



International One-Day Conference “Language(s) and Translation”
Said, Unsaid, and Overstated Colours: From Precision to Necessary Approximation
28 November 2026, University of Bucharest
Hybrid format

Part of the series of scientific events organized by **LangTrad** (“Language(s) and Translation”), the one-day international conference *Said, Unsaid, and Overstated Colours: From Precision to Necessary Approximation* is organized by the Doctoral School “Languages and Cultural Identities,” the Doctoral School of Literary and Cultural Studies, and the Department of French Language and Literature, under the aegis of the AUF (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie), which supports the DACIA project (Multimodal Discourse, Annotated Interdisciplinary Corpus Analysis (in Intercomprehension)), of the French Institute of Romania, and of CIVIS; the conference brings together the University of Bucharest and the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, in partnership with the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Bucharest – Doctoral School of Medicine, the University of Paris Cergy, Université Paris Cité, Université Bourgogne Europe, Université Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (Senegal).

Open primarily to doctoral students and early-career researchers, but also to established academics and secondary education teachers, the *One-Day Conference* proposes an interdisciplinary approach in which colour represents a “sign of,” a “mark of,” an “indicator of,” a symbol, or a “warning about” a given phenomenon across various fields, as well as an instrument of creation that triggers creativity.

The title of this conference centres on the word ‘colour’, which must be considered in relation to two other key concepts: saying/stating and approximation. The choice of colour as an object of research is far from arbitrary in every known field, whether in science and technology or the humanities. Meanings that are apparently unsaid, understated, overstated or approximate yet essentially definitional are expressed with varying degrees of precision.

The concept of colour appears in every aspect of verbal and non-verbal communication of natural language, naming - denotatively or connotatively, precisely or approximately - certain concrete or imaginary realities (*the blue of the sky, the red of fire, the red of blood, the grey of the weather/sky,*

the black of night, the green of grass, the white of a unicorn, the orange of the sun, etc.). Most often, pure or approximate colour, rendered through its shades/nuances, becomes a discourse and argumentation strategy for producing certain effects of meaning, especially when it appears in set phrases/fixed expressions: intensifying a feeling or a reality (*everything went black, to be red in the face [with anger], to see red, white as a sheet or white as a ghost, etc.*), softening a reality (*white with fear, green around the gills* – for nausea, *to see the world through rose-coloured/rose-tinted glasses*), or avoiding/hesitating to say or do something directly (*to blow hot and cold, a forced/hollow laugh, etc.*).

At this level, contributors may propose various linguistic or cultural approaches (exploring levels of morphosyntactic, semantic, pragmatic-discursive, encyclopaedic, semiotic, semiological, or literary, etc.), or approaches specific to their own field, in order to identify what is truly conveyed by colour, and what remains unsaid, overstated, vague or approximate.

In specialized languages, *colour* is an integral part of various terminologies across a range of fields. One can note, for example, its wide use in industry (*white goods* - major household appliances; *brown goods* - audiovisual equipment TV sets, radios, players etc.), in politics (e.g., *green paper* - document of governmental consultation) and *white paper* (official document)), in the legal field (*carte blanche* – complete freedom to act, *blue sky law*, “*colour of law*,” etc.), and in medicine, where the term is often formed with a prefix referring to a colour in Greek or Latin (*jaundice* = *hepatitis*; *measles*, *yellow fever*, *cyanosis*, *red blood cells/erythrocytes*, *white blood cells*, *leukocytopenia*, *leukopenia* as an usual term etc.). Studying the relationship between these terminologies and the use of the colour word at their basis will attempt to establish the degree of precision or approximation concerning the proposed terms and the concepts they designate, thereby facilitating a wider understanding of language that often remains unspoken and misunderstood.

Various scientific fields use *colour* as a genuine semiotic code, investing colour terms with strong meanings, or turning colour into a therapeutic instrument or a signalling element within a specific protocol (see medicine: codes for degree of emergency - red = fire/maximum emergency, blue = cardiac/ respiratory arrest, etc.; codes for organizing hospital space; codes for patient identification), pharmacology (colour coding of medications), biology, emergencies (pink = kidnapping, yellow = disaster/bomb threat/ mass-casualty incident, etc). It would be of interest to examine whether such codes are universal or whether each cultural space establishes its own code. In the field of law, *colour* symbolizes or classifies, as magistrates are often identified by their attire: *black robes* for pleading lawyers, *red robes* for judges of the Constitutional Court. Despite their apparent unsaid quality, legal actions or various semiotic instruments/signs are also verbalized and decoded: in the legal aspects of sport, for instance, *a yellow card* represents a sanction, *a red card* leads to a conviction of varying degree, and *a green light* signifies compliance with the rule of law and freedom to act. Case files are organized according to a precise colour code: files of the *tribunal judiciaire* (the French court of first instance for civil matters) are green, Court of Appeal files are purple, while files with no proceedings attached are beige.

