

AIA

Associazione Italiana di Anglistica

Newsletter 114 Spring 2024



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Editorial

Dear colleagues,

My introductory message in this spring editorial will most certainly be more concise than it was in our previous Newsletter. I'm afraid that the need to introduce the new AIA Board inevitably made my last communication quite lengthy. I will continue, however, to maintain English as our preferred language of communication, as I firmly believe that this choice will also attract interest from readers outside Italy. While I acknowledge that a few of our members advocate the use of Italian for a more familiar touch, it is clear that many others are perfectly content with English as this is consistent with the rest of the Newsletter.

I would like to begin by extending my heartfelt thanks to all the PhD students who joined us – either in person or remotely – at the AIA for PhD meetings organised across various locations in Italy. These moments of engagement with our young AIA colleagues have proven to be particularly stimulating, fostering lively debates about the role the Association can play when interacting with doctoral programmes and candidates in the field of English Studies. Following the kick-off meeting in Turin, the AIA Board went on to host more sessions in Naples, Milan and Rome. The level of enthusiasm we have observed has been truly inspiring, and we eagerly look forward to sharing the results of the survey administered to participants in the forthcoming Newsletters. This survey has already highlighted both the positive aspects and areas for improvement in the initiatives promoted by AIA. Our next encounter with doctoral members is scheduled for April 12, 2024, in Catania. On that occasion, the Board will concentrate on the selection of research topics and other issues related to the doctoral journey. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all the colleagues who generously took part in these meetings, by sharing their research experiences through methodological seminars tailored to doctoral students or simply engaging them in fruitful dialogue during our sessions.

In conjunction with these itinerant initiatives, the Board has dedicated significant effort to the restyling of the AIA website (<https://www.anglistica.it/>). As some of you may have already noticed, the site now features a completely revamped interface, characterised by richer content and improved intuitiveness. This update aims to offer our members a more rewarding and user-friendly digital experience when navigating the website. We are also delighted to announce the launch of the official AIA YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@AIABroadcast>). This new platform will enable us to share a wide range of multimedia content with our members, including exclusive interviews, academic seminars, conferences, and much more. Our goal is to expand our communication channels further and provide more immediate access to AIA resources and events.

The upcoming AIA Seminar titled “A Linguistic Lens on Narratives in Professional Settings” is scheduled to take place at the Brixen-Bressanone campus of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano from May 16 to 18, 2024. This event promises to be enriching with insightful discussions and presentations. It will also host the AIA General Assembly,

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providing an opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue and shape the future direction of our association. For further details and updates regarding the seminar, please visit the event website at <https://www.aiabrixen2024.com/>. I look forward to welcoming many of you to Bolzano for this stimulating and collaborative gathering. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our colleague Maria Cristina Gatti who organised this captivating AIA event.

The AIA Board is also in the process of organising a new Summer school which will take place at the University of Chieti-Pescara from July 9 to 12, 2024. The theme of this event is “Place, Space and Identity in the Anglophone World: Linguistic, Literary and Cultural Insights”, exploring how individuals navigate and define their surroundings through language, literature and culture. I would like to thank the organisers, Maria Concetta Costantini, Enrichetta Soccio and Tania Zulli who are actively collaborating with the AIA Board to shape and refine such a thought-provoking event. More details will be available in the upcoming weeks.

The AIA Board, supported by the invaluable contribution of some of our members together with some secondary school teachers of English, has planned a series of initiatives called AIA for School. The flagship initiative is a Training Course on the Teaching of English in the New Millennium tailored specifically for secondary school teachers of English. This course comprises a cycle of 15 two-hour modules, scheduled weekly from October 2024. The objectives of this ambitious course encompass various topics related to the teaching of English language and culture, including: a) promoting critical reflection on language, literary and cultural teaching, b) providing updates on the most innovative teaching methodologies, and c) paying special attention to fostering inclusion for students of English with special educational needs. The modules will address a wide range of fundamental themes, such as teaching methodologies, phonology, pragmatics, corpus linguistics, multimodal communication, audio-visual translation, digital tools, stylistics, history of the English language, and teaching English to learners with specific learning disorders. The precious logistical support offered by the Language Centre of the University of Pisa has made the planning and implementation of this training course possible, and I would like to take advantage of this Newsletter to express my sincere gratitude to all the colleagues who have enabled the initiative, with special thanks to Silvia Bruti for her invaluable coordination work in organising the course.

An important initiative aimed at renewing the members of the Advisory Board of *Textus* (<https://www.carocci.it/prodotto/textus-2>) has also been undertaken by the AIA Board as in recent years this kind of review had not been systematically carried out. The need to proceed in such a manner also arose from the new regulations for the classification of journals in the CUN areas 8a, 10, 11a, 12, 13, and 14 which was approved on December 21, 2023 (<https://shorturl.at/nEPSV>), with new provisions regarding the top ranking (‘Classe A’) requirements for journals. In response to this, each member of the Board, having consulted several colleagues within the Association, put forward the names of a selection

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of excellent scholars belonging to each disciplinary field. Shortly, the *Textus* website will be updated to reflect these changes within the editorial team. We believe that this update will enhance the quality of our journal and ensure that it continues to meet the highest standards of academic excellence.

As regards the reorganisation of the training pathways for Italian school teachers of English and the updated qualification categories outlined in the DPCM of August 4, 2023, and published in the Official Gazette No. 224 on September 25, I participated in a series of dedicated meetings together with our Vice-President Marilena Parlati. These meetings also involved our CUN representatives in Area 10. I will not enter into the details of these discussions in great depth since, in the following pages of the Newsletter, you will find a brief report edited by the Vice-President providing comprehensive information for AIA members.

On a lighter note, in the upcoming pages of the Newsletter, you will find the announcement regarding the AIA Book Prizes and the AIA PhD Prize. The AIA Board, with its constant commitment to promoting academic excellence within our community, has worked diligently to revise and improve the regulations for these prestigious awards. Now more than ever, we invite all of you to actively participate in this academic competition. The AIA Junior Book Prize, the AIA Book Prize, and the AIA PhD Prize are prestigious awards granted to academic volumes and doctoral theses written by AIA members, who have made significant contributions to the field of English studies in all its various areas. I am certain that among you, there are many scholars who have produced works of great academic value that deserve to be recognised and rewarded for their contribution to research in the field of English studies. In this regard, for the evaluation of these works, we need to nominate a jury made up of experts in the field of English Studies. I therefore ask our senior members to express their willingness to volunteer as members of the evaluation committee by contacting Vice-President Marilena Parlati (marilena.parlati@unipd.it).

Meanwhile, as anticipated in the previous editorial, the draws for the constitution of the ASN (National Scientific Qualification) commissions 2023–2025 were held on December 19, 2023, subsequently integrated on January 17, 2024 for the 10/L1 sector. It is therefore with great pleasure that I extend my best wishes to the Commission in charge of evaluating the candidates, composed of Rita Calabrese (University of Salerno, s.s.d. L-LIN/12), Andrea Carosso (University of Turin, s.s.d. L-LIN/11), Flavio Gregori (University of Venice, s.s.d. L-LIN/10), Biancamaria Rizzardi (University of Pisa, s.s.d. L-LIN/10), and Tania Zulli (University of Chieti-Pescara, s.s.d. L-LIN/12). Best of luck once again to all the colleagues participating in the ASN 2023–2025.

The deadline for the submission of applications for the new Evaluation Expert Groups (GEV–VQR 2020–2024) was on January 15, 2024, together with that of the Assistants to support ANVUR research evaluation. The list of successful candidates has now been published on the official ANVUR website (<https://shorturl.at/flpzT>). We are currently

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awaiting the appointments related to the call for expressions of interest to serve as experts in the Working Group for Journals (GdL) 2024–2027. The submission deadline was on March 15, 2024.

Let me conclude this Newsletter by reminding all members that registrations are open for the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE) Conference of 2024, to be held at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, from August 26 to 30, 2024. This conference is a unique opportunity to network with scholars from around the world, gain insights into the latest research in English studies, and contribute to current academic debates in our field of study.

Before taking my leave, allow me to extend a gentle reminder to renew your membership with our association. For detailed information, visit our website: <https://www.anglistica.it/join-ai/>. For those of you who have already done so, thank you for your continued support and dedication to the advancement of English studies through AIA.

I wish each and every one of you a productive and rewarding semester. As we transition into spring, let us reflect upon the challenges and opportunities ahead in the ever-changing academic environment. May spring offer us not only milder temperatures, but also the opportunity to find moments of personal growth and interaction within our academic community. It is important to remember that our Association is a point of reference for dialogue and collaboration among all scholars of English language, literature, and culture. Every moment of interaction, whether in a Newsletter such as this or during an academic meeting, is an opportunity to strengthen our bonds and to share knowledge and experiences. Together, we must strive to build a better future for the next generation of academics. A legacy does not merely entail transmitting goods from one person to another, but rather allowing those who come after us to have our very same experiences, and to improve upon them. Therefore, our growth and development do not tread a solitary path but are part of a collective journey towards a common goal: the creation of an academic environment that is ever-more inclusive and stimulating. I invite you all to actively participate in the life of the Italian Association of English Studies, by attending our events, contributing with your ideas and your commitment. Together we can achieve extraordinary results and leave a lasting legacy for future generations of scholars of English language, literature, and culture.

Warm regards,
Giuseppe Balirano

EDITORIAL DIGEST

Extraordinary Assembly on January 8, 2024

In light of recent changes in the training pathways for Italian school teachers of English and the updated qualification categories outlined in the DPCM of August 4, 2023, as published in Official Gazette No. 224 on September 25, 2023, our AIA President requested my assistance in convening an Extraordinary Assembly on January 8. This assembly was exclusively intended for AIA members within the L-LIN/10 area. Mauro Tulli, our CUN representative for Area 10, and Giuseppe Balirano were among the attendees.

During a December 2023 meeting of Foreign Languages and Literatures representatives in CUN, it was agreed to eliminate any equivalence between courses in L-LIN/12 (English Language and Translation) and those in L-LIN/11 (American Literature) and L-LIN/10. However, establishing equivalence between these literary and cultural sub-disciplines remained open for discussion.

After extensive and thorough discussions among English Literature and English Culture professors (L-LIN/10) within the Italian Association of English Studies, it was concluded that achieving complete equivalence between the two areas was not feasible due to the need for comprehensive training for prospective educators. This decision was made with the utmost consideration for the quality of education. While there was a desire to include courses in L-LIN/11, American Literature, in the training curriculum whenever possible, the AIA resolved that the 24 CFUs in English literatures must include at least 18 CFUs obtained in the SSD L-LIN/10.

Similar resolutions were adopted by other national associations in English Literary Studies (AISCLI, ANDA, IASEMS). Subsequent meetings, involving the President and Vice-President of AIA, aimed to negotiate a widely accepted position with representatives from Anglo-American studies, as advocated by our Area 10 representatives in CUN.

Meanwhile, Ministerial Decree No. 255 (dated 22-12-2023) concerning the revision of teaching qualification categories for access to teaching positions in secondary schools was published in the Official Gazette on February 12, 2024. This decree clarified that CFUs obtained in SSD L-LIN/10 (English Literature) and L-LIN/11 (English and Anglo-American Languages and Literatures), as well as L-LIN/05 (Spanish Literature) and L-LIN/06 (Spanish and Hispanic-American Languages and Literatures), are 'equivalent'.

Further negotiation processes involving all Foreign Language Associations, particularly those related to the mentioned SSDs, are expected. However, during the CUN meeting on 29/02/2024, it was indicated that L-LIN/11 professors intend to adhere strictly to the law, making changes in their favour unlikely. Nonetheless, Professor Tulli has scheduled additional meetings to work towards a consensus in the coming months. The AIA President and Vice-President will continue to participate, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive profile for individuals entering the teaching profession.

Marilena Parlati, AIA Vice-President

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

Call for abstracts

***Textus* issue 1/2025 - Language**

The Breeding Grounds of Conflict: Discourses of War, Discrimination, Protest, and Disinformation

Guest co-editors:

Bronwen Hughes (Parthenope University of Naples)

Margaret Rasulo (University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli)

Ruth Wodak (Lancaster University/University of Vienna)

Copy Editor: Laura Ann McLean (University of Turin)

*Sticks and stones will break my bones,
and words will always hurt me.*

Although the word ‘conflict’ brings international warfare readily to mind, disagreements can occur at any level or setting. By adopting a broader definition of the term, other fissiparous contexts and circumstances are called into play. Stripped of its many connotative features, conflict entails the duality of opposing factions, the ‘taking of sides’, the perception of an enemy, and the apportioning of interest.

Our era is witnessing a surge of opinions, actions, and beliefs of a conflictual nature. The manifold contexts in which conflict arises range from overt hostile manifestations of dissent to covert hate-inducing tactics. The daily exposure to a myriad of viral inoculations of animosity which contaminate our personal and professional identity impacts upon our ever-diminishing resilience as human beings, leading to vulnerability and permeability.

In the presence of a persistent feeling of defencelessness when faced with conflict, alarming levels of negative emotional expenditure are likely to emerge, with an ensuing sense of fear, coupled with other adverse feelings of anxiety, anger and frustration. Linked to cultural and collective trauma, fear is indeed the emotional force that shapes human agency as well as attitudes. In conflict-steeped contexts, individuals are confronted with a lingering perception of threat brought about by social disruption and division. In political settings, fear is at its pinnacle when it strives to divide the world into “good” and “bad” citizens, thus legitimizing politics of exclusion, dramatization and emotionalization (Wodak, 2015). In the spirit of the survival of the fittest, in such dire circumstances, rather than stifling divergencies through resolutory actions, we tend to react by taking the emotional turn, prompting either the avoidance or the instigation of conflict (Bramsen et al. 2014; Wahl-Jorgensen, 2019). Thus, despite the much-needed call for a ceasefire across all breeding grounds of conflict, worldwide evidence points to the normalization (Wodak 2015) of hostile patterns and propaganda without counter remedies or calls for action.

Be it open or proxy warfare, online/offline hate speech, climate injustice or economic disparity, the sheer callousness of conflictual behaviour – whether ideational, ideological, or emotional - erodes the very fabric of society and leads to widespread polarization. Conflict is by its very nature complex, and the recent global pandemic with its attendant move to online platforms has added new layers of difficulty. Online environments are intrinsically conducive to the proliferation of conflictual discourses often linked to the viral spreading of disinformation. Indeed, information warfare abounds on social media sites, and is often blamed for intensifying societal polarization by creating echo chambers (E. Bakshy et al., 2015). For political, social, religious, or economic reasons, these filters tend to prevent people from being exposed to evidence-based information (Del Vicario et al. 2016), resulting in the blurring of social boundaries dangerous common ground which not only excludes the ‘other’, as an individual or perspective, but also breeds conflict. The phenomenon known as context collapse, inherent to the architecture of social media, and consisting in the blurring of social boundaries

between the private and the public, or the personal and the professional, only serves to aggravate the problem (Davis and Jurgenson 2014). When every interaction is addressed to a multiple audience and the distinctiveness of context collapses, the platform takes over and controls the only gateway to/for information. Language does participate in the worldview of conflicts, and discursive representations of antagonism may serve to exacerbate or ameliorate situations of unacceptable strife. One such dynamic is the Us and Them division (van Dijk, 1998) that reproduces positive self-presentation and negative other- presentation (Reisigl and Wodak, 2001). This view of the world not only mobilizes conflict to initiate or stifle necessary social action, such as passing vital legislation to solve climate change or immigration, but also legitimizes attacks on existing institutions and the rule of law.

Extensive exposure to the dynamics of conflict and contingent factors therefore provides significant insights into the role of language and discourse in understanding and addressing such issues. Whatever the context of usage, discourses of conflict, due to their insidious nature can, and often do, go undetected. Lack of awareness, in turn, leads to collateral damage stemming from asymmetries of power, opposing interests and reduced social capital.

Conflict, as emerges from the above discussion, is a phenomenon of such complexity and breadth, that it cannot be fully understood within the boundaries of a single discipline and needs to be addressed from an interdisciplinary viewpoint. Contributions to this issue of *Textus* will therefore extend the debate by raising the levels of critical awareness and providing understanding of the multiple ways in which hostile systems perpetuate themselves to the grave detriment of the basic needs of individuals and groups.

Possible areas of research include but are not limited to the following:

- Discourses of Nationalism
- Gender Identity Representation
- Political discourse
- Health discourse
- Immigration
- Physical and sexual aggression, from individual violence to mass aggression, including genocide and terrorism.
- The dynamics and evolution of conflict and resolution.
- Peace research
- Religion and anger
- Gender and anger
- Ethnicity, marginalization and anger
- Isolation and competition
- (Im)politeness theory
- Geo-political fields of tension
- Hate speech and xenophobia, racism, disability, sexism, discrimination
- The representation of identity in traditional and new media
- Institutional discourse and identity representation
- Identities and conflict in translation
- Identity construction in postcolonial settings
- Language, gender identity and sexuality
- National/nationalist identity construction
- Language, identity and disability
- Language, identity and ethnicity
- Language, identity and ageism
- Language, identity and religion
- Linguistic identity construction: native/L1 vs. non-native/L2
- Identity in academic, professional and specialized domains

Selected methods and approaches should be rooted in the fields of:

- Terminology, Lexicology and Lexicography
- Metaphor, Rhetoric and Argumentation
- (Critical) Discourse Analysis
- Corpus Linguistics
- Multimodal Discourse Analysis
- Audiovisual translation, interpreting and accessibility

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Submission of abstracts and timeline

Please send abstracts to: mags1@libero.it, bronwen.hughes@uniparthenope.it

Timeline

Deadline for abstracts submission (400 words plus references): **30 April 2024**. Please put as subject line “Textus Language Issue 1/2025 – abstract submission”

Notification to authors: **15 May 2024**

Deadline for submission of first draft of article (maximum 7500 words including references): **31 August 2024**

Request for revisions following peer review: **15 October 2024**

Deadline for final version of article: **15 December 2024**

Textus

Call for abstracts

Textus issue 2/2025 - Literature

The Voices of Water: Intermedial and Multimodal Blue Eco-Stories

Guest co-editors:

Gilberta Golinelli (Bologna University)

Maddalena Pennacchia (Roma Tre University)

**Niklas Salmose (Linnaeus University, Vaxjo, Sweden -
Center of Intermedial and Multimodal Studies, Sweden)**

Copy Editor: Gaia Amrita Whitright (Roma Tre University)

What does water tell us of its story? How many stories are there in the voices of water? And how can we learn to listen to its many languages and eventually 'speak' them? There have been in the past artists and writers who have tried to listen to the voices of the rain, the sea, rivers and lakes. But was it really the voices of water they were listening to? Or was it just their own? And how did they transform it into a communicative object that could be shared by other fellow beings. "The nymphs are departed" wrote T.S. Eliot in *The Waste Land* (1922) with a nostalgic take on the polluted Thames, as if centuries, and not just one, had passed from Wordsworth's sublime exaltation of "the roar of waters, torrents, streams / Innumerable, roaring with one voice" (*Prelude*, 1805). And that was before any discussion concerning climate changes and unprecedented droughts, before we knew of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, before the Dutch Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Paul Crutzen, gave a name and a visibility to the concept of Anthropocene (2000), before we ever heard the word Solastalgia (G. Albrecht, 2005), before the sustainable development goals were even conceived. Is there a possible genealogy of old and multifaceted blue eco-stories? And if it exists, does it contain values and perspectives that can be worthy of transformation and reintegration into today' and tomorrow's society? What of writers who in their literary works try to listen to the voices of water today? How do they interact, if they do, with science reports and evidences? What multimodal and intermedial strategies do they explore to host and welcome the voices of water and their own? Can their work facilitate the process of societal changes so necessary to the survival of future generations? Some, like Carla Benedetti (2022), think so. With the help of a powerful leverage: empathy. This volume invites papers dealing with old and new eco-stories of water, how they are fashioned and communicated multimodally and intermedially, and what they can do for us.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Textual, figurative, and multimodal representations of old and new eco-stories of water and their intermedial relation.
- Nostalgia, pastoral and environmental discourses: between fiction and scientific knowledge.
- Literary critical approaches and ocean/blue cultural studies.
- Gender, genre(s) and genealogies of blue storytelling.
- Empathy, social impact and transformative power of blue-eco-stories.
- Issues of gender, nature, and aquatic environment.

- Social changes and changing constructions of aquatic environment.
- The rhetoric of water: questioning and re-fashioning aquatic environments

Keywords: blue ecocriticism, water, anthropocene, solastalgia, climate changes, resilience, transformation, humanities and science relation, empathy, intermediality, multimodality, language ecology (with specific reference to the aquatic environment), fiction and literary texts.

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Submission of abstracts and timeline

Please send abstracts to: gilberta.golinelli2@unibo.it, maddalena.pennacchia@uniroma3.it and niklas.salmose@lnu.se

Timeline

Deadline for abstracts submission (400 words plus references): **15 September 2024**. Please put as subject line "Textus Literature Issue 2/2025 – abstract submission"

Notification to authors: **30 September 2024**

Deadline for submission of first draft of article (maximum 7500 words including references): **31 December 2024**

Request for revisions following peer review: **15 February 2025**

Deadline for final version of article: **15 April 2025**

Call for abstracts

Textus issue 3/2025 - Cross-disciplinary issue

Text Analysis and Digital Humanities in English Studies

Guest co-editors:

Maristella Gatto (University of Bari)

Michaela Mahlberg (University of Birmingham)

Lorenzo Mastropiero (University of Insubria)

Francesca Saggini (University of Tuscia)

Copy Editor: Eileen Mulligan (University of Bari)

Over the past decades, Digital Humanities have moved from being a niche discipline to a fast-growing research field, covering all areas where the humanities meet digital methods, resources, and tools. This digital revolution has triggered paradigm shifts in disciplinary fields as diverse as philology, history, geography, music, cultural heritage, literature, and linguistics. Indeed, the impact of the digital turn in literary and linguistic studies can be felt in a number of areas, from archiving, to editing, to computer-aided critical and stylistic analysis, as well as in the development of tools for the representation and visualization of language data in texts of any kind (Schreibman et al. 2016). More crucially, the huge amount of textual data available in digital format to the literature and language scholars alike has had a significant impact on the range of research questions that it is possible to address (Hiltunen et al. 2017). Nonetheless, digital approaches to text analysis in English Studies – mostly in the field of corpus linguistics and corpus stylistics – have had limited interactions with Digital Humanities, while it is exactly these interactions that will bring about true innovation. The time has come, therefore, for corpus linguistics, literary stylistics, and Digital Humanities to finally come together as they “theoretically have much in common, but in practice more often than not operate within disciplinary boundaries” (Mahlberg and Wiegand 2020: 323). Methodological triangulation that builds on commonality and convergence among these cognate areas will be beneficial to understand further the dialogical relationship among them, and be conducive of interdisciplinary development. This issue of *Textus* aims to foster such interdisciplinary dialogues and encourage methodological triangulations between Digital Humanities, corpus approaches, and other methods for computer-aided text analysis in English Studies. It will provide a forum to showcase cutting-edge research and stimulate reflections on the potential of the interplay between computer-based approaches to text analysis and Digital Humanities in English Studies, from both the perspective of literature and language studies.

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Mahlberg, M. 2013, *Corpus Stylistics and Dickens's Fiction*, London, Routledge.

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Martin, P. E. 2022, *The Digital Humanities and Literary Studies*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Underwood, T., 2019, *Distant Horizons. Digital Evidence and Literary Change*, Chicago, Chicago University Press.

Submission of abstracts

Please send abstracts to: maristella.gatto@uniba.it, m.a.mahlberg@bham.ac.uk, lorenzo.mastropierro@uninsubria.it, fsaggini@unitus.it

Timeline

Deadline for abstracts submission (400 words plus references): **15 December 2024**. Please put as subject line "Textus Cross-disciplinary Issue 3/2025 – abstract submission"

Notification to authors: **15 January 2025**

Deadline for submission of first draft of article (maximum 7500 words including references): **31 May 2025**

Request for revisions following peer review: **15 July 2025**

Deadline for final version of article: **1 September 2025**

AIA Junior Book Prize and AIA Book Prize

The Association warmly invites applications for its annual AIA Junior Book Prize and AIA Book Prize. The awards are given to scholarly books written by AIA members that have made significant contributions to the field of English studies (in all its multifaceted aspects) and have been published in the three years preceding the application. These Prizes go to monograph studies or critical editions, written either in Italian or English, published in each of the following fields:

1. English language and linguistics;
2. Literatures in English;
3. Cultural studies in English.

Conference proceedings or multi-authored volumes will not be accepted.

For the complete requirements, guidelines and application procedure, please see:

<https://www.anglistica.it/requirements/>

AIA PhD Prize

The prize is an annual award guaranteeing publication, sponsored by Carocci, of a doctoral dissertation in English studies. Submitted PhD doctoral dissertations must be works of original scholarly research in the field of English studies, written in English or Italian. Candidates must have been awarded their PhD in the two preceding years and must have been members of AIA for at least 3 years before the application.

For the complete requirements, guidelines and application procedure, please see: <https://www.anglistica.it/requirements/>

Deadlines for 2024 (no General AIA Conference)

For all categories, applications must be sent by May 31, 2024.

Evaluation results will be made public by December 1, 2024.

Deadlines for 2025 (Turin AIA Conference)

For all categories, applications must be sent by February 1, 2025.

Evaluation results will be made public by September 1, 2025.

Selection committees (one for the book prizes and one for PhD) will include three AIA members, drawn from a list of volunteering tenured professors, including retired staff. The list will be made public before the deadline for 2024 applications.



Call for Papers

A Linguistic Lens on Narratives in Professional Settings

**Faculty of Education
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano
Brixen-Bressanone campus**

16–18 May 2024

Since the narrative turn in the 1990s there has been ongoing academic interest in the role of narrative as a meaning-making practice that reaches across time and place, and is reflected not only in ‘grand narratives’, or broad cultural scripts, but also in situated social realities and everyday oral and written practices. It is widely recognized that narratives are used to express and negotiate both individual and collective identities, which are performed through a variety of communicative modes and codes (De Fina, 2015; Fairclough, 1995). We are socialized in narrative frames of mind from an early age, and we continue to tell stories throughout our lives, in both personal and professional domains.

In narratological research, narratives have historically been characterized as being driven by micro components, the “basic elements of narrative” (Herman, 2009), which Toolan identifies as a combination of “events, characters and settings” (1988: p. 12), providing a minimal form that captures core problems of individuals and societies, drives stories forward, and makes them coherent. Departing from Labov’s (1972) influential model of naturally occurring narratives, more recent studies have explored ‘small stories’ (Georgakopoulou, 2006; Bamberg and Georgakopoulou, 2008), an “umbrella term that captures a gamut of underrepresented narrative activities” (Bamberg and Georgakopoulou, 2008: p. 381) and include a variety of texts with which we are engaged in professional and public settings, such as news stories, social media posts, emails, instant messages, reports, proposals, case studies, clinical notes, ethnographic interviews, etc. These texts not only crosscut the spoken, written, and electronic modality, but are increasingly multi-modal. This multi-dimensional complexity reveals “the reflexive relationship between discourse and social change”, highlighting how each informs and drives the other (Candlin et al., 2017: p. 217). Furthermore, in professional domains, stories are often made not only to be told, but also to be sold, and emerge from multiple stakeholders’ collaboration, which complicates any assumption about the writer’s creativity and freedom of expression.

Research on professional discourse follows various lines of inquiry and offers diverse socio-critical perspectives on the use of language in institutionalized and workplace contexts. How are social and personal identities performed through the process of storying within professional discourse communities? Which genres are preferred over others in specific social groups and professional interactions? Which heterogeneous practices of intertextuality and interdiscursivity (Candlin and Maley, 1997) emerge in professional communication? How is narrative stance-taking constructed? How is the communicative success of the story evaluated? Do discursive practices in institutional settings maintain a critical distance from dominant ideologies or reproduce them? What ethical potential and risks are associated with different strategies for narrating experiences in professional contexts? What lexical and morphosyntactic features are typical of specific narrative texts? How are narrative and discourse analysis



interrelated? These are some of the questions the AIA 2024 Seminar “A Linguistic Lens on Narratives in Professional Settings” seeks to explore.

We invite reflections on English-language narratives in professional settings from different research areas and disciplines. We particularly welcome contributions from PhD students and emerging scholars from a range of theoretical and methodological approaches, such as, but not limited to, conversation analysis, discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis, genre analysis, corpus linguistics, contrastive linguistics, cognitive linguistics, and ethnography of communication.

Possible topics to be explored include, but are not limited to:

- Academic writing and speaking
- Corporate and organizational communication
- Culture, cultural studies, cultural promotion, cultural mediation
- Education
- Environment and environmentalism
- Health and medicine
- Legal practice
- News, mass media, social media
- Politics
- Science and technology
- Social work and welfare
- Travel and tourism

Confirmed plenary sessions

“Storytelling in corporate sustainability discourse: from narratives to Narratives and back”
Paola Catenaccio, University of Milan

“Curated storytelling in/for the digital era: The case of story-formats”
Alexandra Georgakopoulou-Nunes, King’s College London

“Storying Consumer Experiences: Narrativity in Online Reviews”
Camilla Vasquez, University of South Florida

Submission guidelines

Submissions can be made by AIA members only. For information about AIA membership, see: <https://www.anglistica.it/join-aia/>.

We are accepting abstracts for 20-minute presentations, with 10 minutes for questions and discussion. Abstracts will be 250–300 words (not including references). Please use the APA 7 citation style for references.

Seminar website: <https://www.aiabrixen2024.com>

Abstract submissions: https://openreview.net/group?id=AIA/2024/Seminar_Brixen

Important dates:

- **Abstract submission: from February 1 to March 25, 2024**
- **Notification of acceptance: April 15, 2024**



AIA Summer School

Place, Space, and Identity in the Anglophone World: Linguistic, Literary, and Cultural Insights

9-12 July 2024

Università degli Studi “G. d’Annunzio” Chieti-Pescara

The summer school in “Place, Space, and Identity in the Anglophone World: Linguistic, Literary, and Cultural Insights” aims to bring together students and early-career researchers and develop knowledge, methodologies, and new perspectives on the complex relationship between space, place, and identity.

The evolving global scenario calls for a redefinition of temporal and spatial dimensions in terms of cosmopolitan, transnational, and transcultural practices. These, in turn, contribute to shaping new identities that are characterized by evolution and fluidity. People negotiate their relationships with the environments and the communities inscribing their identities onto physical spaces imbued with power dynamics, socio-economic factors, and cultural memory.

Within this framework, the summer school intends to develop relevant theoretical approaches to investigate identity construction at the intersection of linguistic, literary, and cultural studies. The aim is to provide a forum to explore the multifaceted dialogue between space, place, and identity, and their mutual influences.

Lectures and seminars will explore how

- language engages with the pragmatic and discursive construction of space-place relationships in transnational contexts and their identitarian implications;
- literature delves into the complexities of individual experience and amplifies marginalized voices, shedding light on the intersection of identity construction and categorization;
- the agency of individuals and communities negotiates identities within spatial environments, navigating between belonging and exclusion, rootedness and mobility.

More detailed information regarding the AIA Summer School, including sessions, speakers, and registration details, will be made available shortly. Please stay tuned for updates as the organising committee finalises these details.

Calls for papers: publications, conferences, schools

Publications

Journal: *BRNO Studies in English*

Special Issue: Encounters with Water: An Ecolinguistic perspective

Editors: Douglas Mark Ponton, Cristina Arizzi

Submission deadline for abstracts: June 30, 2024

Submission of paper: December 31, 2024

Email for contributions: encounterswithwater@gmail.com

Environmental issues have seldom ranked higher in the agendas of public debate. The emergent research paradigm of Ecolinguistics (Fill and Mühlhäusler 2001, Fill and Penz 2018) represents the response to the crisis by ecologically-minded linguists, who may critique underlying socio-cognitive frameworks (Halliday 1990) or dominant anti-ecological narratives (Stibbe 2015). Within this framework, the topic of water occupies a place that is hard to define: though manifestly essential to the survival not just of the human species but to all life forms supported by the Earth, it somehow slips away from our attention. To most first worlders it represents a gift that may easily be taken for granted, while indigenous peoples may be only too aware of issues with access to it (Jackson 2018). Eco-awareness in contemporary social movements is frequently associated with the colour green - with plants, trees, flowers, forests – yet these features of the lifescape depend on the nourishing presence of water, its natural cycles and rhythms.

Underlying Ecolinguistics are a range of philosophical and spiritual positions that have been characterised by Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess (1973) as consisting in either ‘shallow’ or ‘deep’ ecological perspectives. In the context of water, the former would refer to social practices that aim to guarantee access to this essential resource for human purposes like drinking, bathing or washing clothes. Such aspects reflect the instrumental view of Nature that typifies our current relationship with water as a resource, primarily as something that has an instrumental value. Deep ecology values water in a more profound sense. Of course, it would value and ‘venerate’ all the ‘ways and forms of life’ (Naess 1973: 95-6) that are found in seas, lakes and rivers. But more, it would seek to nurture a complete, holistic and open-hearted awareness of water as a vital element in our biosphere, and a respect for what it has represented historically and continues to represent today.

Both approaches could support Ecolinguistic enquiries: for example, one could emphasise the social value of water, view it as the locus of modern territorial struggles in a context of droughts that motivate human migration. Water may be seen as a token for conflicts between industries that require water to run their factories and local populations who would rather see city parks enriched by unpolluted wetland environments. Alternatively, we could look with the eyes of artists and ecologists at water, towards those who have found spiritual meanings and unfolding identities in their ‘encounters with water’, meanings that connect denizens of the modern world with the ancient, traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples (Gottlieb 2004), and with some of the environmental voices from western literary and cultural traditions.

Publications

Journal: *Dive-In. An International Journal on Diversity & Inclusion*

Issue: “New Styles, New Meanings, New Identities”

Editors: Monica Turci, Antonella Luporini, Jane Helen Johnson

Submission deadline for abstracts (500 words): June 15, 2024

Link CfP: <https://dive-in.unibo.it/announcement/view/588University>

That style is a core aspect of any cultural artefact has been widely commented on, placing it at the centre of attention of several disciplines, ranging from Cultural Studies to Linguistics and Literary Criticism. The power of style to shape our vision of the world and what it means to be human has far-reaching and profound cultural and ideological implications. Moving from these general premises, the eighth issue (2/2024) of the DIVE-IN journal invites contributions focusing on emerging styles that are still marginal and yet of central importance for the present cultural and geo-political context.

Topics of interest may include, but are not limited to, the following: Emerging styles in specialized discourses, particularly in relation to the environmental crisis and Covid; Inclusive stylistic choices in translation; Style and Artificial Intelligence; Stylistic innovations in literature as a form of counter-culture; Recent and emerging styles in multimodal discourse; Fake news and style; Teaching emerging styles in their contexts of production and reception.

Abstracts should be sent to the following e-mail addresses: antonella.luporini@unibo.it, monica.turci2@unibo.it and janehelen.johnson@unibo.it with the object: "Proposal 2/2024 - theme-based" or "Proposal 2/2024 - miscellaneous".

Journal: *Lingue Culture Mediazioni/Languages Cultures Mediation*

Issue: vol. 11 (2024), issue No 2: “The Language of War: Lexicon, Metaphor, Discourse”

Guest Editors: Anna Anselmo, Kim Grego, Andreas Musolff

Please check <https://www.ledonline.it/index.php/LCM-Journal/announcement/view/96> **for the full call for proposals and for deadlines.**

Please direct any expressions of interest to the corresponding guest editor: anna.anselmo@unife.it

This issue aims to offer critical insight into the construal (Fairclough 2003) of war in the discursive public sphere. War can be broadly conceptualised according to van der Dennen, as “a species of the genus of violence”; specifically, it is “collective, direct, manifest, personal, intentional, organised, institutionalised, sanctioned, and sometimes ritualised and regulated violence” (1981). War is here intended both as “a flexible trope suitable for an allusion to any serious strife, struggle or campaign” (Dinstein 2018: 5), and as the archetypical “manifestation of international armed conflicts”, regulated by law (Dinstein 2018: 8). Against this definitional backdrop, this issue aims to provide a diachronic perspective spanning the long nineteenth-century (from 1789 ca.), the twentieth century up until the present. The issue intends to provide a critical appreciation of the role of language use and language users in construing and interpreting war, and insightful analyses at the level of lexicon and semantics, rhetoric (e.g. metaphor, euphemism) and discourse, conceived as “that part of social and political action that is linguistic” (Chilton 1987). Consequently, contributions may focus on how the Government, the media, political activists and intellectuals, and private individuals write about war. Genres of potential interest are political speeches, parliamentary proceedings, news articles and opinion pieces, political writings, social media, non-fiction, and private letters, among others. Relevant methodology includes terminology, lexicology and lexicography; metaphor, rhetoric, and argumentation; (critical) discourse analysis, corpus-assisted and multimodal discourse analysis.

Publications

Journal: *Prospero - A Journal of Foreign Literatures and Cultures*

Issue: General Issue - Prospero XXIX, 2024

Editor: Roberta Gefter Wondrich

Submission deadline for abstracts (350 words): April 12, 2024

Send abstract and bio to Roberta Gefter Wondrich (gefte@units.it) **and to the journal email address** prospero@units.it.

Website: <https://www.openstarts.units.it/communities/bddf575c-df32-432c-a03d-cba533e93af5>

Prospero, Rivista di Letterature e culture straniere (A Journal of Foreign Literatures and cultures) University of Trieste, Italy, invites contributions for the forthcoming general issue, volume XXIX (2024). Prospero is a double-blind peer reviewed, printed and entirely open access journal, published annually by EUT, Trieste University Press. It is indexed by MLA, Erih+, DoAJ, ProQuest. It publishes articles and essays in the field of literary studies which consider texts and textual analysis from a wide hermeneutic, philological and historical perspective. It specifically focuses on literary studies considered in their interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary relationships with other cultural expressions. The 2024 issue invites proposals on literatures in English for the Anglophone section. Full articles, in English or Italian, should be comprised between 6000 and 10000 words, endnotes and bibliography included, according to the MLA style.

For queries and further information about the journal policy, please contact the editor in chief Roberta Gefter Wondrich at gefte@units.it and visit the website at: <https://www.openstarts.units.it/communities/bddf575c-df32-432c-a03d-cba533e93af5>.

Conferences

Title: “Audiovisual translation and media accessibility in education: A global perspective”

Dates: December 5-6, 2024

Place: Roma Sapienza University

Organising Committee: SL@VT Research Team

Submission deadline for abstracts: 1 June 2024

For more information and the complete call for papers: <https://web.uniroma1.it/seai/it/node/4522>

Over the last couple of decades, the application of Audiovisual Translation (AVT) modes (e.g. dubbing, subtitling, voiceover) and Media Accessibility (MA) practices (e.g. SDH, audio description) in foreign language teaching and learning has gained momentum (Sokoli 2006; Díaz-Cintas and Cruz, 2008; Incalcaterra, 2009; Chiu 2012; Zabalbeascoa et al. 2012; Bolaños-García-Escribano and Navarrete, 2018; Navarrete, 2018; Lertola, 2019; Talaván and Rodríguez-Arancón, 2019; Herrero et al. 2020 to name but a few). Scholarly research has concentrated on developing methodologies and technological tools within didactic AVT and MA (recently referred to as DAT, see Talaván et al., 2024) to be used in higher education settings as well as other areas such as language for specific purposes and primary education, among others. Recent research projects such as TRADILEX (2019–2023) and SL@VT (Audiovisual Tools and Methodologies to Enhance Second Language Acquisition and Learning, 2022–) have sought to provide further understanding of the challenges and benefits in the teaching of both languages and translation. In particular, SL@VT has been designed to extend the directionality and breadth of language learning, by including for instance Greek, Polish and Korean, aside from frequently taught languages such as English, Italian, German and Spanish. We are also particularly interested in how AVT and MA practices can be effectively integrated into other disciplines, such as film studies, as well as their potential to raise awareness about societal issues such as disability, intersectionality and inclusion, among others. In light of the above, this conference aims to gather proposals that can offer further insights into the use of AVT and MA not only in language learning but other areas of education, thus helping scholarly research to reach a more global perspective in this theory and practice.

Conferences

Title: “John Florio at the Elizabethan Court. Linguistic contact zones in Early Modern England”

Dates: June 13-14, 2024

Place: Roma Sapienza University

Organiser: Donatella Montini

Submission deadline for abstracts: April 5, 2024. Applicants must send their proposals as an attachment to donatella.montini@uniroma1.it.

This conference aims to explore the multifaceted areas of linguistic contact shaped by the prominent figure of the Anglo-Italian John Florio (1553-1625) within the lively tapestry of the Elizabethan court during the early modern period. As a versatile linguist, lexicographer and language teacher, Florio played a pivotal role in navigating the intricate linguistic landscape of a social context characterised by diverse cultural influences. His works allowed him both to ennoble the English language by exposing it to its more illustrious Italian and French counterparts, and to explore the identity of a fledgling nation at a time when words and people were emigrating to London in great numbers (Villani 2022; Gallagher 2019; Wyatt 2005; Lawrence 2005). The figure of Florio has long been overlooked and the conference will therefore serve to take stock of this homo aeuropaeus ante-litteram, humanist, emigrant and mediator of two cultures without ever fully belonging to any of them. The conference aims to propose a shift from a literary critical tradition on John Florio and his role in Elizabethan London to an up-to-date linguistic perspective on his works, in order to account for both Florio's extraordinary linguistic production and the rich variety of methodological approaches currently emerging in historical linguistics to deal with early modern texts (Jucker, Taavitsainen 2010; Kytö, Pahta 2016): Florio is not “our contemporary”, but he is certainly an excellent case study for investigating the linguistic phenomena and textual forms of the early modern age through an updated lens of analysis. Contributions from linguists, but also literary scholars and historians will be taken into consideration. Five main areas of discussion will be explored: 1. Migrants, foreigners and refugees in Elizabethan London. 2. Multilingualism, translation and cultural contact. 3. Language contact and language learning 4. Bilingual dictionaries 5. John Florio and Shakespeare.

Title: “Reconstructing Early modern English evidence: old issues, new questions”

Dates: June 17, 2024

Place: Online

Organising Committee: Remo Appolloni, Emiliana Russo

Submission deadline for abstracts: April 30, 2024

For more information: contact reconstructingemee@gmail.com

Early modern English (EModE) is the first diachronic variety of English with a large corpus of printed texts available in history, and its phonology has been the subject of various studies. The first aim of this conference is to illustrate the state of the art of the critical issues in the study of EModE as a diachronic and diaphasic variety, considering the question of how to exploit collected data in the production of evidence to provide a snapshot of EModE synchronically and to reconstruct its diachronic development between 1500 and 1700. Secondly, this conference will shed light on both natural, stage and foreign accents as put on by actors in the early modern period, and even to go beyond the latter by speculating – through, say, semi-phonetic spelling – on sounds and accents inferable from literary and scientific texts published between 1500 and 1700. Topics can include, but are not limited to: corpus linguistics as a method to collect data in the study of early modern English; quantitative analysis applied to the historical analysis of early modern English; early modern English specialized discourses; the problem

Conferences

of spelling and the importance of a standard in early modern English; the segmental and suprasegmental dimensions, and the original pronunciation; sociolinguistic practices in theatre; pronunciation inferable from poems, diaries, letters, essays, treatises.

Title: “Metaphors, Argumentation, and Institutions”

Dates: October 17-18, 2024

Place: University of Turin

Organising committee: Cecilia Boggio, Ilaria Cennamo, Ilaria Parini

Proposals (a 250-word abstract including at least 5 bibliographical references, institutional affiliation and contact details) should be sent to convegnocirm2024@gmail.com by April 30, 2024.

CIRM (Inter-University Research Centre on Metaphors - <https://cirm.unige.it>) announces its 2024 Annual Conference, which will look at metaphors in relation to their argumentative function in a wide range of institutional contexts. The concepts of metaphor and argumentation, which have always been central to the analysis of institutional discourse, will be investigated from different viewpoints and epistemological perspectives. We call for linguistic, discursive, and rhetorical-argumentative contributions, with a special focus on topics of economic, political, and social interest such as inclusion, sustainability, artificial intelligence and innovation, immigration, and economic development. Special attention should be given to national, European and non-European governmental institutions, international organisations, as well as educational, health, social, economic, and financial institutions. We welcome contributions that pursue the following research objectives: the analysis of the relationship between metaphors and argumentation in institutional settings from a theoretical and epistemological perspective; the investigation of discursive-translational realisations of metaphors in multilingual institutional contexts; the study of the correlation between metaphors and institutional ethos; the scrutiny of framing and reframing strategies through metaphors in institutional contexts.

The conference will be in hybrid modality. In-person attendance will take place at the Department of Economics, Social Studies, Applied Mathematics and Statistics (ESOMAS), Corso Unione Sovietica 218/bis, Turin.

Title: “Epidemic Remedies In Medical Writing (1500 - 1920)”

Dates: June 18-19, 2024

Place: University of Ferrara

Scientific and Organizing Committee: Dario Del Fante (Principal Investigator), Anna Anselmo, Daniele Speziari, Vera Gajiu.

Submission deadline for abstracts: March 30, 2024

For more information and the complete call for papers:

https://www.unife.it/it/cla/progetti/epidemic-remedies-in-medical-writing-1500-1920-les-remedes-c o n t r e - l e s - e p i d e m i e s - d a n s - l e s - e c r i t u r e s - m e d i c a l e s - 1 5 0 0 - 1 9 2 0 ? f b c l i d = I w A R 2 D 4 X g 7 c S f p s M b b Z F g H P I R b J Y 3 W _ J 7 i m e t k S P 7 m E 0 z u w 0 g 7 q 5 G f y I b i - 1 M

This conference aims to discuss the representation of epidemic remedies in medical writing in England and in France between 1500 and 1920. Prospective presenters are invited to address epidemic remedies

Conferences

across five centuries, bearing three main methodological observations in mind. Firstly, the pivotal role of the plague and the Spanish influenza as opening and closing points to the selected timeframe. Secondly, the working definition of “remedy” as a cure “for a disease, disorder, injury, etc.; a medicine or treatment that promotes healing or alleviates symptoms.” (OED, remedy 2). This comprehensive definition intends to allow for historical specification and diachronic terminological variation, which the prospective presenters are invited to explore and specify. Thirdly, the definition of representation as “the process by which members of a culture use language (broadly defined as any system which deploys signs, any signifying system) to produce meaning” (Hall 1997: 61), with particular emphasis on language use at lexical and discourse level, as well as the interaction between semiotic systems (e.g. word and image). A vast body of research has explored medical writing across the centuries. Several of these studies have delved into how text types, discourses, and specialised vocabulary evolve diachronically (Gotti, 2006; Taavitsainen, 2006; Taavitsainen & Pahta, 2011; Taavitsainen et al., 2022) as well as into how they manifest synchronically (Gotti & Salager-Meyer, 2006). Remedies, too, have been addressed from a diachronic perspective (Jacobus et al., 1990; Laycock, 2008; Mullini, 2013). The present aim is not only to offer a diachronic perspective on the linguistic and visual representation of remedies, but also to focus on remedies prescribed during epidemics, with a view to better understanding the history of medical and health communication. Potential research questions straddle multiple standpoints - historical linguistics, the analysis of discourse, the analysis of lexis, as well as images - and multiple text types (medical treatises, medical dictionaries, periodical publications, medical advertisements through time).

All abstracts should be submitted to remediesconference2023@unife.it. All abstracts should be anonymised and include a title and up to five keywords.

The conference is organized as part of the FIRD project “Il rimedio tra divulgazione scientifica e fake news in Francia e in Inghilterra nel XVI e nel XX secolo”, which is financed by the Department of Humanities at the University of Ferrara.

Schools

SUMMER SCHOOL “Shakespeare and the Mediterranean: The Twin and the Mirror: The Comedy of Errors and Twelfth Night”

Dates: August 22-30, 2024

Place: University of Verona - Polo S. Marta

Applications are open and will close on May 12, 2024

For further information: <https://skene.dlls.univr.it/sam-shakespeare-summer-school-the-twin-and-the-mirror-the-comedy-of-errors-and-twelfth-night/>

Since classical antiquity, the Mediterranean has been a breeding ground for cultural formation and transformation, extraordinarily capitalised on by Shakespeare, who set many of his plays there, re-elaborating narratives, cultural models, theatregrams, epistemological perspectives, and visual and material art forms. In turn, Italy and the other Mediterranean cultures are nowadays responding to the aesthetic and cultural stimuli of those plays, with ever new interpretations and reinterpretations.

The SaM Summer School will approach Shakespeare and the Mediterranean from a double perspective that integrates source studies and performance studies: from the Mediterranean sources of Shakespeare to Shakespeare as a source of new adaptations and rewritings in the heart of the Mediterranean. The fourth edition will concentrate on *The Comedy of Errors* and *Twelfth Night* in a Mediterranean context.

In the same week, the Verona Shakespeare Fringe will take place in Verona and will be closely connected to the Summer School (for the Verona Shakespeare Fringe, see under Information and Reports, and: <https://skene-veronashakespearefringefestival.dlls.univr.it/2024-edition-2/>)

Schools

SUMMER SCHOOL “Digital Humanities and Digital Communication: Challenges and opportunities of interacting with and through technology”

Dates: June 3-7, 2024

Place: University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Programme director: Marina Bondi

Submission deadline for abstract of the PhD project/current research project (max 2500 characters): March 28, 2024

For more information and the complete call for papers and submission guidelines:

Conference website: <https://www.summerschooldigitalhumanities.unimore.it/>

For any inquiry, please contact the organisers at: digitalhumanities@unimore.it

We are happy to announce the 6th edition of our Summer School in Digital Humanities and Digital Communication, which will be hosted by the Department of Studies on Language and Culture of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, in collaboration with the Fondazione Marco Biagi. As part of the Doctoral Programme in Human Sciences, the Summer School aims to provide PhD students and young researchers with methodological tools for the study of digital communication and data analysis. This year's focus is on challenges and opportunities of interacting through technology, with topics ranging from digital resources for research in the humanities to the use of new information technologies for data analysis; from tools for analysing communication in new media to ways of processing, accessing, and disseminating knowledge.

Invited Speakers: Phil Cooke (University of Strathclyde); Christoph Draxler (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich); Matteo Fuoli (Birmingham University); Gabriel Hankins (Clemson University); Wu Ping (Beijing Language and Culture University); Massimo Riva (Brown University); Josef Schmied (University of Chemnitz); Janina Wildfeuer (University of Groningen).

The selection criteria are: quality of the PhD project, assessed in relation to its: i) theoretical approach; ii) methodological standards; iii) potential for innovation; the relevance of the aims and objectives of the PhD project within the areas covered.

Participants will be expected to present their work at the Summer School, either in the form of a presentation or of a poster.

SUMMER SCHOOL “Climate Change Theories, Narrations and Discourse: Sharing Methods, Knowledges and Practices”

Dates: June 24-27, 2024

Place: University of Naples L'Orientale

Deadline: May 15, 2024

Convenors: Katherine E. Russo and Rossella Ciocca

For information: dis4change@unior.it

The summer school in “Climate Change Theories, Narrations and Discourse: Sharing Knowledges and Practices” is aimed at students and researchers from different disciplines who seek to share their methods, knowledge and good practices in regard to climate change critical theories, narrations and discourse.

It will provide a collaborative space for students and researchers who aim to investigate how climate change is communicated, narrated, and socially constructed. It will therefore provide theoretical and methodological tools for the identification of linguistic, discursive, narrative and multimodal strategies in dialogue with related studies in the humanities and social sciences.

The summer school will take place under the aegis of the newly born Interuniversity Centre Dis-4Change: Studies on Climate Change and Environmental Discourse which was founded in 2023 by the University of

Naples L'Orientale (administrative headquarter), the University of Bologna – Alma Mater, the University of Bari, the University of Milan, the University of Salerno, the University of Turin and the University of Udine. The programme consists of a series of lectures, intensive work sessions and roundtable discussions which will be held by leading experts, including the keynote speakers: Jonathan Charteris-Black (UWE Bristol) and Martin Reisinger (University of Vienna).

All lectures and sessions will take place at Palazzo Du Mesnil (University of Naples L'Orientale), Via Chiatamone 61/62, Naples. To register for the Summer School, please transfer your registration fees ahead of the event, with a clear indication of the full name of the person who is to be registered and send an email to dis4change@unior.it to inform us about your registration and payment.

ESSE Conference



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

Please see the provisional programme at:

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

Deadlines for registration are the 15th May 2024 (early bird) and 30th June 2024 (regular).

Please note:

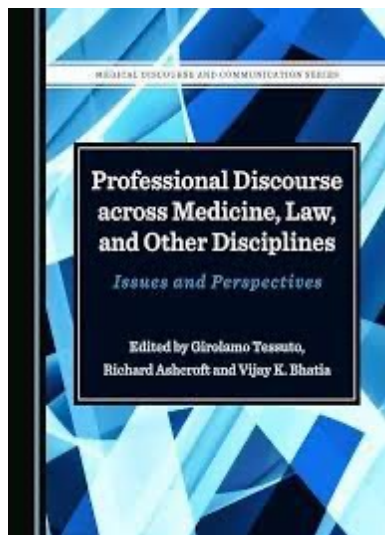
PhD students who are only attending the Doctoral Symposium should not register online. Doctoral Symposium presenters who wish to attend the conference should contact Lachlan Mackenzie for the registration link after registration opens on 15 March 2024.

New publications

Girolamo Tessuto, Richard Ashcroft, Vijay, K. Bhatia (eds.)

Professional Discourse across Medicine, Law, and Other Disciplines: Issues and Perspectives

Cambridge Scholars, 2023, pp. 385. ISBN: 1-5275-9471-8



This volume provides a stage for an extensive exploration of the interface between medicine, law and other disciplines or professions. It offers the reader opportunities to understand how this integrative, interactive interdisciplinary process can be examined through the lenses of language, discourse, and communication. Grown out from the newly established CIRLaM (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Language and Medicine) that builds upon extensive research done by CRILL (Centre for Research in Language and Law), contributions in this volume cover cross-wise issues raised by paradigmatic cases of bioethics and law, nursing ethics and law, pharmacy ethics and law, bioethics and religion, risk management and ethics, social inclusion and bioethics, and environmental ethics.

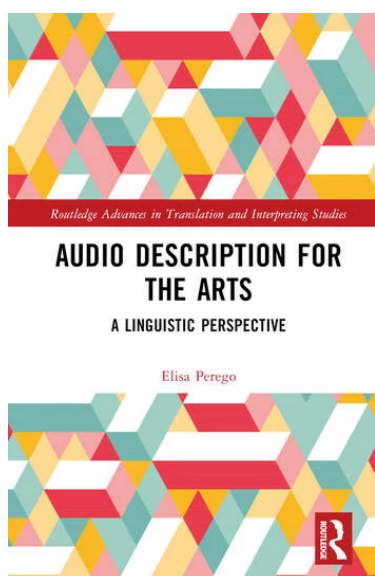
This book is part of the Medical Discourse and Communication international, double-blind referred series (formerly Legal Discourse and Communication) – Editor-in Chief: G. Tessuto.

<https://www.cambridgescholars.com/product/978-1-5275-9471-5>

Elisa Perego

Audio Description for the Arts: A Linguistic Perspective

Routledge, 2023, pp. 204. ISBN: 9780367681005



This book traces the development of audio description (AD), a form of audiovisual translation delivered orally and consumed aurally that makes visual elements accessible primarily to people who are visually impaired, and in particular, art AD as an emergent sub-genre.

Perego reflects on the static arts and the role of modern museums as key sites for art AD and multisensory environments that create memorable experiences for visitors. Based on professional, pre-recorded British and American English AD scripts, this book outlines the textual and linguistic features of art AD and its most relevant textual patterns. It explores diverse AD practices across different contexts, including stand-alone ADs for specific paintings and sculptures that can be consumed independently to enhance the appeal and accessibility of cultural environments. Moreover, the book investigates AD tours, which provide descriptions of a selection of interconnected artworks while also assisting, through focused instructions, visually impaired individuals in navigating the museum space, as well as touch tours, which incorporate procedural instructions on how to experience three-dimensional art or reproductions through tactile senses.

Offering unique insights and future research directions for this growing area, this volume will be of interest to students and scholars in translation studies and media accessibility.

N. Vallorani, P. Caponi, E. Monegato (eds)

Letterature e culture inglesi. Temi e (con)testi dal XIX secolo a oggi.

Pearson, 2024, pp. 272. ISBN:



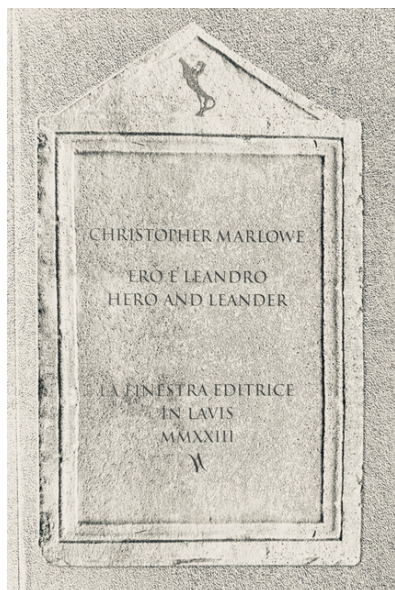
The text that we are here proposing originates from a group of researchers in the field of literary studies that adopt the instruments of Cultural Studies, and is addressed to the courses of literature and culture that appear in all the various Italian university curricula. We have structured this book in several autonomous as well as interrelated thematic clusters, articulated in 10 chapters and including: a general introduction, a selection of texts, historical references, key concepts, a profile for each author mentioned and a selected bibliography. Silvia Antosa, Paolo Caponi, Carmen Concilio, Marina De Chiara, Elisabetta Marino, Elena Ogliari, Anna Pasolini e Nicoletta Vallorani have tackled one topic each, together with its “specular object”: Canon & Pop, Migration & Translation, Gothic & Science, Imperialism & Ideology, The City & the Rest, Sex/Gender & the Body, Queer & Straight, Language & the Other, Ecology & Environment, Private & Public – joining the methods and the approaches of British Cultural Studies with those of traditional literary studies. In addition, the various activities and the additional texts available on the digital platform are a useful didactic implementation, characterized by a rich visual apparatus and a detailed time map.

Cristiano Ragni

introduzione, traduzione e cura

Hero and Leander / Ero e Leandro

Lavis: La Finestra Editrice, 2023, pp.172. ISBN: 978-88-32236-35-4



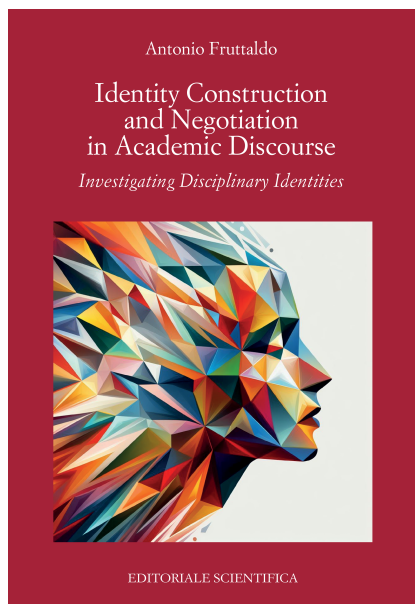
This parallel text edition of *Hero and Leander*, edited by Cristiano Ragni for La Finestra Editrice, presents readers with a new Italian translation of what is generally considered Marlowe’s last work. In his extensive introduction, Ragni discusses the reasons why this epyllion is usually recognised as the masterpiece of its genre: these are mainly due to the ways in which Marlowe succeeded in combining an eccentric reinterpretation of well-known episodes from classical mythology with a skilful use of the heroic couplet. The eccentricity manifests itself, above all, in the main difference that distinguishes *Hero and Leander* from his sources: the poem does not end with a catastrophe, but with the voluptuous, first night of love between the two young lovers. Although attempts have long been made to show that this unexpected ending signals the work’s incompleteness, Ragni explains why the epyllion likely ends where Marlowe wanted it to end: between its lines, one does in fact seem to glimpse the smile of the most mocking poet-playwright of early modern England, who intended to surprise his readers with probably the most sensual ending in all Elizabethan poetry.

Antonio Fruttaldo

Identity Construction and Negotiation in Academic Discourse:

Investigating Disciplinary Identities

Editoriale Scientifica, 2024, pp. 228. ISBN: 979-12-5976-855-1



This book offers an in-depth exploration of the complex relationship between language and identity in the context of academic discourse, particularly in the field of Organisation and Management. Specifically, the study adopts a corpus-based approach to investigate how scholars navigate the tension between adhering to the specialised language and conventions of their academic field and expressing their unique voice within their research. The investigation examines a corpus of 2,472 papers, consisting of approximately 30 million words, from the European Academy of Management (EURAM). The aim of this analysis is to study the specific metadiscoursal resources used by scholars to provide insights into the complex interplay between the academic community's expectations for conformity and the individual's desire for self-expression. This research aims to contribute to the existing scholarship on identity expression in academic discourse by presenting additional insights into how linguistic resources mediate between established rules and forms of individual agency.

