UCLouvain
Faculté de philosophie, arts et lettres

INSTITUT LANGAGE & COMMUNICATION

Invitation à la soutenance publique de thèse

Pour l'obtention du grade de Doctorat en Langues, lettres et traductologie

Madame Nadezda SHCHINOVA SHCHINOV

MEANINGS AND FUNCTIONS OF 'POPULISM' AND 'POPULIST' IN MEDIA AND POLITICAL DISCOURSES IN BELGIUM, FRANCE, AND SPAIN: A CORPUS-BASED DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF SOCIOPOLITICAL KEYWORDS



Le 18 septembre 2026 à 14H00

Salle Polyvalente

Place Cardinal Mercier 31

Louvain-la-Neuve

L'événement est accessible en comodal

This thesis analyses the use of socially and politically significant words in media and political discourse. Specifically, it examines the meanings and functions of the terms *populism* and *populist* in two complementary case studies using a combination of corpus linguistics and discourse analysis methods. The first case study zooms out and analyses the collocational profiles of these terms in the Belgian, French, and Spanish mass media discourses in 2019, an electoral year in all three countries. The second case study zooms in on one language and compares the pragmatic functions of these terms in Spanish-language tweets posted by political actors and lay users of Twitter. The findings suggest that *populism* and *populist* are powerful sociopolitical keywords in contemporary public discourse: negatively coloured yet meaningful, seemingly vague yet overloaded with meanings, apparently descriptive yet centrally involved in marking the boundaries of political legitimacy.

Le jury est composé de Madame et Messieurs les Professeur·es :

Prof. Dr. Min REUCHAMPS (UCLouvain), Président du jury et lecteur
Prof. Dr. Barbara DE COCK (UCLouvain), Promotrice et Secrétaire du jury
Prof. Dr. Philippe HAMBYE (UCLouvain), Promoteur
Prof. Dr. Sandrine ROGINSKY (UCLouvain), Lectrice
Prof. Dr. Manuel ALCÁNTARA-PLÁ (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), Lecteur externe
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