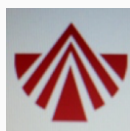


AIA

Associazione Italiana di Anglistica

Newsletter 113 Winter 2023



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Editorial

Dear AIA Members, Esteemed Colleagues,

As the newly elected President of the Italian Association of English Studies, I'm thrilled to kick off my first AIA Newsletter editorial by expressing my heartfelt thanks to all of you on behalf of myself and the Board.

As a tightly-knit and well-assorted group of academics, the Board aims to mirror the hard work and dedication of our predecessors by continuing to represent and support the diverse study and research areas present within the Italian Association of English Studies. To this end, we will strive to back existing initiatives and put forth innovative ideas that we trust will engage and stimulate each and every one of us. Our intention is therefore to propose a few changes that will seamlessly align with the evolving landscape of Italian universities and, more specifically, with the field of English studies. First among them, this editorial written entirely in English, to match and reflect the language used throughout the newsletter while contributing to the overall coherence and unity of the publication. This choice also serves to create an inclusive reading experience for our ESSE members.

Before focusing upon the main issues and perspectives presented in this editorial, I feel that we need to pause and reflect upon the gender-related crimes that have recently monopolised the Italian and world press; our topical reflection should clearly go well beyond the context of the here and now. As an educator and researcher, I've consistently sought out ways to deepen my understanding of gender issues through open discussion and debate with my students. The pressing need to encourage the use of non-sexist language and explore gender diversity is magnified by recent events such as the Giulia Cecchettin case. Addressing gender violence calls for a sea change in language use, and we, as educators, play a pivotal role in impressing this upon our students. The imperative to acknowledge gender equality and diversity endures and intensifies. Such an endeavour not only facilitates the interconnection of scholarly dialogue but also actively contributes to the broader combat against any manifestation of violence directed towards and against women. It grants our students the opportunity to comprehend the intrinsically critical nature of all challenges levelled against entrenched patriarchal processes and the need to foster forms of societal restructuring to rectify the existing subordination of women, targeted individuals, and specific minority groups. By broaching and embracing the topic time and time again in our lectures, seminars and tutorials, our students may well discover that beyond the lecture halls and institutional venues there are individuals ready to listen, understand and take appropriate action. This much advocated social change, rooted in the very nature of our fields of study, does indeed begin with us. As specialists actively working on inclusion and diversity, our cultural sensitivity, global perspective, and ability to foster open-mindedness and cross-cultural awareness must keep on sustaining and promoting a dynamic dialogue on gender matters. Such a process requires heartfelt commitment from both educators and students, together with a firm belief that bias-free and stigma-free conversations can stand as a bulwark against further harm and potentially tragic consequences.

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Shifting now to a more editorial focus, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the members who actively participated in AIA31 (Rende, Cosenza, September 13–16, 2023), hosted by the University of Calabria. Speaking on behalf of the whole Board, I thank the Organising Committee for their exceptional efforts in coordinating an event of such significance for our Association in a flawless manner over a very brief time span. Nevertheless, as we know, the success of a conference is always closely related to the calibre of the research papers presented, and there is little doubt that the academic dialogue sparked by the conference will substantially enrich future scholarly discussions. Among the many positive aspects to emerge from the AIA31 conference, one of the best stems from the tangible evidence that the distinctive yet not necessarily distinct ‘souls’ of our Association can readily engage in constant dialogic synergy. Indeed, conversations and collaborations amongst all AIA members have the potential to yield extraordinary results with novel methods and approaches serving to enrich our pool of knowledge and unveil new paths of research. As we look towards the future, let’s do so with determination. Let’s reignite and foster a spirit of cooperation that can produce positive outcomes for everyone involved. I invite you all to join us in renewing and promoting an academic environment able to reflect the richness of diversity. This is especially crucial as we explore cross-cutting and interdisciplinary perspectives within the broader field of English studies. An excellent opportunity to delve deeper into such perspectives will be offered at our next conference, AIA32, scheduled to take place in Turin on September 11–13, 2025. Save the date then, as we all eagerly await your presence at the University of Turin!

In terms of research, let me remind you that the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE) Conference is scheduled to take place at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, from the 26th to the 30th of August 2024. While the deadline for submitting proposals for parallel lectures, seminars, and roundtables has expired, I encourage everyone to review the list of seminars (<https://wp.unil.ch/esse2024/calls-for-participation/call-for-individual-papers-and-posters/>) and submit proposals for individual contributions and posters by January 31, 2024. Additionally, for our doctoral candidates, I see participating in the Doctoral Symposium organised by the ESSE2024 conference (<https://wp.unil.ch/esse2024/calls-for-participation/call-for-the-doctoral-symposium/>) as a unique opportunity. On this occasion, doctoral candidates will have the chance to interact with international colleagues and, more significantly, present research and receive feedback from a wider academic community. Numerous AIA members will be presenting their own panels, marking a promising development in AIA’s growing influence across Europe. Far from being a mere detail, AIA’s presence in ESSE has the potential and the responsibility to evolve into a prominent scientific point of reference and a platform for showcasing our research and dedication throughout Europe.

In this editorial, I would also like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our colleagues who have successfully secured funding for their Research Projects of National Interest (PRIN). The dedication and excellence demonstrated in the submissions for both the PRIN 2022 call (published on 2/02/2022 with Directorial Decree No. 104) and

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the PNRR PRIN 2022 call (dated 14/09/2022 with Directorial Decree No. 1409) are truly commendable. Your achievements not only reflect the high calibre of research within our community but also significantly contribute to advancing knowledge in our field. As the Principal Investigator of one of these research grants, I fully understand the struggles you face when navigating the bureaucratic aspects of such national funding. Nonetheless, I believe that these achievements deserve recognition. They enable us to gain national visibility as a sector that sometimes bears the burden of adapting to standards inherent to other fields and subsequently designated as benchmarks when evaluating the overall value of our products. This, at times, leads us to lose track of the fact that what we produce is often intangible yet crucial to the advancement of knowledge. With this in mind, I wish you continued success as you embark upon such important research endeavours!

Turning now to some of the more practical aspects of our work, the Board has diligently collaborated to define strategic priorities and areas of change that we hope will be well-received by all AIA members. During our monthly in-person meetings, we have granted priority to the need to empower our young scholars, a decision influenced by the fact that over 40% of our members currently fall within the young demographic. Our aim is to support them from the very early stages of their academic careers, assisting them along their journey, involving them directly in the projects and activities of our Association, and making sure that they are able to play an increasingly active and participative role. We wish to breathe new life into existing AIA training initiatives, specifically cultivating meetings and exchanges between Ph.D. students and their tutors and extending the invitation to all AIA members. We aim to host a series of meetings nationwide, providing a platform for Ph.D. students and mentors to discuss research topics and broaden their disciplinary knowledge and career perspectives. We hope that these gatherings will serve as dynamic forums for participants, particularly our young scholars, enabling them to share their innovative ideas, propose fresh perspectives within our field of studies, and foster the exchange of thoughts and insights. We truly believe that such initiatives will contribute to a dynamic renewal at the heart of our academic community. This year, we aim to organise local meetings in the north, centre, and south regions to enhance our young scholars' participation and reduce travel costs. To receive suggestions on how best to organise this initiative, we'd very much like to hear directly from you! Therefore, we've sent you all a questionnaire by email. Please, complete it and feel free to share it with other colleagues working within English Studies who, although not yet members, might have an interest in the proposal. Alongside this survey, we'll also conduct a Ph.D. student/mentor census. For this, too, we need your input and assistance to help us spread the word.

Upgrading the AIA website is second on our list of planned priorities. We're keen to make this platform more user-friendly and functional. Our aim is two-fold: on the one hand, we wish to feature all the activities and initiatives sponsored by AIA; on the other, we aim to create a dynamic online space that truly captures the vibrancy of our Association. We are well aware that our digital presence is key in our academic sphere, and that we need to provide our members and followers with an efficient tool for staying informed and engaged.