This scholarly event invites specialists (both early-career and established) in various fields to share their knowledge and research in order to identify the degree of *precision* or *approximation* in the naming of various concepts specific to their discipline, while also seeking to clarify what is said, what is left unsaid, and what is overstated/exaggerated in the use of colour to represent the various modes of communication within a given field.

The *One-Day Conference* will be complemented by a *Creation and Creativity Day*, during which interested participants are invited to join creative workshops offered in the following areas: literary creation, artistic creation (music, drawing, painting, advertising, multimodal documents -

video sequences, video clips produced using the LMP laboratory made available by AUF), and translation.

To cover this vast research area and to encourage methodological and theoretical exchange among participants, the *One-Day Conference* will focus on the following themes:

- **Culture(s) and civilization(s)** – culture and civilization dimensions influencing the life of words and discourse, centred on what is said, what remains unsaid, what is overstated, and the approximation and precision of nuance;
- **General discourse (literary and every day)** – questions of phonetics and phonology, morphosyntax, semantics, pragmatics, and argumentation;
- **Specialized languages** – terminologies; phraseologies; semantic-lexical and pragmatic-argumentative aspects;
- Theory and practice of **bilingual or multilingual terminology**;
- **Jurilinguistics** – linguistic and civilizational aspects of legal discourse;
- **Medicine and pharmacology** – aspects specific to the health field in general, conceptual applications, specialized or everyday discourse, development of doctor-patient discourse;
- **Other fields**: economics, religion, computer science, exact sciences, etc. Virtually every field may be drawn upon to discuss how colour can convey specific or approximate knowledge, whether explicit (Said), implicit (Unsaid), or exaggerated (Overstated);
- **Translation and interpreting**: the challenges of translation in specialized and natural language; French/Romanian comparisons; French and another foreign language; Romanian and another foreign language; problems of interpreting;
- **Translation, anthropology, and intercultural management**;
- **Didactics** – teaching/learning of specialized languages across various fields of activity and research;
- **Didactics of various fields** – medicine, law, economics, religion, etc.

The main objective of this event is to bring together work drawing on diverse corpora and content, to identify points of convergence or divergence. It also aims to foster genuine openness to interdisciplinarity in research and to the development of joint projects across different fields of study. Participants can submit works based on just one of the keywords – the (un)said, approximation, color – or the three components together.

Submission of Proposals

Proposals (in French, Romanian, Spanish, Italian, or English) must include:

- a title,
- five keywords,
- a bibliography of no more than four titles,
- an abstract of approximately 500 words presenting the research problem, the methodological framework, the corpus analysed, and the main expected results.

Papers will be published in a volume following review of the final texts by the scientific and editorial committee. The conference proceedings will be published by the University of Bucharest Press. Authors are asked to explicitly indicate the section under which they wish to present their paper. Proposals must be submitted before 30 October 2026, to the following addresses:

soniaberbinski@yahoo.com; turculet.claudiu@yahoo.com; miruna.stegaru@gmail.com

Conference Format – hybrid (link will be provided before the event begins)

Organization of Presentations

- Individual presentations (25 minutes + 5 minutes of discussion)
- Round tables (4 speakers for 45 minutes + 15 minutes of Q&A)
- Plenary sessions (45 minutes)

Timetable

- First call for papers: 30 August 2026
- Second call for papers: 30 September 2026
- Deadline for proposals: 30 October 2026
- Notification of acceptance: 5 November 2026
- Conference: 28 November 2026

Scientific Committee

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Lidia Cotea (University of Bucharest, Romania)
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Laurent Gautier (Université Bourgogne Europe, France)
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In partnership with :

Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie „Carol Davila” din București –, Doctoranzi ai Școlii Doctorale
de Medicină

Universidad Autonoma de Madrid/Université Gaston-Berger de Saint-Louis (Sénégal): doctorand –
Latyr Sene (sene.latyr@ugb.edu.sn)

Registration Form

Mrs./Mr.

Last name:

First name:

Title of the paper:

Affiliation:

Status (faculty, researcher, doctoral student, etc.):

Email:

Professional address:

Personal address:

Phone (optional):

Language of presentation: