing them as such. During pandemics, natural disasters, or social uprisings, the media shape what is visible and sayable, determine which voices are amplified and which are silenced, and establish narrative frameworks that guide public perception. In these processes, crisis discourses tend to resort to dichotomous strategies—security/danger, order/chaos, victim/enemy—that organize and condition the interpretation of events, simplifying social complexity and modulating public responses. Analyzing these discursive configurations makes it possible to understand how meaning is stabilized or destabilized in moments of high social tension.

The dimension of reception also takes on a relevant role, since crisis discourses do not operate in a vacuum, but rather circulate within diverse cultural contexts and are reinterpreted by active audiences who constitute a historical and creative force (Jauss, 1970). From the perspective of cultural studies, it has been emphasized that reception implies processes of appropriation, negotiation, or resistance in relation to the messages conveyed (Hall, 1980). Meaning is neither fixed nor univocal, but contingent and disputed. In today’s digital ecosystem, this reception becomes more visible and productive: institutional discourses are reconfigured by users, who transform them through parodies, critiques, or activist practices. Understanding these processes is key to analyzing the impact of crisis discourses, as well as the margins of autonomy and agency that emerge in everyday experience.

¹ ALED was founded in February 1995 thanks to the commitment of Dr. Adriana Bolívar and the drive of Dr. Teun van Dijk, who is now an honorary member of our association. The call for its formation was made from the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas in February 1995. The member countries of ALED are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Some of ALED’s objectives, according to its statute, are: to promote the scientific development of discourse studies in Latin America; to foster the circulation of knowledge to compare research in the area of discourse, to encourage research projects in areas with a deficit, to intensify and systematize interdisciplinarity, to promote exchange with other global institutions.

² DiscourseNet has existed since 2007 as an interdisciplinary and international network of discourse researchers, providing a pluralistic, multilingual, inclusive, and non-hierarchical space for discourse researchers from all disciplinary and geographical backgrounds. DiscourseNet was constituted as a non-profit association at the General Assembly in Paris in 2019. More information at: <https://discourseanalysis.net/es/DN/events>

³ Alliance consolidated in 2019 in Paris.

Literature

Carvalho, A., & Pestana, D. (2021). Crise Econômica, um fenômeno que a teoria econômica não é suficiente para prever. 10.13140/Rg.2.2.35781.78566; consulted in: <https://visualcompublishations.es/revVISUAL/article/view/4597>

Dafermos, M. (2022). Discussing the Concept of Crisis in Cultural-historical Activity Research: A Dialectical Perspective. Human Arenas. Advance online publication <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42087-022-00289-4>

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Rosier, B. (2001). *As Teorias das Crises Econômicas*. Editorial Bizâncio

Žižek, S. (1992). *Sublime objeto de la ideología*. Siglo XXI

2. Target Audience

2.1 Researchers and teachers with institutional affiliation or working independently, as well as doctoral students (enrolled or in the process of graduation) from disciplines such as linguistics, discourse studies, communication, sociology, anthropology, literature, history, philosophy, arts, political science, cultural studies, among others.

2.2 Activists, communicators, artists, or social actors whose practices critically engage with discourses in contexts of crisis.

3. Thematic Axes

- **Discursive configurations of crisis in political, social, health, or climate contexts:** analysis of narratives that emerge in situations of exceptionality and structural transformation.
- **Discursive genres in times of crisis:** exploration of verbal, symbolic, visual, or audiovisual forms that represent, interpret, or dispute the notion of crisis.
- **Ideology and meaning-making in crisis discourses:** studies analyzing how ideological frameworks shape the perception of reality in scenarios of collapse or uncertainty.
- **Mediatized discourses:** research on the role of the media in producing hegemonic and/or dissident narratives in times of crisis.
- **Reception, appropriation, and resignification of crisis discourses:** studies addressing how audiences interpret, negotiate, or reconfigure these discourses in different cultural contexts.
- **Institutional narratives and counter-discourses in digital networks:** analysis of discursive conflict between official communicators and alternative voices within digital environments.
- **Affect, trauma, and emotionality in crisis discourses:** studies on how collective experiences of pain, fear, mourning, or hope are represented and circulate.
- **Discourse, memory, and agency in the face of crisis:** research exploring how discourses construct social memory and open possibilities for action and resistance.

4. Participation Modalities

- Individual or co-authored papers: maximum of 2 authors per paper, no more than 2 proposals per person.
- Thematic panels: maximum of 4 presenters per panel.
- Invited thematic panels: you may propose panels.
- Dialogues / Roundtables: from two to four participants.
- Book or journal presentations: submit publishing proposal.
- Artistic projects / performative interventions: up to 3 participants per project.
- Workshops or laboratories: workshop-style sessions privileging the practical application of theoretical-methodological frameworks, lasting 120 minutes.
- Posters: dimensions 1080 x 1920 px (60 x 90 cm), .jpg format, vertical orientation. Must explicitly include a clear and concrete thesis, with conclusions and bibliography. It is recommended to include images related to the topic.

5. Proposal Submission Requirements

- Hold a valid ALED or DN membership.
- Official languages: Spanish, Portuguese, French, and English.
- Title.
- Name of author(s), institutional affiliation, and email address.
- Abstract of 250–300 words.
- Keywords (3 to 5).
- Short biographical note (max. 100 words).
- **MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION** fees are individual.

6. Important Dates

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE	NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE
until February 1, 2026	as of March 2, 2026

New dates

Papers presented at the congress may be published in national and international editorial projects, peer-reviewed through a double-blind system. Detailed information on deadlines, format, and editorial criteria will be published at a later date.