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We will use the redesigned website not just as a useful archive but also as a launching platform to promote current and upcoming events. We will ensure greater accessibility to resources and essential information, making it easier to browse valuable materials and encouraging active participation from all. In addition to technological enhancements, the Board is now also exploring new ways of getting the academic community involved by creating forums for discussion and new channels to foster further dialogue on ideas and projects. In line with this, apart from our existing Facebook page, we have launched the AIA Twitter/X profile (<https://twitter.com/Anglistica>). Recognising the paramount importance of social media in facilitating swift and widespread communication, we aim to leverage these platforms to enhance collaboration, share insights, and fortify connections within our academic community. This update is a pivotal move toward establishing a collaborative and interactive environment that reflects the goals and values of the Italian Association of English Studies. So, as the saying goes, *stay tuned!*

Another key initiative, which has taken up much of our effort, concerns the procedure underlying the new *Textus* journal call for papers. As you'll have seen from the inaugural call, the Board has unanimously endorsed a new approach. In addition to the customary issues dedicated to specific domains such as language, literature and culture, we've also added a blended issue of the journal. In this mixed number, colleagues are encouraged to collaborate by sharing methods, theories, and applications from our various and varied research domains. This move matches the trend towards internationalisation in our disciplines, reflecting the common practice prevalent across Europe and beyond of scholars engaging in collective discussions on systems that, while distinct, are complementary. This minor adjustment aims to foster a more fruitful dialogue within the 10/L1 sector. As highlighted in several Board meetings, maintaining unity does not entail compromising our identity or research field(s). Instead, it grants us visibility and a robust voice in interactions with other sectors, enabling us, as previously mentioned, to integrate interdisciplinary suggestions more seamlessly. This is in keeping with the ongoing requests from the evolving academic and societal landscape to better tackle intricate and novel challenges. Indeed, togetherness transcends a mere concept within our academic community; it serves as a driving force that magnifies our collective impact. Through our collaborative pursuits, we can strengthen the fabric of our scholarly community while making meaningful contributions to the broader intellectual landscape, in line with what the incomparable Maya Angelou, a steadfast champion of civil rights, eloquently expressed: "We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter their color".

Last but not least, on November 16, 2023, I participated in an institutional meeting organised by our CUN representatives, together with the presidents of associations and councils within Area 10. In this session, substantial information about institutional dynamics and pivotal issues was shared and discussed, which I've summed up in my digest that you can find in the yellow boxes from page 5.

Editorial

I want to round this editorial up with gratitude and optimism for the future of the Italian Association of English Studies. The journey undertaken so far by the renewed AIA Board has seen us working together, sharing ideas and projects, and I am confident that this synergy will continue to thrive in the upcoming months. On a personal note, I'd like to extend my sincere wishes to each of you for this holiday season. May this festive period be filled with joy, tranquillity, and rejuvenating moments of rest. We understand how our commitments in the academic world require dedication and passion, and this is also the time to reflect on our achievements and recharge our energies for future challenges. I hope you can spend quality time with your loved ones, replenishing yourselves with warmth and genuine affection. 2023 has been a year full of achievements and significant changes for the Association, and the next year promises to be equally challenging. Our collective commitment to enhancing the profile of English Studies in Italy and promoting an inclusive academic culture will be the driving force behind our future success.

I thank each of you for the valuable contributions you have made so far, and I look forward to seeing what the next year holds for us. Happy holidays to all, dear members, and a prosperous New Year. May 2024 bring new opportunities, academic satisfaction, and personal growth.

Best regards,

Giuseppe Balirano

EDITORIAL DIGEST: Summary of CUN meeting on November 16, 2023

Firstly, regarding the National Scientific Qualification (*Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale* [ASN]), as we all know, the call for the formation of national ASN commissions for 2023–2025 was published with Directorial Decree No. 1211 of 28/07/2023. The curricula of potential commissioners for this new round of the ASN have been made public, and in early December 2023, commission members will be drawn and announced.

In the meantime, Directorial Decree No. 1796 of 27/10/2023 has officially established the procedures for obtaining the National Scientific Qualification 2023–2025 for first and second-tier university professor positions. The first four-month period for submitting applications began on November 2, 2023, and will conclude on March 4, 2024. Two more four-month periods will follow (2nd period: from March 5, 2024, to July 4, 2024; 3rd period: from July 5, 2024, to November 5, 2024). At this point, I wish all the best to the Commission tasked with evaluating candidates, and sincere good luck to all colleagues participating in the ASN 2023–2025.

During CUN discussions, the debate concerning the ASN brought to the fore a reflection regarding the

virtue of class A journals as an evaluative threshold. There is a widespread request, also shared by our area, to review the list of such journals. Moreover, in discussions regarding the lack of revision, the potentially negative impact this might have on qualification was brought up. It should be noted, however, that the journals have not been adversely affected by this. Hence, it seems obvious to question whether it is more important to safeguard specific editorial initiatives or truly consider the needs of our colleagues embarking on this qualification path. At the CUN meeting, and still concerning the ASN, considerations emerged about the need to introduce marked differences between the first and second tiers, with particular emphasis on avoiding the prevailing quantitative component unless strictly linked to curricular aspects.

In relation to entering the academic working world, the CUN emphasised how the Legislative Decree of April 30, 2022, No. 36, converted with modifications to Law on June 29, 2022, No. 79 (published in Official Gazette No. 150 of June 29, 2022), has brought about a significant change in the field of research. The shift from research grants (*Assegni di ricerca*), which can still be issued until December 31, 2023, to research contracts (*Contratti di ricerca*) represents a noteworthy transition. However, the implementation of this transition, though offering a less precarious perspective compared to research grants, is still pending, creating a two-year delay from the law's effective date. This change has prompted a number of thoughts and concerns, especially among those who employ specific strategies, such as hiring fixed-term technologists (Law 240/2010, art. 24bis), an approach pushing the boundaries of traditional contracts. Article 6, paragraph 7 of the Legislative Decree has also replaced Article 22 of the 'Gelmini Law' (Law of December 30, 2010, No. 240 [Official Gazette No. 10 of January 14, 2011 – Ordinary Supplement No. 11]) on nine specific points related to research grants. This replacement not only outlines a broader regulatory framework but also underscores the need to redefine contractual conditions and protections for researchers in a detailed and precise manner. In this scenario of regulatory changes and pending expectations, the academic community finds itself grappling with new scenarios and contemplating the implications of these modifications on research dynamics and the prospects of those participating in them.

In this period, despite the challenges, many of us are actively engaged in various aspects of lecturing, course design, evaluation, and research. I wish to acknowledge colleagues who hold institutional roles within their universities and are preparing for periodic accreditation visits following the AVA3 guidelines. Moreover, the recent revision of the Evaluation of Research Quality (*Valutazione della Qualità della Ricerca* [VQR]) in Italy for the period 2020-2024 (<https://www.anvur.it/attivita/vqr/vqr-2020-2024/>) has been announced through the publication of guidelines that many of our universities have disseminated through specific communications to their various departments. From what emerged in CUN meetings, a significant element is the reduced attention to Third Mission initiatives, leading to a revision of evaluation indicators in this direction. The role of technological transfer, understood as the process of transferring technological and organisational knowledge within territorial ecosystems of innovation connected to international networks for knowledge dissemination, becomes crucial. This, in my opinion, represents both a great opportunity but also a limitation. In emphasising technological transfer and knowledge dissemination in research products for the 2020-2024 period, there is a growing awareness of the importance of assessing not only scientific production but also the real impact and dissemination of

generated knowledge. Unfortunately, when this rationale is applied retrospectively, it is limiting for those who haven't developed this dimension in their research work.

Another noteworthy change in the recent VQR concerns the product evaluation scale, which now ranges from 1 to 4. Finally, by December 18, 2023, the National Agency for the Evaluation of the University System and Research (*Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca* [ANVUR]) will publish the call for the formation of new Evaluation Expert Groups (*Gruppi di Esperti della Valutazione* [GEV]). In summary, it's important to highlight that recent developments in the VQR reflect a careful consideration of academic research dynamics, paying particular attention to their technological impact. However, I remain somewhat perplexed that our research is being evaluated based on guidelines which were provided at a later date.

In conjunction with these developments in the evaluation of our research, many of us have tackled the rapid organisation of courses for the legendary 60 CFU based on ministerial directives that are often complex to interpret and lack essential details related to this programme. Our CUN representatives have highlighted the complexities of these processes. However, the creation of these courses has allowed for synergy among the various components of English Studies here in Italy, and I hope that the result of these efforts will be the training of highly qualified professionals capable of integrating diverse research areas and preparing those future generations with whom we will be sharing our professional life. It's important to note that, according to the information provided, the 60 CFU courses will begin after Christmas 2023, so wrapping them up by May 2024 would appear impractical. Furthermore, a zero-demand principle, a key consideration highlighted in CUN discussions, might also govern the beginning of these courses. This additional information further highlights the practical challenges and variables that require consideration in order to implement these newly planned educational pathways successfully.

Lastly, the Budget Law has introduced an interesting development regarding a new type of national 'Erasmus' exchange programme. This provides students with the opportunity for educational stays at other Italian universities with corresponding exams to be taken at those institutions nationally, in line with the Erasmus model, and highlights the importance of internal student mobility. Article 61 of the law allocates significant resources to this objective, with approximately €3 million in funding in 2024 and a further €7 million in 2025 for students engaged in internal mobility programmes. Nevertheless, there is a need to carefully address the North-South gap to ensure a fair distribution of benefits throughout the country. The Budget Law also introduces a reduction in resources within the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (*Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza* [PNRR]), signalling an adjustment of investment priorities that negatively impacts funding for higher education. Moreover, there are cuts in funding for the construction of new buildings and/or sites and the ANVUR, raising concerns about implications for infrastructure and academic evaluation processes in the Italian context.

Textus

Editorial board

Editor in chief:
Giuseppe Balirano

Editors:
Paola Catenaccio, Manuela D'Amore,
Massimiliano Demata, C. Bruna Mancini,
Marilena Parlati, Irene Ranzato

All issues of *Textus* published by Carocci can be accessed by AIA members through a Cloud repository on Google Drive. Members will receive the link by email upon renewal of their subscription. For further information on the *Textus* archive, please write to: riviste@carocci.it

Textus issue 1/2023

Dimensions of Framing: Representation, Cognition, Interaction

edited by Paola Catenaccio, Giuliana Garzone and Martin Reisigl

Textus issue 2/2023

Resisting Power in India Today: Voices, Texts, and Discourses

edited by Esterino Adami and Binayak Roy

Textus issue 3/2023

Christopher Marlowe: Texts, Contexts, Meanings

edited by Cristiano Ragni and Andrew Duxfield

Textus

Call for papers
***Textus* issue 3/2024**

Spreading Interdisciplinary Contaminations: New Perspectives on Health, Illness, and Disease

Co-editors:

Girolamo Tessuto (University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli)

Clark Lawlor (Northumbria University)

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John Gilbert (University of Florence)

The intersections between medicine and communication, both oral and written, have been recognised and discussed at least since the time of Hippocrates, who is often credited with having conceptualised the practice of healing as a semiotic craft (Baer 1988: 37; Danesi and Zukowski 2019: 5). Nonetheless, in the academic field, exchanges among literature, linguistics, and medical sciences intensified only during the 1940s and 1950s, with a progressive shift of focus away from the physician's skills in deciphering signs and symptoms to the semiotic acts of communication to represent, perform, explain, and make sense of health and disease – and the subject's experience of them – in real and fictional contexts. Even more recent are interdisciplinary critical orientations developing in the areas of linguistics and literary inquiries, with seminal studies by Felman (1985), Kleinman (1988), Ingram (1991), Roberts and Porter (1993), and Frank (1995). Together with perspectives such as feminism, queer theory, and disability studies, these orientations have paved the way for wellness and illness narratives to come to the forefront and disentangle themselves from the disciplinary “colonialism” of scientific discourse (Charon 2006; Jurecic 2012).

Far from being mere interpretations of bodily symptoms, the ideas of disease, illness, and pathology are often symbolically or metaphorically constructed (Sontag 1978; Graham and Sewell 1990; Semino et al. 2020; Garzone 2023) and always rooted in specific contexts and times. Hence, investigating their representations necessarily entails moving beyond physician-patient dynamics to cope with broader cultural and social concerns. Linguistic, literary, and cultural studies themselves can engage with medical representations to “reveal their function in their historical context” (Gilman 2011: 73; Gilman 1988), to emphasise their constitutive relation to identity and language, and to unveil their inherent connection with conceptualisations of a “healthy” body and mind (Ferrara 1994), thus challenging stigmas associated with various forms of disease, illness, disability, and trauma.

The intricacies of the mutual effects between language and human health have inspired scholars from different theoretical backgrounds to consider the public and private dimensions of discourse about health and healthcare across a wide and diverse range of contexts, genres, and media (Gwyn 2002; Furst 2003; Heritage and Maynard 2006; Harvey and Koteyko 2012; Skelton 2013; Canziani et al. 2014; Hamilton and Chou 2014; Mullini 2015; Hilger 2017; Garzone et al. 2019; Brookes and Hunt 2021; Lawlor and Mangham 2021; Tweedie and Johnson 2022), giving floor to “different types of discourses that go side by side with the linguistic practices of participants involved in the textual universe of medicine and healthcare” (Tessuto 2023: xvii). Accordingly, to explore the multiple and complex ways in which the complementary perspectives of linguistic, literary and cultural studies can interact critically with medical discourses, this issue of *Textus* encourages scholars to investigate a broad spectrum of “literariness” and health-

related narratives, including letters, memoirs, (auto)pathographies, marginalia, mixed-media narratives, patient-provider interactions, case histories, medical blogs, as well as other liminal and interstitial forms of expression, textual contaminations, and anomalies.

Suggested topics for this issue include, but are not limited to:

- past and present representational practices concerning health and the body;
- literature, medicine, and their reciprocal influences;
- the role of literature in creating/representing/challenging cultural discourses of physical and/or mental health, wellbeing, disease, and trauma;
- medical practitioners and/or patients as writers, narrators, and fictional characters;
- representations or narratives of disease, illness, health, disability, trauma, etc.;
- narratives of social injustice in medical practices and experiences;
- gender identity and medical discourse;
- dynamics of communication between doctors and patients across different genres, medias, and contexts;
- relationships between language, style, forms, and methods of literary research and medical discourse;
- impacts and implications of changes in technology-mediated healthcare communication;
- medical and therapeutic narratives and their relationship with healing;
- counter-narratives of mainstream conceptualisations of health and wellbeing.

Deadline for abstracts: 31 December 2023

Please submit your abstract of around 500 words to: Textus3.24@gmail.com

Acceptance of abstracts to be notified by 20 January 2024

Deadline for articles: 31 March 2024

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Textus

Call for proposals *Textus* issues 2025

All *Textus* calls for papers are open only to AIA members

The editorial board of *Textus* invites proposals for the three issues of the journal to be published in 2025. *Textus* has traditionally approached topical areas of research separately in its three yearly issues. In the first two issues to be published in 2025, the focus will remain on language (issue 1/2025) and literature (issue 2/2025). The third issue (3/2025) will respond to the pressing need, expressed by an increasing number of scholars, to engage with inter- and multi-disciplinary approaches; it will therefore present a common theme embracing two or more research areas within the field of English studies.

Proposals (500 words including references) will need to indicate:

1. Two co-editors working at different Italian universities (for issue 3/2025, the two co-editors must belong to different research areas);
2. A non-Italian guest editor from a foreign university;
3. A native speaker copyeditor.