Conferences, seminars, events: information and reports

VERONA SHAKESPEARE FRINGE

Dates: August 22-29, 2024

Place: Teatro Camploy, Verona

For further Information: <https://skene-veronashakespearefringefestival.dlss.univr.it/2024-edition-2/>

Since 1948, Verona has offered a mainstream Shakespeare Festival, performed in Italian at the marvelous Roman Theatre. The Verona Shakespeare Fringe offers a different perspective, another angle, or – in fact – a diverse array of angles, perspectives, and vectors that present the many ways that Shakespeare continues to hold the world's imagination, and remains relentlessly alive, and unceasingly vital for audiences and artists alike.

The Verona Shakespeare Fringe blurs distinctions between traditional scholarship and performance to present a dynamic interplay of ideas, experiments, and new possibilities in Shakespearean stagecraft and scholarship.

The 2024 edition presents companies from Ukraine, USA, Georgia, Iran/Poland, Czech Republic, France, UK, Taiwan.

WORKSHOP “Translation and adaptation for dubbing in the streaming era”

Date: May 8, 2024 3 pm

Place: "Aula Moscati", Faculty of Humanities, Tor Vergata University of Rome

TrAdE (Translation and Adaptation from/into English) Research Group is proud to host a workshop by Professor Frederic Chaume (Universitat Jaume I) on translation and adaptation for dubbing in the streaming era. Translation and adaptation have undergone radical changes in recent years. The emergence of streaming platforms, together with the digitalization process, have dramatically transformed professional practices. This workshop will show the new workflows in the dubbing industry, the new agents in the process, the new materials faced by the translator, the different formats to deliver a dubbing script, and the quality standards that prevail in the industry, with an emphasis on the notion of creativity. The impact of technology on this professional practice will also be discussed, including new cloud-based

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE 10th International Conference on Intercultural Pragmatics and Communication (INPRA)

Dates: May 30-June 1, 2024

Place: University of Pisa

For further information please check the Conference website: <https://inrapisa2024.com>

The 10th International Conference on Intercultural Pragmatics and Communication (INPRA) will be held in Pisa from 30th May to 1st June 2024. The INPRA is a biennial meeting, and this will be its 10th edition. The main aim of the INPRA conference is to bring together researchers from around the world who have diverse scientific backgrounds and share the same field of interest – pragmatics, being perceived as a cognitive, philosophical, social, and intercultural perspective on language and communication. The conference promotes connections between pragmatic theory and its application in practice. Contributions typically concern pragmatics theories, experimental pragmatics, intercultural, cross-cultural and societal

Conferences, seminars, events: information and reports

aspects of pragmatics, and various applications.

The INPRA 2024 Conference is co-chaired by Prof. Silvia Bruti and Prof. Gloria Cappelli (University of Pisa) and by Distinguished Prof. Istvan Kecskes (State University of New York, Albany, USA). The Scientific Committee includes internationally renowned scholars working in the field of Pragmatics and Intercultural Communication.

The four keynote speakers are: ISTVÁN KECSKÉS, Distinguished Professor of Linguistics and Education (State University of New York, Albany, USA); DELIA CHIARO, Professor of English Language and Translation (University of Bologna/Forlì); PETER SIEMUND, Professor of English Linguistics (University of Hamburg); ISIDORA STOJANOVIC, Senior Researcher (Jean-Nicod Institut, Paris).

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE How Can AI Translate?

Dates: April 22-23, 2024

Place: University of Naples Federico II

Scientific Coordinator: Flavia Cavaliere

For further information please check the Conference website: <https://www.cla.unina.it/itransconf24>

The “How Can AI Translate?” conference will address the profound impact of AI on translation processes, market dynamics and overarching translation theories. It will also explore macro-themes such as invisibility, positionality and globalisation within today’s multifaceted translation landscape, examining the pivotal role of corpora in translation processes alongside cross-linguistic analyses aimed at investigating discursive phenomena. The five keynote speakers are Giuseppe Balirano (University of Naples L’Orientale), Delia Chiaro (University of Bologna/Forlì), Jorge Díaz Cintas (University College London), David Katan (University of Salento) and Irene Ranzato (Roma Sapienza University).

FORTHCOMING PHD CONFERENCE Interdisciplinary Conference Words, Things, and Symbols. Between Ancient and New Representations of Reality

Dates: June 3-5, 2024

Place: University of Palermo

For more information: convegnoparolecose24@gmail.com

The Interdisciplinary PhD Conference hosted by the University of Palermo's Humanities Studies Department invites reflections on the concepts of perception, representation, and interpretation of reality. In today's society, poised between the real and the virtual, the nexus between words and things necessitates nuanced reconsideration, prompting fresh scholarly inquiries, which will be explored from literary, linguistic, and philosophical perspectives.

Language, literature, and philosophy converge synergistically to delineate the contours of reality: language functions as a crucial medium for shaping collective worldviews, dynamically responding to socio-political and technological vicissitudes; contemporary literature, like a prism, continually refracts manifold perspectives, presenting a nuanced tapestry of existence; and philosophy, by its inherent nature, grapples with the essence of reality, delineating its boundaries, and at times, questioning its very existence.

In the literary field, submissions are encouraged that explore the multifaceted representations of reality in contemporary and "hyper-contemporary" Italian and foreign literature, from both theoretical and thematic-formal analysis perspectives, ranging from new textual genres to the inspirations of 'referential illusion', traversing realms of semantic proliferation, narrative trajectory, and shifting perspectives. In the linguistic field, contributions may explore, among other areas, onomastics; etymology/lexicography; iconomy; textuality (analog and digital/AI languages as transposition and orientation of reality

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perception); translation and teaching (innovative methodologies and strategies: navigating and guiding in contemporaneity); philology (contrastive and comparative analysis, diatopic and diachronic representations of reality).

REPORT

Conference: “Future Horizons: New Beginnings in English Studies” - XXXI AIA Conference

Dates: September 13-16, 2023

Place: University of Calabria, Rende

Organisers: Bruna Mancini and Mirko Casagranda

In September 2023, the XXXI Conference of the Italian Association of Anglistics took place at the University of Calabria (Unical), marking a significant event in the Italian academic landscape. Titled "Future Horizons: New Beginnings in English Studies," the initiative was hosted and sponsored by the Department of Humanities, with an organization led by internal faculty and researchers under the guidance of Bruna Mancini and Mirko Casagranda. Bringing together scholars, researchers, and enthusiasts of English language, literature, and culture, the conference provided a stimulating environment for discussion and exchange of ideas on a wide range of topics related to Anglistic studies.

The XXXI Conference of the Italian Association of Anglistics commenced with a pre-conference on September 13, featuring presentations by Carlo Bajetta (University of Valle d'Aosta), Rossana Bonadei (University of Bergamo), Paola Catenaccio (University of Milan), Rocco Coronato (University of Padua), Maria Grazia Sindoni (University of Messina), and Nicoletta Vallorani (University of Milan) that sparked a round table discussion titled “Exploring the Future of Anglistic Studies in Italy.” This session fostered engaging debates and facilitated dialogical exchanges among participants on topics such as the evolution of English language teaching, challenges and opportunities in academic research, as well as strategies to promote and enhance Anglistic studies within the Italian context.

Throughout the four days of the AIA conference, an atmosphere of academic innovation and depth emerged, inspired by the conference's overarching theme and Maya Angelou's words: “The horizon leans forward offering you space to place new steps of change.”

The event featured presentations and discussions on innovative research and academic insights concerning literature, linguistics, culture, and English language teaching. Participants had the opportunity to engage in plenary sessions and poster presentations, promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration among scholars from various national and international institutions. The four plenary speakers, John McLeod (University of Leeds), Edgar W. Schneider (University of Regensburg), Janet Todd (University of Cambridge), and Luise von Flotow (University of Ottawa), enriched the discourse with reflective insights, solidifying the role of the Italian Association of Anglistics as a reference point for the Italian academic community in the field of Anglistic studies.

For more information see: <https://www.anglistica.it/2024/01/05/xxxi-aia-conference-13-16-september-universita-della-calabria/>

Serena Ammendola, Carla Tempestoso

REPORT

Conference: “Mid-project international conference and round table - The informalisation of English language learning through the media”

Dates: February 8-9, 2024

Place: University of Salento, Lecce

Organisers: Francesca Bianchi, Sara Gesuato, Paola Leone, Elena Manca, Emanuela Paone, Ottavia Carlino, Francesca Prisco

The international mid-project conference was held at the University of Salento (Lecce) and broadcast online on 8th-9th February 2024. It was organised by Francesca Bianchi, Sara Gesuato, Paola Leone, Elena Manca, Emanuela Paone, Ottavia Carlino and Francesca Prisco as part of the PRIN project 2022 “The informalisation of English language learning through the media: language input, learning outcomes and sociolinguistic attitudes from an Italian perspective”[1]. Having the project entered its second year, the conference aimed to bring together members from the four partner universities involved (Pavia, Pisa, Salento and Catania) in order to share and compare the results of Phase 1, which dealt with the collection of information about the students’ backgrounds, habits and lexical knowledge. A second objective was to discuss further developments regarding phases 2 and 3 (i.e., in-depth interviews and longitudinal studies).

Day 1 (Feb 8th) focussed on two main strands of investigation: 1) tools for data collection and analysis and 2) motivation for L2 learning. Following the opening address, Maria Pavesi (P.I., University of Pavia*) and Elisa Ghia* introduced the fundamental constructs related to L2 informal learning and showed preliminary results of the analyses of data obtained from the questionnaires. A second presentation by Elena Ballante (University of Pavia) outlined the main models employed for statistical analysis.

The strand on motivation began with the work by Paola Leone* and Emanuela Paone** (University of Salento*, University of Bologna**) who explored the students’ behavioural patterns, highlighting cases of context-induced motivation, self-motivation and gaming as drives for using English out of the class. Cristina Mariotti looked at the relationship between motivation, exposure and type of input and observed a tendency to choose telecinematic input for language learning and social media for entertainment. Elisa Ghia*, Maicol Formentelli*, Cristina Mariotti* and Raffaele Zago** (University of Pavia*, University of Catania**) analysed the students’ comments and identified a variety of drives for accessing English informally besides language learning, each one correlating with different media. Finally, Elena Manca (University of Salento) investigated the attitudes and experiences of university students accessing English through social media. Closing up the first day of proceedings, the international keynote speaker Meryl Kusyk (University of Karlsruhe) gave a plenary talk about investigating the learning processes at play in informal second language learning.

