



GLAT BREST 2018
International colloquium

Sense and Sensibility in Acts of Mediation: Actions and Words
IMT Atlantique, Brest campus, May 30 – June 1, 2018

Scientific committee chairs:

Alison Gourvès-Hayward, Cathy Sablé (IMT Atlantique, Brest campus)

The GLAT 2016 meeting, which focused on the actors and forms of intercultural mediation, highlighted the key features of the mediator, that is to say humans as vehicles for intercultural dialogue, in a variety of contexts, and more particularly in higher education, where the role of intercultural mediation has grown considerably. As the 2016 meeting drew to a close, it was clear that “several essential conceptual traits still needed to be treated more in depth... around issues of ethics, communication, empathy and terminology” (de Gioia & Sable 2016).

Indeed, if mediators « must know how to create gateways or mediation-bridges using their knowledge and willingness, but also their empathy and sensitivity, (Gourvès-Hayward & Sablé, 2017), might that also mean renouncing their neutral mediation position? This seems to contradict what we know about mediation: as M. Guillaume-Hofnung (2012) commented, “The third party must combine certain qualities, e.g., neutrality and independence”. Is it possible to explain this notion of neutrality by “the influence of legal discourse on mediation discourse(s)”, as demonstrated by M. de Gioia (2012)?

Be that as it may, these two approaches raise the question of *thymos*, the Platonic notion found in between objectivized, neutral reason and the empathetic emotion of desire (Renaut, 2014). Are humans only able to think of themselves as actors by disengaging reason from emotion, the body from the mind and soul, or is this neutrality which is so sought after instead revealed in an intermediate space, a gap, a no man’s land, a connection?

GLAT 2018 aims to investigate notions such as emotion, reason, negotiation, in-betweenness, embodiment, and empathy within an interdisciplinary, intercultural and multilingual framework. The focus will be on a variety of institutional spaces (e.g. schools, hospitals, courtrooms, shelters for immigrants), education and training institutions, particularly in higher

education. The meeting will take into account social shifts where the internet and technology surround us and are changing the ways we mediate, further accentuating the issue of mediator neutrality. The managerial context, where mediation is a key element, may also be an area to study.

Presentations will investigate the roles of emotion, reason and *thymos* in the following areas :

- in teaching: environments, mediators, methods, various forms of mediation (artistic, linguistic, etc.) (Gourvès-Hayward et Morace, 2011), interdisciplinary collaboration, - negotiations between disciplines as acts of mediation within a “bridging function” capable of reconciling the professional and pedagogical practices of the various communication-based professions” (J. Humbley 2014), between reason and emotion
- in reception facilities : medical mediation, legal mediation, mediation with migrants, etc.
- in virtual spaces : text messages, blogs, Facebook, virtual museums, links between the nature of the medium in question and the expression of emotion, attenuation, hyperbolization, hyper-personal engagement, etc.

Other possible topic areas for presentations include :

- the diversity of emotions and expressions of emotion : speech and silence
- the discourses of emotion, reason and *thymos* : the media; social networks; intercultural, interpersonal and multilingual interactions
- terminologies and ontologies as « synchronic, even embedded, constructions, that are born of a general desire to liberate data from the prison of apps...” (Kanellos & Antin 2014)

Invited Speakers

Joëlle Aden, Professor, University of Paris Est Créteil

Michele De Gioia, Professor, University of Padua, Italy

Ingrid de Saint-Georges, Associate Professor, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Mario Marcon, Post doc, University of Padua, Italy

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Web site: <http://conferences.imt-atlantique.fr/glat2018>

Calendar

Abstracts due: February 4, 2018

Two-page (max.) summary, in French or English (Word document)

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Authors notified of decision: March 12, 2018

Registration closes: May 15, 2018

Articles due: September 6, 2018