Proposals for all three issues should be sent by 30 January 2024 to:
aiasegreteria@unito.it

Calls for papers: publications and conferences

Publications

Special Issue of *Languages*: "Current Trends in Ecolinguistics" (2024)

Guest Editors: Douglas Mark Ponton, Lucia Abbamonte.

Please check: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/languages/special_issues/0BBBUSA8TN, for full call for papers and deadlines

Ecolinguistic research provides the scientific foundation for understanding the complex web of interactions among language, the non-human world, and the environment. As human activities continue to shape the world, ecolinguistics remains a cornerstone for the promotion of sustainability (Stibbe 2019), conservation of habitats (Blackmore and Holmes 2013), and the well-being of ecosystems and human societies. Ecolinguistics sheds light on how language can facilitate or hinder sustainable environmental practices and broaden our understanding of the ecological interconnectedness of our world (Goatly 2001; Stibbe 2015). A strong understanding of these issues has never been more necessary, and it is our hope that ecolinguistics will continue to evolve and increase its influence on current and future generations' attitudes towards nature and the non-human world (Zhou 2022). This Special Issue will focus on research that highlights current trends in ecolinguistics (Finke 2018; Lechevrel 2009; Huang 2016).

Conferences

Title: "22nd International Conference on Communication, Medicine, and Ethics (COMET)"

Dates: 26-28 June 2024

Place: University of Brescia

Local organising committee: Annalisa Zanola, Umberto Gelatti

Please check: <https://comet2024.unibs.it/> for full call for papers and deadlines

The COMET conference aims to bring together scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds involving various healthcare specialties and the human and social sciences. A special emphasis is on the dissemination of ongoing research in language/discourse/communication studies in relation to healthcare education, patient participation and professional ethics.

Title: "After Shock: New Perspectives in Literary Studies and Linguistics"

Dates: 10-11 June 2024

Place: Roma Sapienza University

Steering and organising committee: Hal Coase, Paolo D'Indinosante, Sophie Eyssette, Giulia Magro, Sara Riccetti, Joanna Ryszka

Please check: <https://aftershock2024.us.edu.pl/> for full call for papers and deadlines

Doctoral students of the 37th cycle of the PhD programme of Studies in English Literatures, Language

Conferences

and Translation at Sapienza University of Rome and Silesia University at Katowice are launching a call for papers for the graduate forum conference: "After Shock: New Perspectives in Literary Studies and Linguistics".

In the face of ongoing disasters including the climate crisis, the pandemic, war in Europe and conflicts worldwide, as well as blatant manifestations of social injustice taking place on both a localised and a planetary scale, we might be prone to think that we have reached a capacity of response that is beyond shock, that we have become numb to events that affect us both directly and indirectly. Can literature continue to make felt and bring home the intolerability of everyday events that may otherwise pass without remark? Does our 'response-ability' depend on our being shocked, and how is such a response figured in language? Email: aftershock2024@us.edu.pl.

Title: "New Trends in English Studies: Evolving Paradigms"

Dates: 23-24 April 2024

Place: Enna "Kore" University

Scientific and organising committee: Annalisa Bonomo, Vivian M. De La Cruz, Laura Diamanti, Fernanda Verçosa, Paola Clara Leotta, Giuseppina Di Gregorio

Please submit your proposals (max 300 words, ref. excluded) to: ntesconf@gmail.com by 10 February 2024, and check the website (up from December 2023) <https://ntesconf2024.wixsite.com/kore> for full call for papers and other info.

The epistemics of English Studies has evolved rapidly in the last few decades, shaped by social and cultural changes, and by advances in technology. This leads to new frameworks in Linguistics, Literature, and Cultural Studies, as well as in Translation Studies, "generating traffic across increasingly unstable disciplinary borders" (Knežević 2016: 153). In particular, they intersect with social, cultural, educational, and environmental issues, and address concerns about ethics and social justice, with regard to the environment, ethnicity, gender identity, education, diaspora, migration, identity navigation, inclusivity, multimodality, etc. In light of these considerations, this conference aims to offer, though in a tentative and non-exhaustive manner, a positive forum for a productive collective reflection on possible future(s) for the discipline. Topics may include, without being restricted to, the following: Translation Studies: Being in the Beyond; Critical and Positive Discourse Analysis; Identities and Cultures in Transition; University Language Centres; Literary Studies in English; Sociolinguistics and Language History; Multilingualism and World English(es); English for Specific Purposes and English for Education; Multimodality and Audiovisual Translation.

Title: "A Foil to the Hero: Antiheroic Characters in Language, Literature, and Translation"

Date: 4 April 2024

Place: Roma Sapienza University

Organising committee: Angelo Arminio, Giovanni Raffa

Please write to: giovanni.raffa@uniroma1.it and angelo.arminio@uniroma1 for full call for papers and deadlines

Antiheroic characters have not only embodied a forceful element of rebellion against the status quo, but have also become one of the most prolific and ubiquitous character types in non-literary fiction, to the point of contributing to intertextual awareness (Bruun Vage 2016, p.184) as well as subversively twisting gender-based expectations (Hagelin & Silverman 2022, p. 203). From a linguistic point of view, the figure of the antihero, especially in contemporary texts, raises numerous questions when it

Conferences

comes to its linguistic conformation and its translation. Antiheroes can be recognised as such because of the character's personality, actions, morality and life choices, but the construction of antiheroic identities also happens by linguistic means (Schubert 2017). Their duality can be made manifest with powerful lexical choices, statements, use of swearings or even the use of peculiar accents or dialects. In turn, these features require effort on the part of the translator, and as the translation process is “the most recognizable type of rewriting” (Lefevere 1992, p. 9), the transfer of antiheroic features can demand creative solutions.

The students of the 36th cycle of the PhD Programme in English Literatures, Language and Translation at Sapienza University of Rome invite to engage in a meaningful discussion that revolves around the idea of the antihero in its various forms. Submission deadline for abstracts: 31st January 2024.

Title: “The Travelling Self: Tourism and Life-Writing in Eighteenth-Century Europe”

Dates: 18-20 July 2024

Place: University of Oxford

Organising committee: Catriona Seth (Oxford) and Giovanni Iamartino (Milan)

Please submit abstracts in English or French (c. 200 words) by 15 February to Catriona.Seth@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk and giovanni.iamartino@unimi.it

The eighteenth century saw the invention of modern tourism and a startling proliferation of new kinds of life-writing. This conference will explore how travellers wrote about themselves while they were away from home, and how our historical understanding of the phenomenon of travel – including domestic travel, but focusing on the Grand Tour – has relied on, but also been restricted by, travellers' own accounts, whether they seek to project a specific image of themselves (public or private, true or self-censored) or are unaware of how much they are giving up. Letters, diaries, journals, travelogues and any kind of personal reminiscences – either real or fictional – may provide textual evidence of the ‘travelling self’. Biotourism, the selves on tour, absent selves and the life-writing of travel are some of the approaches which colleagues might like to envisage.

The conference is being planned under the aegis of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and the Società Italiana di Studi sul Secolo Diciottesimo (who have so far organised six international joint conferences) with the support of the Société Française d'Etude du XVIIIe Siècle, All Souls College Oxford, the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages of the University of Oxford, and the Maison Française d'Oxford.

A small number of bursaries to cover accommodation costs for unwaged or early career researchers will be provided. If you are applying for one, please indicate your current academic status in your proposal.

Title: “Metamorphoses and Fluidity: Ever-Changing Shapes in the Stream of Time”

Dates: 7-8 May 2024

Place: Tor Vergata University of Rome

Organising committee: TrAdE Group, Department of History, Humanities and Society, Tor Vergata University of Rome

Please submit your proposals (max 200 words) to: segreteria.trade@gmail.com by 20 January 2024, and check the website <https://gruppotrade-2019.uniroma2.it> for full call for papers and other info.