7. Registration Fees

	Block 1		Block 2	
	Regular	Student	Regular	Student
Early registration January 16 to February 28, 2026	\$1,800	\$1,100	\$1,200	\$700
Registration March 1 to May 31, 2026	\$2,200	\$1,500	\$1,600	\$1,100

Amounts are expressed in Mexican pesos. Payment in other currencies will be made at the equivalent rate on the date of registration (exchange costs do not depend on the organizing committee and must be checked with banks or transfer platforms).

No refunds will be issued.

In order to participate in the ALED-DN 2026 Congress, you must be a member of one of the two associations at the time of registration.

8. Membership Fees

MEMBERSHIP COSTS		
ALED Membership		DiscourseNet Membership
Regular	Students with ID	Regular
50 USD (OR EQUIVALENT IN YOUR LOCAL CURRENCY)	17 USD (OR EQUIVALENT IN YOUR LOCAL CURRENCY)	60 EUROS FOR TWO YEARS
Membership renewal or new affiliation corresponds to the 2026–2027 biennium. To join the ALED Mexico Delegation, please complete the following form: <i>https://forms.gle/zS83DJgjwJLTmgZs6</i> Within 3 business days, you will receive a payment slip to formalize your membership. The process concludes when you receive your membership certificate.		Become a member here: <i>https://discourseanalysis.net</i>
To join other ALED delegations in the Americas, contact your national delegation. Locate your delegate at the following link: <i>https://comunidadaled.org/delegades-nacionales/</i> PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR NATIONAL DELEGATE THE VALIDITY OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP.		

Block 1 countries: Andorra; Antigua and Barbuda; Aruba; Australia; Austria; Bahamas, The; Bahrain; Barbados; Belgium; Bermuda; British Virgin Islands; Brunei; Darussalam; Canada; Cayman Islands; Channel Islands; Chile; Croatia; Curaçao; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Faroe Islands; Finland; France; French Polynesia; Germany; Gibraltar; Greece; Greenland; Guam; Hong Kong SAR, China; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Isle of Man; Israel; Italy; Japan; Korea, Rep.; Kuwait; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macao SAR, China; Malta; Mauritius; Monaco; Nauru; Netherlands; New Caledonia; New Zealand; Northern Mariana Islands; Norway; Oman; Palau; Panama; Poland; Portugal; Puerto Rico; Qatar; Romania; San Marino; Saudi Arabia; Seychelles; Singapore; Sint Maarten (Dutch part); Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Spain; St. Kitts and Nevis; St. Martin (French part); Sweden; Switzerland; Taiwan, China; Trinidad and Tobago; Turks and Caicos Islands; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United States; Uruguay; Virgin Islands (U.S).

Block 2 countries: All other countries.

9. Proposal Submission and Contact

Proposal registration: <https://www.conftool.net/aled-dn-2026>

Website: <https://discourseanalysis.net/aled-dn2026>

Telephone: +52 222 335 5572

Organizing Committee:

Benno Herzog, Universidad de Valencia (Spain)
Elizabeth Flores Salgado, Facultad de Lenguas, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (Mexico)
Johannes Angermuller, Open University (United Kingdom)
Jonathan de Jesús Cruz Serrano, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (Mexico)
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Victoria Pérez, Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades “Alfonso Vélz Pliego”, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (Mexico)
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Jaime Villarreal Rodríguez, Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades “Alfonso Vélz Pliego”, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
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Elia Romero Corona, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Elizabeth Flores Salgado, Facultad de Lenguas, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Erika Marcela Pérez Lezama, Facultad de Lenguas, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Eva María Sánchez Rodríguez, Facultad de Lenguas, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
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Juan Alberto Amador Cruz, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)

Karen Miladys Cárdenas Almanza, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (México)
Karina Fascinetto Zago, Colegio de Lingüística y Literatura Hispánica, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Karina Hess Zimmermann, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (México)
Karina Paola García Mejía, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (México)
Krishna Naranjo Zavala, Facultad de Letras y Comunicación, Universidad de Colima (Colima)
Leandro Paolicchi, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata (Argentina)
Leonor Juárez García, Facultad de Lenguas, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Leticia Araceli Salas Serrano, Facultad de Lenguas, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Luis Nivardo Trejo Olvera, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (México)
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Ma. Ester Bautista Botello, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (México)
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Riccardo Pace, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (México)
Rocío Flax, Universidad Pedagógica Nacional / Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (Argentina)
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Sabine Heiss, Universidad de Valencia (Espanha)
Samantha Macuil Rivera, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Sandra Juárez Pacheco, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Tania Montes Juárez, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Valeria A. Belloro, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (México)
Victoria Pérez, Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades “Alfonso Vélz Pliego”, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Wander Emediato de Souza, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brasil)
Yosely Briceño, Universidad Central de Venezuela (Venezuela)

Local organization committee:

Ana Luisa Jiménez Briones, Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades “Alfonso Vélz Pliego”, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Angélica Martínez Coronel, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí (México)
Blanca Adriana Téllez Méndez, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Daniel Merino López, DDMO
Eloísa Cruz de la Serna, Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades “Alfonso Vélz Pliego”, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Karina Fascinetto Zago, Colegio de Lingüística y Literatura Hispánica, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Karla Loranca Viveros, Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades “Alfonso Vélz Pliego”, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Laura Athié Laura Isabel Athié Juárez, Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades “Alfonso Vélz Pliego”, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Miguel Sáenz Cardoza, Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades “Alfonso Vélz Pliego”, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)
Victoria Pérez, Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades “Alfonso Vélz Pliego”, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (México)