



invites everyone to a talk by

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on

**“Scrutinising sex(ualis)ed
relationships: a cross-
cultural study of discursive
constructions of ‘same-sex
unions’”**

Abstract:

Although research on LGBTQ people has been proliferating during the last 20 years or so, little attention has been devoted to the discursive representation/construction of a relationship that a member of a socially stigmatised group enters (one of the notable exceptions being Bachmann (2011)). In order to fill this gap, it was thought that investigating newspapers as one of the most profoundly opinion-shaping means might be of particular relevance. This study examines different ways of talking about the concept of 'same-sex union' (potentially materialised in English in as many as 72 phrases) in the most popular British and American newspapers published between 2000 and 2010. Additionally, materials from a comparable sample of most widely-read Polish newspapers will be analysed taking advantage of the blend of Critical Discourse Analysis and Corpus Linguistics, as the latter "[...] can help reduce researcher bias" (Mautner 2009: 123; see also Baker 2006). To this end, three corpora (American – c.21mln words, British – c.10mln words, Polish – c.3mln words) have been compiled. The analysis, performed using WordSmith, focuses on keywords (derived with the use of British National Corpus as well as juxtaposing the UK and the USA corpora against one another) and collocations of the most frequent phrases denoting the concept of 'same-sex union'; both the qualitative and quantitative perspectives have been adopted. This study is hoped to yield a contrastive analysis of talking about same-sex unions both between societies whose languages and cultures overlap to a certain extent, and those which seem to have little in common.

**Wednesday, 14th November, 6.00 p.m.
Room 601.**