Words are the windows to society's soul.

Most of our knowledge of current and past world events, advances in science, or even elements of culture are gained, formed, and passed on through written and verbal text. Hence, the question is no longer whether or not text content is worth investigating, but rather which approach is the most insightful for a given research goal.

Expanding methods of relational meaning analysis, this dissertation provides an approach suited for the detection of subtle discursive dynamic shifts in large collections of (temporal) textual data. Alongside the methodological contributions, this dissertation is discourse-centered and focuses on the global financial crisis revealing patterns of discourse, subtle dynamic shifts of discursive practices at different stages of the crisis, and dominant topics at the level of media, financial, and political discourses.

The important empirical findings presented in this dissertation, challenge, extend, and refine what we know about financial, media, and political discourses in the context of the financial crisis and how different aspects of the financial crisis are manifested in discourses of different social actors.

There is no self-understanding that is not mediated by signs, symbols, and texts. – P. Ricoeur

Words in Crisis

WORDS IN CRISIS

A relational perspective of emergent meanings and roles in text

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ISBN 978-94-6203-660-4

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