



SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center



SESYNC RESOURCES | Critical Discourse Analysis

Our Latest Collection of Resources Teaches Scholars To Examine Texts, Media, Technology and More—Beyond Their Surface Meaning

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) describes a series of approaches for critically analyzing texts and cultural artifacts to reveal connotations and draw out the larger cultural narratives that these connotations support. In this latest collection of SESYNC resources—including five explainers and three lessons—we introduce CDA and explain how S-E scholars can apply these approaches to help illuminate the motivations, power structures, and establishments central to S-E systems.

EXPLAINERS

SESYNC **explainers** are brief, informal articles that summarize a S-E topic, concept, or methodology. Explainers are ideal for those who are new to a subject and are seeking a brief, non-technical introduction.

Critical Discourse Analysis: What Is It?

This first explainer introduces the concept of critical discourse analysis and its theoretical background. It explains what S-E researchers can learn from CDA to better understand the context and power structures involved in constructing narratives. [Learn more.](#)

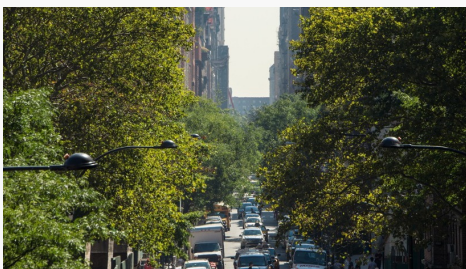
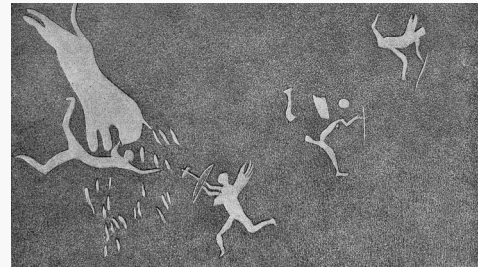


Visual Discourse Analysis

This explainer focuses on how users can learn to "read" visuals—like photographs, films, advertisements, and scientific aids like charts and graphs—for their framing, the facts they imply, and the values they connote to better understand S-E systems and issues. [Learn more.](#)

Narrative Discourse Analysis

This explainer focuses on methods for examining texts to uncover individuals'/organizations' motivations behind the way they present information to a target audience. It also provides specific examples of S-E applications of narrative discourse analysis. [Learn more.](#)



Qualitative Content Analysis

This explainer focuses on the use of technology to expand on narrative discourse analysis. It describes how researchers can employ software to comb through large texts to identify commonalities and patterns, which enables researchers to better understand texts' rhetorical impacts in the context of S-E systems. [Learn more.](#)

Artificial Intelligence, Social Network, & Social Media Analysis

This explainer describes how researchers can use the quantitative analytical power of software to parse through datasets from artificial intelligence, social networks, and social media to gain qualitative insights about complex S-E interactions. [Learn more.](#)



LESSONS

SESYNC [lessons](#) provide structured content for educators to use in classroom or workshop instruction using timely, relevant S-E examples. They are suitable for undergraduates and above. Lessons include: a topic overview; learning objectives, key concepts; background reading; activities for engaging learners; assignments; and supplemental materials.

Critical Discourse Analysis Lesson: Environmental Journalism

This lesson has instructors use narrative discourse analysis to hone learners' ability to recognize editorial choices, bias, connotation and subtext. The aim is for learners to become more aware of how language shapes environmental realities—thereby influencing public opinion and policy.



In this lesson plan, instructors guide learners in selecting an online periodical that reports on the environment and lead them in conducting a narrative and keyword analysis to analyze the

social messaging, the types of narratives, and tonal elements used. [Learn more.](#)

Critical Discourse Analysis Lesson: Visual Discourse Analysis and Climate Change

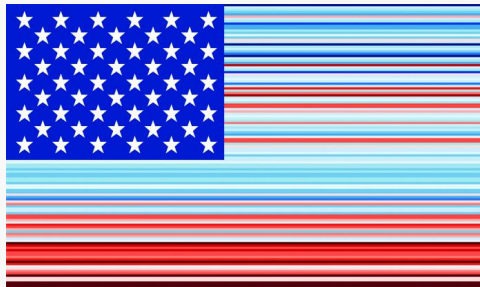
This lesson has instructors use visual discourse analysis to help learners become critical viewers who recognize editorial choices, bias, connotation, and subtext in climate change imagery. The lesson aims to help learners grow more aware of the complex ways in which images shape environmental realities, and thereby influence public opinion and policy.



In this lesson plan, instructors lead learners in conducting an in-depth analysis of images related to climate change topics, such as agriculture and food, an extreme weather event, and landscape changes from the Associated Press. [Learn more.](#)

Critical Discourse Analysis Lesson: Visualizing Climate Change Data

This lesson has instructors use visual discourse analysis to examine nontypical (i.e., not photos) visual representations of climate change. In this lesson plan, small groups of learners will review several distinct techniques for climate change data visualization for their factual, rhetorical, emotional, and aesthetic powers, and appraise each visual's success in capturing public awareness and concern about climate change. [Learn more.](#)



Check out the rest of our teaching resources [HERE.](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS | SESYNC in the Journals

"Integration of the Livelihood and Ecosystem Services Frameworks—A Case Study on Urban Agriculture in Mexico City." Published in *Earth Interactions* by Mayra I. Rodríguez González, Christian Kelly Scott, Tatiana Marquina, Demeke B. Mewa, Jorge García Polo, and Binbin Peng. This paper resulted from the Pursuit: [Urban Agriculture Synthesis.](#)

"Incorporating protected areas into global fish biomass projections under climate change." Published in *FACETS* by Juliano Palacios-Abrantes, Sarah M. Roberts, Talya ten Brink, Tim Cashion, William W.L. Cheung, Anne Mook, and Tu Nguyen. This paper resulted from the Pursuit: [Climate Change and Marine Protected Areas.](#)

"Decision-making under uncertainty for species introductions into ecological networks." Published in *Ecology Letters* by former SESYNC Postdoctoral fellow Katie Peterson, and colleagues Lucy Van Kleunen, Meghan Hayden, Aislyn Keyes, Aaron Schwartz, Henry Li, and Laura Dee.

"Heat and drought reduce subnational population growth in the global tropics." Published in *Population and Environment* by Clark Gray and former SESYNC Postdoc Maia Call.

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