Prominent theoretical issues and practices in contemporary Western intellectual cultures have made

Conferences

metamorphosis a desirable area for scholarly study, as the topic is frequently juxtaposed or linked with something that is not only "other". Metamorphosis, however, not only questions the distinctions between the subject and its "other" or between language and nonlanguage; it also raises issues of definition. As a result, many studies focused on the concept of metamorphosis emphasize epistemological and ontological issues pertaining to the subject's interaction with the outside world and other people as well as the subject's understanding of both the subject and the outside world. Another topic that has received much attention in recent studies is metamorphosis as a tropological issue, as it draws from a variety of trope categories, particularly metaphor and metonymy, and yet, as a representation of a startling and seemingly miraculous change, it is also capable of playing with the line between the literal and figurative.

The fourth edition of the biannual conference organized by the Research Group TrAdE (Translation and Adaptation from/into English) seeks to explore how translation and adaptation deal with ever-changing literary and linguistic shapes in the stream of time. The transdisciplinary Conference shall be focused on (but not limited to): metamorphosis/fluidity in education and (social) media; in art(s), music, movies, and TV series; in language, literature, linguistics, and translation; metamorphosis/fluidity of style(s) and genre(s).

ESSE Conference

European Society for the Study of English 2024 conference

<http://www.unil.ch/esse2024>

The 2024 European Society for the Study of English conference will take place at the **University of Lausanne, Switzerland, 26-30 August 2024.**

Call for posters, seminar papers and doctoral symposium

Posters should be devoted to research-in-progress and project presentations. The aim is to provide additional opportunities for feedback and personal contacts. At the conference, there will be a dedicated poster session, which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 27 August 2024 at 6pm.

Please send proposals of not more than 240 words to esse2024@unil.ch by **31 January 2024.**

Seminar papers. Scholars wishing to present their paper in one of the seminars are invited to submit 250-word **abstracts** of their proposed presentations and a brief bio directly to the convenors of the respective seminars by **31 January 2024.**

The list of seminars can be found here: <https://wp.unil.ch/esse2024/calls-for-participation/call-for-individual-papers-and-posters/>

Seminars consist of a varying number of academic papers and discussions. The length of papers should be 20 minutes with an added 10 minutes for discussion. As the number of slots for seminars is restricted for room reasons, the seminar convenors have some flexibility and may ask seminar participants for shortened papers in order to allow for more presentations in their seminars.

Doctoral Symposium. Call for participation at: <https://wp.unil.ch/esse2024/calls-for-participation/call-for-the-doctoral-symposium/>

KEY DATES

31 January 2024: Submissions of proposals for individual papers and posters

31 January 2024: Application to Doctoral Symposium

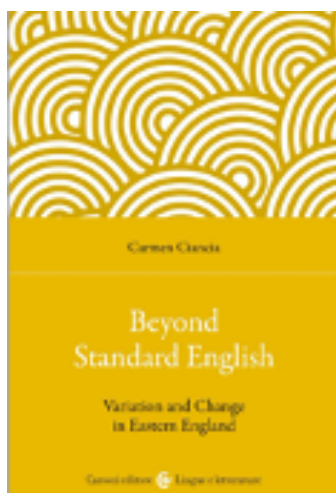
1 March 2024: Registration begins

New publications

Carmen Ciancia

Beyond Standard English. Variation and Change in Eastern England

Carocci, 2023, pp. 104. ISBN: 978-88-290-2028-7

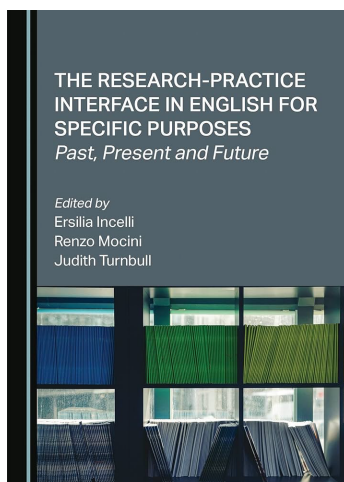


When foreign learners of English take up an English course, they are commonly taught the standard form of the language. However, when they visit an English speaking country for the first time (e.g. the UK), they face difficulties in understanding the real English, mostly in terms of pronunciation differences. Why? This and many other questions are answered in this book, which explores the hidden mechanisms of how language works, the complex relationship between language and ideologies, and describes language as a social phenomenon by showing how societal structures affect the way people talk, particularly in Eastern England. Other topics covered include fieldwork and data analysis for students and researchers embarking on research projects in Sociolinguistics.

Ersilia Incelli, Renzo Mocini, Judith Turnbull (eds.)

The Research-Practice Interface in English for Specific Purposes. Past, Present and Future

Cambridge Scholars, 2022, pp. 297. ISBN: 1-5275-8910-2

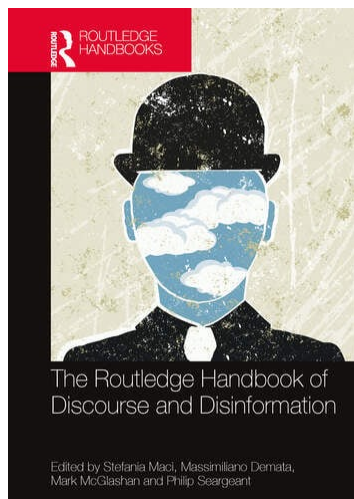


This volume, edited by Ersilia Incelli, Renzo Mocini and Judith Turnbull, is a Festschrift in honor of Professor Rita Salvi, acclaimed scholar of English and English linguistics in the Faculty of Economics at ‘Sapienza’ University of Rome for many years. The book, made up of fourteen chapters, stems from the work of scholars, researchers and colleagues who have been working with Professor Salvi throughout her long career. These numerous research projects have dealt with a wide range of topics revolving around English linguistics, from Global English to business discourse, from teaching and testing techniques to ESP and corpus linguistics. ESP represents the main focus of this book, including both theoretical and practical aspects connected to the teaching of specialized English. To be sure, in a globalized and hyper-specialized world, an English language course based merely on the four basic skills that mainly involves everyday language is simply not enough to prepare students to be proficient English users in their future professional lives. The pedagogical benefits of ESP expose students to real-life specific occupations and practices. Undoubtedly, the book proves to be a valuable tool for researchers and particularly for language teachers and educators in their key role as mediators between research and teaching.

Stefania M. Maci, Massimiliano Demata, Mark McGlashan, Philip Seargeant (eds.)

The Routledge Handbook of Discourse and Disinformation

Routledge, 2023, pp. 454. ISBN: 9781032124254



This handbook offers a comprehensive overview of research into discourses of disinformation, misinformation, post-truth, alternative facts, hate speech, conspiracy theories, and "fake news".

Divided into two sections, it provides a detailed look at the methodological challenges and approaches for studying disinformation, along with a wide range of case studies covering everything from climate change denial to COVID-19 conspiracies. The studies address how discourses of disinformation are constructed and developed, what rhetorical and persuasive strategies they employ, how disinformation can be discerned from real news, and what steps we might take in order to create a more trustworthy news environment.

Authored by leading experts from around the world, and showcasing the most up-to-date methodological approaches to the topic, the volume makes a significant contribution to current linguistic research on politics, and is an essential guide to the discourses of disinformation for advanced students and researchers of English language studies, linguistics, and media and communication studies.

