

Preface

The present 17th volume of *metaphorik.de* represents the final issue of the first – and now closing – decade of the 21st century. The interest in research on metaphor is still high and we are happy that the articles in this issue cover a wide scope ranging from programmatic to empirical studies: They provide important empirical insights, reflect on theoretical aspects and present a timely account on the state of the art in the field of research on metaphor.

All articles converge into the analysis of metaphor and metaphorically motivated models of thought displaying different perspectives on metaphor and – to some extent – touching aspects which go well beyond the role of metaphor in speech and language. All articles, furthermore, demonstrate that metaphor is an international research topic and that *metaphorik.de* receives increasing attention as it is shown by the present seven articles written in six countries and stemming from three continents.

The inception of the so-called Treaty of Lisbon contributed to the development of a new and sometimes highly contested institutional and binding legal framework which was heavily disputed among members of the European Union. The treaty itself is the outcome of a tedious process characterising controversies about Europe and – most recently – the European constitution. These controversies offer an excellent opportunity for the analysis of underlying metaphorical frameworks which the first two papers of this volume set out to investigate. Barbara Brandstetter's study analyses the construction of Europe from the perspective of cognitive semantics while Michael Kimmel's article examines the metaphorical dimensions in discourses on the European constitution. Both papers show that the idea of Europe heavily relies on a metaphorically motivated coherence of metaphorical frameworks underlying and characterising the overarching discourse on Europe.

Marta Dynel's contribution clearly shows that metaphor is – besides political debates – also a basic ingredient in humour. She aims at detecting the humorous potential of metaphor from the perspective of different theories of humour. Her analysis shows that the investigation of metaphor and humour requires the application and fruitful combination of different methods – a 'pluralism of methods' so to say – to do justice to the relevance and complexity of metaphor in humour.

The articles written by Glen McGillivray and Wu Yuanqiong ponder on metaphorical models and methods. Glen McGillivray provides a valuable and comprehensive report which considers previous research on the metaphorical concept of 'theatricality' implicitly referring to a central problem addressed in the special issue on the 'theatrum-metaphor' in *metaphorik.de* 14/2008. Wu Yuanqiong's contribution brings up the relation between metaphors and their relevance for cultural models in Chinese.

The two reviews are concerned with research recently provided on dead and living metaphors – a still very important topic in research on metaphor – on the one hand and the relevance of metaphor in philosophy, science and literature on the other hand.

We finally would like to thank all authors for putting so much effort and time into this issue. Special thanks – again and again and again and again... – to Kerstin Sterkel, Tanja Oberhauser, Katharina Leonardt (all University of Saarbrücken) and to Annika Hohmann (University of Duisburg-Essen) for their enormous help. Last but not least, we also would like to thank our readership for their continuing encouragement: We very much hope that you will stay with *metaphorik.de* during the next decade. Merry Christmas, good holidays and a successful year 2010!

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