



We are delighted to introduce the first edition of the Dialogic Network newsletter. We intend to publish it monthly in order to keep you updated about the network's activities, events and developments.

The *Dialogue Among Cultures and Disciplines: Past, Present, and Future* network is coordinated by Dr. Asghar Seyed-Ghorab (LIAS), Dr. Siavash Rafiee Rad (LIAS) and Dr. Geert Warnar (LUCAS). The aim of this network is to bring academics, postdocs and PhD students from different disciplines and institutes together to explore the concept of dialogue in a multidisciplinary context. In addition to lecture series, the network will organize workshops, (inter)national conferences, monthly borrels, etc.

## HIGHLIGHTS



### 26 September 2019 | First Borrel

The first informal borrel of the network took place on 26 September at Pakhuis, where several members of the network gathered to share their thoughts. Encountering dialogue in religious and spiritual contexts; the concept of “other”; as well as bridging research and society were among the suggested themes to be covered within the network.

The network organizes informal gatherings every third Thursday of the month from 17:00 to 19:00 at Pakhuis.

## 16 October 2019 | Launch of Dialogic Network

On 16 October, the Dialogic Network was officially launched at the Vossius Room, Leiden University Library in the presence of the LIAS Academic Director, Nira Wickramasinghe, and members of academic staff and PhD students of different institutes. The program of the launch was as follows:

### Opening Speech | Siavash Rafiee Rad and Asghar Seyed-Gohrab (LIAS)



In the opening speech, after a brief introduction by Siavash Rafiee Rad about the network, Asghar Seyed-Gohrab discussed the aims and goals of the network, such as bringing colleagues from different disciplines together to contribute to the concept of dialogue, organizing lecture series, and publishing articles in international peer-reviewed journals. He touched upon some of the provisional topics

to be addressed in collaboration with institutes at Leiden University: dialogue as a method (LIAS, Philosophy), interactive apps, games and media technology (LIAS, FWN, LUCAS) and inclusive education, advertising and campaigns (LIAS, FSW) as well as other universities.



## The Effectiveness of Dialogue in Forms of Communication, Past and Present | Geert Warnar (LUCAS)



In his presentation, Geert Warnar discussed the different outlooks on the concept of dialogue in literary and linguistic studies. Dialogue in Dutch literature, according to Geert Warnar, was not only a genre that came into being quite early in Dutch literary culture, but it was considered to be a common practice in humanist

period (16<sup>th</sup> century). Furthermore, he argued commitment is an integral part of communication: any time in a conversation you expect the other person to be committed to the same topic, and without such commitment any form of dialogue is impossible.

## Doctor-Patient Consultations as Argumentative Dialogue | Roosmaryn Pilgram (LUCL)



Roosmaryn Pilgram discussed doctor-patient communication, which is often in the form of medical consultation. Through some examples of how doctors and patients interact in a conventionalized fashion over health problems, Roosmaryn Pilgram used pragma-dialectical theory to analyse and evaluate argumentative discourse in medical consultation, as

an institutionalised doctor-patient communicative practice. Roosmaryn Pilgram concluded that patients' communications over health problems lead argumentations to become more important in medical consultations. Not only doctors provides medical advice to patients, but

in many cases, doctors need to discuss the acceptability of this advice with patients by means of argumentation.

### The Many Faces of Walter Benjamin–Critical Dialogues Across Time and Space | Madeleine Kasten (LUCAS)



Madeleine Kasten's presentation focused on the life and critical writings of Walter Benjamin (1892-1940), a German philosopher of culture. She discussed some of Benjamin's main concepts and ideas, such as the 'dialectical image' and the 'constellation'. For Benjamin, dialectical images were a methodological means of analysing

literary works and other cultural phenomena. Kasten argued that Benjamin used figurative language as a medium to develop his ideas about how an object, insignificant in itself, brings together the 'now' with that which has been, thereby establishing both its membership of an ideal pattern or constellation and its immediate relevance to us, here, now. Only those objects are worth studying that reveal themselves to the eye of the historian as being relevant to the present; the rest is archaic.

### Upcoming Events

The next gathering will be on 21 November 2019.

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On behalf of the Dialogic Network Coordinators

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