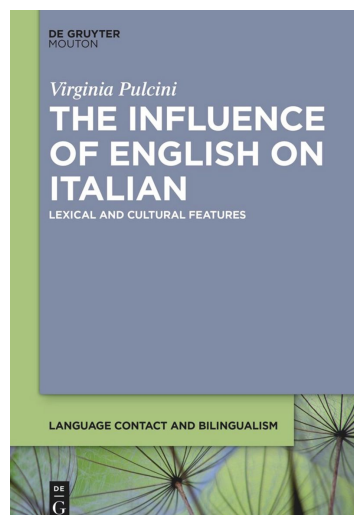
Virginia Pulcini

The Influence of English on Italian: Lexical and Cultural Features

De Gruyter Mouton, 2023, pp. 285. ISBN: 9783110754957

Open Access - Downloadable at:

<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110755114/html?lang=en>

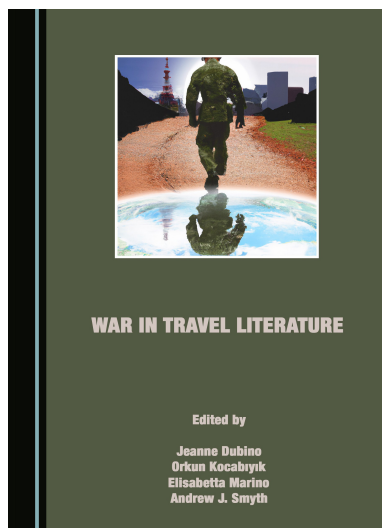


The volume explores the history of language contact between Italy and Anglophone countries and illustrates the phenomenon of lexical borrowing. Types of English-induced borrowings are presented on the basis of quantitative and qualitative information provided by Italian lexicographic sources and corpus-based evidence. Criteria of currency and frequency are discussed with reference to a multilingual project (GLAD – Global Anglicism Database), offering a contribution to loanword lexicography. The book is addressed to scholars and non-experts interested in the input of English borrowings into Italian.

Jeanne Dubino, Orkun Kocabiyik, Elisabetta Marino, Andrew Smyth (eds.)

War in Travel Literature

Cambridge Scholars, 2023, pp. 313. ISBN: 1-5275-0482-4



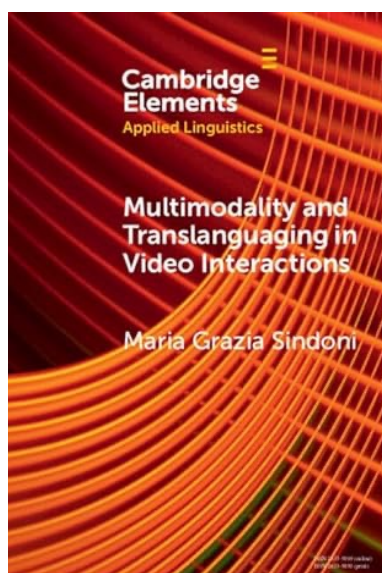
These twelve chapters show how war functions as a subject, theme, impetus—willing and not—and backdrop in travel writing. Literature about travel and war in tandem enables readers to rethink both categories. The forms of travel writing about war addressed in this collection, including cookbooks and military magazines along with nonfiction narrative and memoir, reveal how heterogenous travel writing can be. To study travel in connection with war expands readers' understanding of the multiple motivations instigating travellers' journeys. War is about more than fighting on a battlefield; its reach is extensive, encompassing the spheres surrounding its battlefields and fronts. The many actors involved in any conflict attests to the ways war is absorbed into their worlds, permeates their thoughts and spurs their actions. Readers interested in travel literature from the beginning of the nineteenth century through the present day will find this volume to be of especial interest.

Maria Grazia Sindoni

Multimodality and Translanguaging in Video Interactions

Cambridge University Press, Elements in Applied Linguistics, 2023, pp. 75.

ISBN: 9781009286947

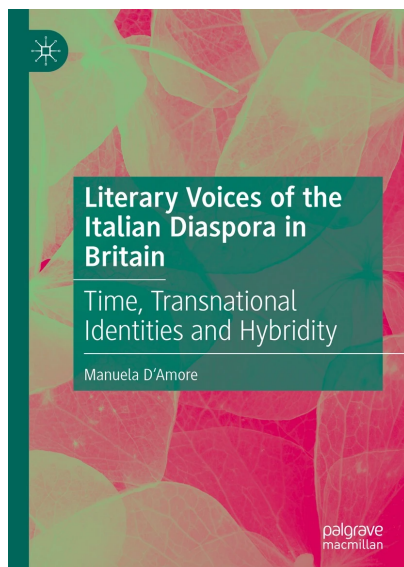


This volume presents and critically discusses video-mediated communication by combining theories and empirical methods of multimodal studies and translanguaging. Since Covid-19 gained momentum, video-based interactions have become more and more ingrained in private and public lives and to the point of being fully incorporated in a wide range of community practices in personal, work and educational environments. The meaning making of video communication results from the complex, situationally based and culturally influenced and interlaced components of different semiotic resources and practices. These include the use of speech, writing, translanguaging practices, gaze behaviour, proxemics and kinesics patterns, as well as forms of embodied interaction. The book aims at unpacking these resources and at interpreting how they make meanings to improve and encourage active and responsible participation in the current digital scenarios.

Manuela D'Amore

Literary Voices of the Italian Diaspora in Britain: Time, Transnational Identity and Hybridity

Palgrave Macmillan, 2023, pp. 314. ISBN: 978-3-031-35437-3



This volume studies the literary voices of the Italian diaspora in Britain. They are mostly unknown to specialist and non-specialist readers, but deserve full recognition: they have recounted the history of the migrant community in the period 1880-1980, while creatively experimenting with hybrid forms of expression and blending words with visuals. Their focus on the horrors of the Second World War – especially on the tragedy of the *Arandora Star* (2nd July 1940) – offers clear evidence of their civil commitment.

Made up by 21 authors and 34 pieces of prose, verse and drama, *Literary Voices of the Italian Diaspora in Britain* will appeal to specialists in different areas of study. It discusses topical issues like migration and social integration, cultures and foods in transition, as well as plurilingualism. More importantly, it begins to fill the void left by a critical tradition which has only appreciated the northern American and Australian branches of Italian writing.

Conferences, seminars, schools: information and reports

WINTER SCHOOL in Translation Studies: “Translation Today: Technology, Trust and the Role of the Translator”

Dates: 11th-15th December 2023

Place: Ca' Foscari University, Venice

Please check: <https://www.unive.it/pag/44649/> for further information

Translators need to adapt to new technology in the translation market, like computer-aided tools, machine translation and AI. But how much should we rely on technology versus human skills? The Winter School aims to answer questions relating to technological advancements, creativity and ethical issues in translation by offering practical activities and lectures in 30 academic hours.

The event, organised by Ca' Foscari University, will feature guest speakers Giuliana Garzone (IULM University), Anthony Pym (University of Melbourne and Rovira I Virgili University) Silvia Bernardini and Adriano Ferraresi (University of Bologna, Forlì), David Katan (University of Salento), Giulia Togato and Adrià Martin-Mor (State University of California Long Beach).

Further information: <https://www.unive.it/pag/44649/>

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

“TransCreAzioni – L’atto creativo nei processi traduttivi”

Dates: 18-19 January 2024

Place: University of Bergamo

Organisers: Raul Calzoni, Giancarlo Covella, Helena Como, Maria Maffei

For further information: <https://bitly.ws/334Jw>

The upcoming event, organised by the University of Bergamo, will provide an opportunity to explore challenges and prospects within the field of translation studies. The two-day conference will facilitate collective exchanges among participants from Italian universities throughout four working sessions, which will include general talks on creativity in the translation of both literary works and audiovisual products, a seminar on the didactics of translation, and a round table on the interconnection between translation and publishing. The event will feature guest speakers Nicoletta Vallorani (University of Milan), Simone Giusti (University of Siena), Massimiliano Morini (University of Urbino “Carlo Bo”), Irene Ranzato (Sapienza University of Rome).

