

Call for Papers

"Brave New Word": The Violence of Language in the U. S.

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Brave New Word is not a misspelling of the title of Aldous Huxley's best-known novel. Rather, it is a sentence that aims at stressing the relevance of the substantive *word* – a word that is both *gallant* and *original* – while at the same time suggesting, thanks to an obvious assonance, the dystopian substance of its message. In alluding to the power of words, however, that sentence calls also attention upon its polysemous nature, since it echoes the central role attributed to the word both by the old Christian tradition (The Gospel of John 1:1), and by the Puritan rhetoric at the dawn of the New World, and the modern era. The seminal function those two influences play upon the language of the recently elected Trump Administration is apparent in dozens of official documents and public speeches, but the aggressiveness of tone and the provocative fashion in which they are vehiculated continue to raise countless worrisome reactions both within and without the United States. "The Violence of Language in the U. S." is the title of the monographic section of *Costellazioni's* 35th issue (February 2028) for which this call invites contributions.

Violence, according to philosopher Felice Cimatti, is inherent to language because it exerts a form of control upon the world; but what if the "natural" violence of the language gets in touch with an impoverished cultural and linguistic context that consciously employs verbal violence as a means of earning consensus and political support? What if a President of the U. S. takes advantage of popular bigotry to proclaim himself "the chosen one" alluding to his acumen in the decision-making process? Finally, what if linguistic violence ends up being manipulated by sophisticated AI instruments to create a post-truth political climate in which emotions get the better of objectivity? It is quite clear by now that the Trump Administration's strategy is to impose its own version of facts and history – to be eventually changed if needed the next day – with no excuse and plenty of arrogance. When the ruling class of a nation, in words and deeds, violates the constitutional guarantees threatening the people's rights, the intelligentsia of any nation is called upon to speak out loud in defense of the foundations of the democratic system, as prescribed by the Constitution.

We intend to use this issue of *Costellazioni* to rekindle a multi-disciplinary debate on the subjects illustrated above, open to scholars and experts operating in a variety of research fields, such as, but not limited to:

American Literature and Culture; American History; Politics (American and Global);
Linguistics; Sociology of Communications; Contemporary Social Science.

Proposals concerned with related subjects and/or approaches are equally welcomed. Single essays (in English) should not exceed 40,000 characters, including abstract, notes and bibliography. Deadline for the submission of titles and abstracts for the present call: November 10, 2025; notification to authors: March 2, 2026. Delivery of final texts to editor: February 28, 2027.

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