

Silke Schwandt, Bielefeld

### **Data and Historical Discourse (Abstract)**

Historical discourse analysis is one of the fields in which the relevance of data in and for historical research has been recognized early. Other fields that have used data as source material for their analysis are social and economic history. Since as early as the 1970s, historians of these fields have collected personal and economic data to research social relations, markets, and economic developments. The linguistic turn of the early 1970s has brought about language as another area of research in which data can be collected. Collecting linguistic data has since become a common method in historical discourse analysis.

Drawing from research examples from medieval history and historical semantics, the paper will try to show different methodological aspects of data oriented historical discourse analysis. Most of these are based on word frequencies, and computational methods involving word distances, and other modes of pattern recognition. Questions that can be addressed relate to dominant terms in discourse and their semantics, genre, document structure as well as the relationship between language and social change.