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

“Crossing Boundaries: Literary and Linguistic Intersections in Modernist Studies”

Dates: 22-24 May 2024

Place: Roma Tre University

Organisers: Annalisa Federici, Savina Stevanato

For further information please write to:

annalisa.federici@uniroma3.it, savina.stevanato@uniroma3.it

In the last few years, revaluations of modernism(s) have considerably developed, showing a marked “expansive tendency”. The claims of recent revisionist studies concerning a variety of modernisms (diversely defined as “global”, “transnational”, or “postcolonial”) encourage reflection on both canonical and present forms of modernist poetics and works in cultural, linguistic, and media terms. Far from merely re-examining canonical works or expanding the canon, what is most centrally new in the new modernist studies is its openness to views associated with other studies’ approaches, be these gender, race, media, or popular culture studies. Moreover, the new modernist studies’ widening of its range of primary interests has been inextricable from an effort to enlarge the toolkit of methods and perspectives through which these new modernisms could be investigated. Crucially, critics have illustrated how scholarship in different areas continues to furnish new paradigms and lenses, reflecting explicitly on boundary crossings and cross-field interchanges. They have also emphasised how other disciplines – such as linguistics, stylistics, or translation studies – may intersect at, as well as with, literary and cultural studies, thus demonstrating the continuing productivity of modernist studies’ porousness. In accordance with claims that modernism’s original pursuit of interdisciplinarity should be revived and intensified, this conference aims to provide a venue for an extensive exploration of literary and linguistic intersections in (the new) modernist studies. It therefore proposes to bring together researchers from such diverse areas as linguistics, literary criticism, cultural and translation studies using a wide range of scholarly methodologies, so as to rethink and discuss new trends in approaching the early twentieth century.

REPORT

Conference: “Afterlives of Empire in the Public Imagination”

Dates: 21-22 September 2023

Place: Roma Sapienza University

Organisers: Riccardo Capoferro and Valerio Cordiner

<https://www.afterlivesofempire.com>

Organised under the auspices of the Italian Associations of Conrad Studies and English Studies, and hosted by the Department of European, American and Intercultural Studies at Sapienza University of Rome, this two-day international conference was a cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural endeavour which explored the cultural memory of colonial empires in a wide range of geographical contexts in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. The event, which involved over fifty speakers from different disciplinary backgrounds (such as literary and cultural studies, media studies, musicology, museology, history and linguistics) and various universities across the world (not only Italy and Europe, but also

Conferences, seminars, schools: information and reports

Africa, Asia and North America), consisted of two keynote lectures (one for each day) and seventeen panels (across the two days). In the opening address, Camilla Miglio (Sapienza) and Riccardo Capoferro (Sapienza) underlined the need for critical investigations of the ideological uses to which the colonial past has been, and continues to be, put. In the first keynote lecture ('Country Walks through Colonial Britain during the Culture War'), Corinne Fowler (University of Leicester) drew upon her work with the National Trust and highlighted the importance of foregrounding the history of British colonialism in contemporary accounts of Britain's heritage sites. In his keynote lecture ('Ghosts in the Machine: Famines and Afterlives of Empire'), Pablo Mukherjee (University of Oxford) surveyed a number of ghostly presences in Anglo-Indian writing and interpreted them as imaginative responses to British colonialism and its consequences. The anglophone sphere was the focus not only of the two keynote lectures, but also of many papers, the vast majority of which were delivered in English. Over the two conference days, a broad array of talks examined imperial and post-imperial discourses in fiction, non-fiction, graphic narratives, poetry, music, drama, cinema, television, computer games, museums and public housing, among others, with whole panels devoted to Italy and Germany, as well as the UK, Ireland and Scotland, India and the US. The concluding remarks by Franco Baldasso (Bard College, New York) and Valerio Cordiner (Sapienza) appropriately stressed the scientific and civic value of events like this, hopefully only the first in a long series of projects aiming at advancing our collective understanding of the afterlives of colonial empires.

Paolo D'Indinosante

REPORT

1st Workshop of the Series "Research Methodologies in English Linguistics: Foundations and New Directions"

Dates: 26-27 October 2023

Place: University of Messina

Organiser: Maria Grazia Sindoni

The first workshop of the Series Research Methodologies in English Linguistics: Foundations and New Directions took place at the Department of Ancient and Modern Civilizations and sponsored by the University of Messina. Additional support came from participating associations AIA (Associazione Italiana di Anglistica) and I-LaND Research Centre. The workshop aimed to foster dialogue, exchange ideas, and share experiences on diverse methodologies in English linguistics. It also sought to ignite a debate on the crucial task of selecting the most effective methods to address specific research questions.

The opening keynote, "'Voices in Text' as a Key to Discourse Analysis", was delivered by Giuliana E. Garzone from IULM University, Milan. She advocated for adopting the theoretical notion of 'dialogism' as an entry point to discourse approaches. Professor Garzone explored various facets of 'dialogism' and its empirical applications, showcasing the model's robustness through examples of negation in a wide range of texts. Following the keynote, a panel introduced by Maria Grazia Sindoni from the University of Messina presented early results from a PON research project currently being carried out at the host Department of Ancient and Modern Civilizations. The project focuses on theoretically bridging the conceptualization of multimodality in sociosemiotics, linguistics, and computational linguistics. Case studies included the AI-driven interpretation of text-image relations in racist memes (Chiara Polli, University of Messina) and the opaque semiotic regimes of Google image

Conferences, seminars, schools: information and reports

repositories representing same-sex couples (C. Serena Santonocito, University of Messina). The morning session concluded with Francesca Vigo (University of Catania), who shared insights on applied English linguistics and curriculum design within Italian teaching and learning scenarios. The talk challenged the monoglossic nature of English studies, aligning with recent developments in applied linguistics as a decolonizing project.

The second keynote, “Argumentation in Discourse: Analytical Approaches”, by Paola Catenaccio (Milan University), discussed argumentative reasoning in the unpacking of information within the assumption that discourse is pervaded by an intrinsic ‘argumentativity’. She explored argumentative patterns based on informal logic in the context of agro-biotechnology, showing that different degrees of implicitness may – and indeed should – be identified to debunk and explore ideologies in discourse. The diverse and complex methodologies presented in the afternoon session showcased the richness and variety of contributions. Topics included the ‘third wave’ of language in ‘Chav’ de-registerment and countervalorization (Emilia Di Martino, University Suor Orsola Benincasa, Naples), ecolinguistics explorations combining empirical methods from critical discourse studies and corpus linguistics (Massimiliano Demata, University of Turin and Bronwen Hughes, University of Naples, Parthenope), and issues related to increasing awareness and inclusion in translational practices (Stefania Taviano, University of Messina).

The second day opened with a keynote on “Corpus Linguistics and the Researcher’s Bias” by Stefania Maci (University of Bergamo). She urged a reevaluation of assumptions and biases within methodologies like corpus linguistics, challenging the perception that quantitative approaches are more ‘neutral’ and ‘scientific’ than other approaches in linguistics. In the morning session, Rosalba Rizzo (University of Messina) explored news framing effects in representing “complaints” in public speech, focusing on the case of ‘Ombudsman’ in Canada. The closing keynote by Giuseppe Balirano (University of Naples “L’Orientale”) tackled the complexity of social media representations in the current digital landscape. Using the framework of ‘Social Media Critical Discourse Studies’, he addressed the case of online body shaming. His presentation provided strong arguments on the need to raise awareness on the increasing blurring of online/offline scenarios in and through discourse and ensuing threats to self-worth. The workshop attracted a diverse group of senior and junior researchers and encouraged all participants to engage in discussions and questions relevant to English linguistics (and English studies more generally) in Italy and beyond.

Maria Grazia Sindoni

REPORT

Conference: “The First Folio at 400. The Linguistic Legacies of Early Modern Times”

Dates: 10-11 November 2023

Place: University of Bergamo

Organisers: Marina Dossena, Giulia Rovelli

The International Conference “The First Folio at 400. The Linguistic Legacies of Early Modern Times” was held at the University of Bergamo and broadcast online via MS Teams on 10-11 November 2023. It was organized by Marina Dossena and Giulia Rovelli, and supported by AIA (Italian Association for English Studies), CLAVIER (Corpora and Language Variation in English Research Centre) and by Bergamo Brescia Capitale Italiana della Cultura 2023.

