

soroud

The Journal of Literary Criticism

Soroud is a peer-reviewed, annual, multilingual, and interdisciplinary scientific journal published by the Narratology Laboratory of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences Ben M'sik, Hassan II University of Casablanca. Each issue focuses on a specific theme or research problem, bringing together perspectives and research approaches from scholars around the world.

Call for Papers: Issue 11 of Soroud Journal

Communication and the Utopia of Society: Imagining Equality and the Limits of Discourse

Deadline for submitting abstracts (250 words): **April 10, 2026**

Deadline for submitting full papers: **June 20, 2026**

Publication date: **Winter 2027**



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Communication and the Utopia of Society: Imagining Equality and the Limits of Discourse

Communication is linked to linguistic levels through their phonetic, lexical, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic components, as well as the social, psychological, and cultural factors associated with them. It is therefore inseparable from the interaction that occurs between two or more parties and that unfolds in various directions determined by the nature of the context and the type of relationships involved. Communication may also occur through a social, educational, legal, political, or cultural mediator accepted by all parties because of their credibility and the objectivity of their positions.

On this basis, communication is framed within a cognitive, methodological, cultural, and legal context that makes it a foundational principle of human and social utopias. It constitutes a critical horizon that allows reality to be deconstructed from within its language, representations, and institutions. This perspective transforms utopia from a merely idealistic horizon or an unreal world into a mechanism that reflects the capacities of society and its ability to imagine representative models for itself, as well as its aspiration to achieve a possible equality. Such equality may be articulated through systems, conceptual frameworks, programs, projects, and communicative narratives aimed at improving social reality, reducing discrimination among its members, and establishing equality among human initiatives regardless of their referential backgrounds. This process seeks to create a desired form of justice beyond the domination of one discourse over another.

This desired horizon is not a dreamlike utopia nor an arbitrary imagination; rather, it is a rational and democratic practice through which human beings realize their existence by breaking artificial distinctions and establishing equality between the rights of different discourses and intellectual or existential choices. It thus becomes an open field for fair practices that differ from certain everyday or institutional practices that draw dividing lines between discourses and classify them according to criteria lacking a foundation in equality. These mechanisms extend to establish boundaries for each discourse in its relationship with power, law, economy, and institutions, as well as normative cultural limits governed by customs, general symbolic representations, and identity constructions. Such limits often remain far removed from any objective scientific consideration or equitable approach grounded in equality.

In this way, one discourse may be elevated at the expense of others, confining utopia to the realm of impossible dreams and reducing it to empty slogans, while paving the way for a single dominant discourse. As a result, communication itself is suppressed, even though it constitutes the most effective mechanism of dialogue that allows every discourse to defend itself and justify the validity of its positions within a horizon of competing projects, programs, and visions from which society may choose what it considers most appropriate.

Despite the relevance of these considerations, the transformations experienced by humanity in recent decades have produced a complex reality. One of its most visible manifestations is the digital transformation, which has become an open marketplace for all

forms of discourse. Although this development was initially accompanied by optimistic claims about equality among citizens in producing discourse and information, subsequent developments have led to the emergence of discourses shaped by misinformation, boldness not grounded in knowledge or cultural values, inequality in access to information, and the erosion of trust between individuals and institutions. This situation has created a central tension between the promise of equality carried by communication as a social utopia and the limits that sometimes make discourse itself an instrument for reproducing inequality.

Within this theoretical background, the journal Soroud seeks to approach this topic from a scientific perspective by drawing on linguistics and discourse analysis, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, communication and media studies, cultural studies, literature and the arts, law, public policy, education, human rights, and literary and artistic creativity. The aim is to explore the complex relationship between communication and equality in contemporary societies from a critical utopian perspective that considers communication as a profound linguistic and social practice contributing to the construction of meaning, the establishment of recognition and trust, and the reconfiguration of the boundaries between inclusion and exclusion. It also seeks to elevate the question of equality from the level of slogans to the level of procedural conditions that make it achievable both communicatively and practically. This requires a careful analysis of participation rules, the distribution of discursive roles, the criteria for recognizing the right to speak, the conditions for the formation of symbolic legitimacy, and the mechanisms for managing differences and democratizing dialogue.

Thematic Axes

Conceptual Axis

This axis seeks to examine the relationship between the concepts of communication, discourse, society, utopia, and equality through the following questions:

- What is the relationship between communication and discourse, and how is it connected to society?
- How can utopia function as a discursive choice?
- What is the relationship between social utopia and equality?

Legal and Institutional Axis

This axis aims to study the mechanisms through which symbolic legitimacy is granted for the acceptance or exclusion of discourses, and to highlight the roles of the actors involved in this process.

- Who grants legitimacy to one discourse rather than another?
- What legal mechanisms are used in this process, and what are their legal foundations?
- What is the relationship between these mechanisms and the values of equality?

Axis of Actors in the Production of Discourse

This axis examines the role of actors in producing discourse through the following questions:

- Who are the actors involved in producing discourses related to the utopia of society?

- How are discursive roles distributed among them, and who supervises them?
- What conditions determine whether a particular discourse is capable of framing or guiding society?

Axis of Classification Criteria

This axis seeks to classify discourses from the perspective of equality and to explore the relationship between social utopia and discourse through the following questions:

- What indicators are used to classify discourses from the perspective of equality?
- What is the relationship between social utopia and the classification of discourses?
- How can the discourse of social utopia be considered positive?

Axis of Digital Discourses

This axis aims to examine digital transformations from the perspective of equality values and the utopia of society through the following questions:

- What is the relationship between digital transformations and the activation or limitation of communication?
- What are the foundations of communication within digital discourses?
- What role do digital discourses play in producing equality or inequality in the production and consumption of discourse?

Key Dates

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General Principles for Publishing in the Journal

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The journal Soroud is available online on the journal's website:

<https://soroud.ma/home/>

<https://scholarhub.univh2c.ma/soroud/>

All publication proposals should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief at: soroudmaroc@gmail.com

The journal accepts articles in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish, provided that they are original, have not been previously published, and are not under review by another journal.

An initial abstract (250 words) must be submitted, indicating the issues and topics that the proposed article will address, and must be accompanied by the author's email, address, phone number, and a brief biography (100 words).

The final abstract must be provided in two languages: English and the language in which the article is written. It must be one paragraph, 200–250 words, presenting the research idea and the main argument, with an indication of the methodology, in a clear, precise, and neutral style, free of personal opinions, interpretations, quotations, or vague expressions.

The final abstract must be accompanied by keywords that match the article's focus and avoid repetition and ambiguity. The number of keywords must be 5 to 8, separated by a semicolon (;). Keywords should be single words or two-word phrases and include the key concepts and terms.

Each accepted article must include: title, author's name, academic position, academic affiliation, email, abstracts in two languages (250 words), keywords (5–8), the article body (4000–5000 words), and a reference list at the end.

Citations and references quoted in the article must follow the Chicago notes and bibliography style, using footnotes at the bottom of the page with consecutive numbering.