The conference aimed to celebrate the publication of Shakespeare’s First Folio in 1623 through a collective debate on how Early Modern English has had an impact on the development of English well into contemporaneity. In an attempt to go beyond the traditional paper presentation format, the conference

Conferences, seminars, schools: information and reports

was structured along a series of dialogues in which Italian and international scholars discussed key themes and issues.

The first dialogue, chaired by Richard Dury (University of Bergamo), was between Donatella Montini (Sapienza University of Rome) and Sonia Massai (King's College London) and focused on how printing and editorial practices interfered with and affected the transmission of Shakespeare's canon by introducing stability in a text and context that were predominantly characterized by instability.

The following two dialogues were chaired by Giovanni Iamartino (University of Milan) and by Alessandra Vicentini (University of Insubria) respectively, and saw Jonathan Culpeper (Lancaster University) discussing first with Philip Durkin (University of Oxford) and then with Gabriella Mazzon (University of Innsbruck); the two dialogues shifted the emphasis onto the Folio as a source of evidence for Early Modern English vocabulary and pragmatics and its employment in such lexicographical projects as the Oxford English Dictionary and The Arden Encyclopedia of Shakespeare's Language.

The fourth dialogue, chaired by Christina Samson (University of Florence), was between Polina Shvanyukova (University of Udine) and Nicholas Brownlees (University of Florence) and it took the discussion beyond the Folio to other key genres that arose at the time, including news and travel writing, which helped shape modern language use.

The final dialogue, chaired by Elisabetta Lonati (University of Eastern Piedmont), was between Massimo Sturiale (University of Milan) and Jeremy Smith (University of Glasgow), who brought the discussion back to Shakespeare's language and its phonetic reconstruction through such projects as Daniel Jones's Pronunciation of early 17th century English and David Crystal's Original Pronunciation, and tackled the question of phonological change and the key role of adaptation in this context.

The first day of proceedings concluded with an "Expanding knowledge" session which was dedicated to the presentation of two recently-funded PRIN projects in English historical linguistics. "Discourses and Contexts of Well-being in the History of English", presented by Giovanni Iamartino (University of Milan), aims to investigate the roots of discursive practices concerning the pursuit of well-being in a theoretical, descriptive and applied perspective. The project will be carried out by four units (University of Milan, Bergamo, Florence and Insubria), focusing on a specific sub-theme each: education, leisure and entertainment, print news and the promotion of (female) civic participation, and the role of science in promoting individual and public health. "MetaLing Corpus: Creating a Corpus of English Linguistics Metalanguage from the 16th to the 18th century", presented by Angela Andreani (University of Milan), studies the terminology, discursive strategies, descriptive metaphors etc. used to discuss language and languages between 1500 and 1700. Through archival research and corpus compilation, the project aims to assess the genres and text-types involved in the circulation of linguistic knowledge before the development of comparative philology and the institutionalization of linguistics as an academic discipline.

The Conference closed on its second day with a session labelled "New scholars' worlds and projects", which gave the floor to PhD students both in Italy and in the UK and allowed them to present and discuss their ongoing projects in English historical linguistics.

REPORT

Conference: “Negative Solidarities. The age of anger and hate speech in the Anglophone globalized public sphere”

Dates: 9-11 November 2023

Place: University of Naples “L’Orientale”

Organiser: Rossella Ciocca

Between the 9th and the 11th of November the Department of Literary, Linguistic and Cultural Studies of the University of Naples “L’Orientale” hosted the international conference Negative Solidarities. The age of anger and hate speech in the Anglophone globalized public sphere as part of a funded research project coordinated by Professor Rossella Ciocca.

In the light of the current scenario characterised by the emergence of a sense of angst and resentment among large parts of the population at a global level, the conference investigated the socio-political and cultural significance of expressions of ‘negative solidarities’ (H. Arendt) in the Anglophone world. It interrogated the literary, artistic and cultural representations of the age of anger (P. Mishra) and hate speech as well as their articulations in political discourse and in news and social media communication, thus developing a linguistic and a literary and cultural side. With the purpose of exploring the local manifestations of a transnational phenomenon, some of the panels were arranged following geo-political contextualization, focusing on three major Anglophone areas. Given the unprecedented communicative power retained by digital and social media in spreading hate speech and fuelling resentment and anger, it is not surprising that space was taken by the investigation of these means of expression and circulation of ideas. Also the panels on digital communication made apparent the local declinations of the age of anger and hate speech.

The first day opened with a panel devoted to the US where the interventions of Brad Bullock, Vincenzo Bavaro and Susannah Mandel explored how hate speech is used in the political arena to foment nationalism, racism and limit the free circulation of ideas. A second section of the panel, articulated through the interventions of Marta Cariello, Maria Cristina Aiezza and Roberto Esposito, discussed literary and artistic forms of resistance to hate speech and examples of angry reactions to the representation of diversity.

Later, the presentations of Sanjukta Das Gupta, Esterino Adami, Giuseppe De Riso and Daniela Vitolo moved the discussion towards the narratives connected to hate and anger in the South Asian context with a particular attention to marginalised communities and the construction of identities.

On the second day, negative solidarity in the UK was debated. The participants to this panel, Sabita Manian, Anna Maria Cimitile and Rossella Ciocca, Francesco Meledandri, Sole Alba Zollo, Fabio Cangero and Antonio Fruttaldo, presented their papers concerning the politics and forms of communication that foment resentment, anger and social divisions in the United Kingdom as well as the cultural expressions they inspire.

Digital and social media were examined on the afternoon of the second day and the morning of the last day of the conference and most of the interventions were based on corpus linguistics. The use of symbols and the emergence of recognizable patterns in hate speech connected the presentations of Victoria Guillén-Nieto, Alberto Manco, Margherita Rasulo and Maria De Santo. The social and digital critical discourse analyses proposed by Maria Cristina Nisco and Annalisa Raffone, Giuseppina Scotto di Carlo and Francesco Nacchia pointed out forms of discrimination and designation that affect certain social groups and communities. Hate speech as related to affects and algorithms was discussed by Tiziana Terranova and Stamatia Portanova, the presentations of Elena Guerra, Stella Merlin, Marta Milani and Michaela Quadraro were centred around ethnicity and the possibilities of countering hate speech. Katherine E. Russo, Marina Niceforo and Lorenzo Zannini presented papers analysing discourses concerning climate change, eco-anxiety and climate adaptation.

Daniela Vitolo

PHD STUDENTS: AIA EVENTS

The next Board meetings with PhD candidates will take place in Turin (December 2022), Naples (January 2024), Milan (February 2024), Rome (March 2024)

In this first operational phase since its inauguration, the Board has consulted repeatedly to define the strategic lines to be prioritised. Among all the issues that have emerged, one seemed to us to be of fundamental importance: to focus on early-career researchers, supporting them in their academic progression and involving them in the projects and activities of our Association thereby encouraging them to increasingly play a role in it.

Among the initiatives we intend to promote is the establishment of routine meetings where doctoral students can discuss their projects with their peers and with senior scholars – first and foremost the members of the Executive Board, but in fact, ideally, any AIA member willing to participate. Our idea is to propose a series of meetings in which PhD students and their mentors can meet to share and discuss research topics primarily, but also broader disciplinary issues and career prospects. We propose to organise meetings at a local level (in a broad sense: we envisage a North, Centre and South subdivision) to encourage participation and at the same time reduce the economic burden. As regards the topics to be addressed and the ways in which the initiative should be articulated, we would first of all like to hear the opinions of members, and in particular of PhD students and tutors. To this end, we ask you to fill in this questionnaire https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXN9Tfy2J0NpUbc1kLjC60FG_Fz2QMGkVpydBE0l8aQox6kg/viewform

The questionnaire is addressed to all AIA members, with the request that it also be circulated to fellow Anglicists who, although not yet members, have an interest in the topic.

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For the newsletter: please send your documents in Word or Pages format. News on conferences, publications etc. maximum 250 words; conference reports maximum 500 words.

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