Day 2 (Feb 9th) opened with a plenary talk by the second invited keynote speaker, Valentin Werner (University of Bamberg), titled “Informal English through pop culture: Which kind of language do learners encounter?” introducing the strand of research about the description of multimedia input. Francesca Bianchi (University of Salento) presented a corpus-assisted comparison of videogame and film dialogue, finding similar lexical coverage but differences at the semantic and grammatical levels. There followed a presentation by Liviana Galiano (University of Catania) on the phrasal complexity of film dialogue as input, which focussed on the length and type of pre- and postmodification of the noun phrase. Lastly, Irene Ranzato (University of Rome) and Massimo Sturiale (University of Milan) discussed students’ awareness of English diatopic and social varieties (e.g. BrE vs AmE, Scouse, Cockney, etc.) encountered in audiovisual content.

[1] <https://prin.unipv.it/index.php/en/about-the-project>

Conferences, seminars, events: information and reports

The second research strand of Day 2 concerned the assessment of receptive and productive skills. A first presentation was given by Sara Gesuato (University of Padova) who described a longitudinal test aimed at assessing pragmatic skills. Camilla De Riso (University of Pavia) illustrated the Complexity, Accuracy, Fluency (CAF) paradigm, by bringing evidence from several case studies. Gloria Cappelli and Nicoletta Simi (University of Pisa) illustrated a test aimed at assessing knowledge of specialised vocabulary. The test will use newly generated metaphoric expressions in the area of “food and cooking” to assess the interpretation of figurative uses derived from literal ones. Finally, Erik Castello (University of Padova*) in a study with Katherine Ackerley* looked at the acquisition of English phrasal verbs by comparing EFL students’ and L1 speakers’ descriptions of videoclips. Day 2 concluded with a members’ meeting on future research directions.

Liviana Galiano, University of Catania

REPORT

Seminar: “Identities in Language”

Date: September 26, 2023

Place: “Suor Orsola Benincasa” University of Naples

Organisers: Emilia Di Martino, Antonio Perri

One of the cornerstones of sociolinguistics is the indissoluble link between language and identity. It is now widely recognized that language is not just a communicative tool capable of transmitting a message, but also a vehicle that conveys information about the speaker, their values, background, and culture. Based on these premises, on September 26, 2023, “Suor Orsola Benincasa” University of Naples hosted a seminar on “Identities in Language”, which was planned and organised by Emilia Di Martino (Language and Translation in English) and Antonio Perri (General Linguistics). The event brought together experts, scholars, and students from all over the world, encouraging them to reflect on the link between identity and language in different sociocultural contexts, considering various media and adopting different methodological approaches.

Numerous topics were addressed in the contributions presented: the link between language and music (R. Tomei, Università per Stranieri di Perugia); language and social class (L. Valleriani, Università La Sapienza di Roma); social class in translation (I. Ranzato, Università La Sapienza di Roma); the relationship between language and human-machine interaction (D. Sayers, University of Jyväskylä) and hybrid identities in poetic texts (S. Carotenuto, University of Naples “L’Orientale”). Language was explored in papers presented on identities in: Africa (A. Akpome, University of Zululand), India (T. Moitra, “Suor Orsola Benincasa” University of Naples and American University of Rome) and the Cook Islands (S. Guzzo, University of Salerno). There were presentations on corporate communication and disability from a multimodal perspective (S. D’Avanzo, University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”), British television series (M. Casagranda, University of Calabria) and newspapers (A. Battista, University of Naples “Parthenope”). The last paper of the day was on the representation of “Italianness” by the British media (F. Cavaliere, University Federico II of Naples).

The contributions made initiated discussions that involved all the participants and were skillfully coordinated by the moderators of each session: P. Patrick (sociolinguistic variation in the Cook Islands); J. Tessuto (the link between language, identity, and culture); C. Pennarola (virtual and digital world); M. Cordisco and L. Caiazzo (language, identity, and gender); G. Di Martino (language and disability); P. Donadio (language and social class); K. Russo (linguistic justice); M. G. Sindoni (language, identity, ethnicity) and R. Casapullo (language and nation).

Additionally, the participants of the study day had the pleasure of listening to a thought-provoking analysis on the enregisterment process of English varieties spoken in the northern United Kingdom by Joan C. Beal (Emeritus Professor of the University of Sheffield), which was moderated by C. Ciancia.

Conferences, seminars, events: information and reports

This was followed by a round table discussion, led by A. Perri with S. Guzzo, P. Patrick, R. Tomei, and F. Vigo as participants. The conversations delved into the important issue of standardization of minority languages, in which reflections on sign languages were also included.

E. Di Martino conducted an engaging interview with Peter Patrick, Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and member of the Human Rights Center at the University of Essex. Based on his personal experiences and interest in creole languages, P. Patrick emphasized how one cannot ignore the social dimension of language, evidenced in many ways by his commitment that affirm linguistics as a tool to be considered even in courts and especially in the practices of asylum seekers.

Alessia Battista, Tehezzeb Moitra

REPORT

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

Dates: November 10-11, 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 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

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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.

Giulia Rovelli

REPORT

Conference: “TransCreAzioni – L’atto creativo nei processi traduttivi”

Dates: January 18-19, 2024

Place: University of Bergamo

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

Organised by the University of Bergamo and sponsored by AIA, AIG and SUSLLF, the conference took place in Bergamo on 18-19 January 2024. Shifting from theory to practice, the various panels contributed to offering new insights into the field of translation studies. The two-day event opened with Nicoletta Vallorani’s keynote speech on transcreation as a form of ARTivism (Chair: Rossana Bonadei). A working session on the topic of human creativity in literary translation then followed, including papers by Fabio Scotto (keynote), Stefano Perpetuini and Maria Maffei (Chair: Michela Gardini). The first day concluded with a seminar on the didactics of translation in the educational system by Simone Giusti (keynote) in dialogue with Raul Calzoni and Giancarlo Covella. The second day consisted of three different panels. The first addressed the relationship between translation and aesthetics, presenting contributions by Elena Agazzi (keynote), Stella Carella and Luca Siniscalco (Chair: Marina Bianchi).

The second explored the concept of ideology and the need for expressing one’s own intentions when translating. This panel included lectures by Massimiliano Morini (keynote), Giovanni Nichetti and Helena Como (Chair: Amelia Valtolina). The closing session pivoted around audiovisual translation and media accessibility, particularly focusing on creative dubbing and subtitling, and presented talks by Irene Ranzato (keynote), Larissa D’Angelo and Giancarlo Covella (Chair: Stefania Maci). A final discussion on the interconnection between translation and publishing was led by Ornella Discacciati featuring Luca Bani, Maria Grazia Cammarota, Stefania Consonni, Anna De Biasio, Franca Franchi, Alessandra Goggio, Francesca Goll, Cristian Pallone, Stefano Rosso, Michele Sala and Cinzia Spinzi. In short, TransCreAzioni proved to efficiently foster a fruitful debate on several methodological approaches to be applied on such a vast field of study between established scholars and PhD students.

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

Giancarlo Covella

REPORT

Conference: “Re(ad)ressing Classical Myths in Contemporary Literature in English”

Dates: March 14-15, 2024

Place: University of Verona – Biblioteca Civica di Verona

Organiser: Cristiano Ragni

The International Conference “Re(ad)ressing Classical Myths in Contemporary Literature in English” was held in Verona and broadcast online via Zoom on 14-15 March 2024. It was organised by Cristiano Ragni with the support of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and of the Skenè Research Centre of the University of Verona, and under the auspices of the Municipality of Verona.

The aim of the conference was to explore how classical myths have been rewritten and adapted in contemporary literature in English in ways that provide evidence of a plurality of approaches reconfiguring our awareness of what ‘classical’ means. It offered the opportunity to understand how the ongoing conversation with the classics has opened up fresh literary paths and achieved a form of redress, which is significantly being voiced by the different authors in a flourishing global canon.

In the beautiful setting of Sala Farinati (Biblioteca Civica di Verona), the first session explored how the continuous engagement of Anglo-American authors with the classical myths made it possible to re-semanticise them in multiple and often contradictory ways. Savina Stevanato (Rome 3 University) analysed how T.S. Eliot and Angela Carter, while hinging on the same classical myth—the story of Tiresias—end up producing divergent outcomes: a confirmation of the myth’s ordering function in Eliot’s case, and the subversion of concepts of (gender-biased) cultural forms or order in Carter’s. Through the lens of the myth of Demeter and Persephone, Chiara Battisti (University of Verona) then explored how Nella Larsen, in her novel *Passing*, managed to expose boundaries and transgression, rootedness, and mobility, applying these concepts not only to the bodies and identities of her two female characters, but also to her own relationship with the Negro Movement. Finally, Elena Theodorakopoulos (University of Birmingham) examined how, during the 1930s, the poet and critic Laura Riding made a significant and radical contribution to the history of classical reception and feminism in both her poetry and her critical works.

The session was followed by a public reading offered by award-winning British poet Ruth Padel. Author of acclaimed poetry collections and novels, Padel started out as a classicist, writing books on Greek myths and tragedies, and has been involved with Greece all her life. In conversation with Silvia Bigliuzzi and Cristiano Ragni, Padel discussed the role that classical myths have always played in the practice of her poetry, and read selected passages from her novel *Daughters of the Labyrinth* (2021) and verse collections, such as *Learning to make an oud in Nazareth* (2014), *Emerald* (2018), and *We Are All from Somewhere Else* (2020).

The second day, in Aula Messedaglia (Chiostro S. Maria delle Vittorie, University of Verona), opened with a session which explored the ways in which classical myths have made their way into popular media, thus fostering the so-called ‘democratic-turn’, and providing the general public with better knowledge of the classics. Sidia Fiorato (University of Verona) analysed Neil Gaiman’s *Coraline* and the ways in which it plays on the myth of Persephone, whose story ends up embodying a coming-of-age process that exploits fantasy as a means to reveal cultural issues in between parallel worlds. Cristiano Ragni, instead, focused on the last fragments of Christopher Logue’s rewriting of Homer’s *Iliad*, and showed how even those apparently disorganised texts seem to confirm Logue’s life-long intention to transform the *Iliad* – the war poem par excellence – into his most committed anti-war manifesto.

The last session focused on authors coming from the Anglophone world. Justine McConnel (King’s College, London) showed how Derek Walcott encouraged both readers and scholars to rethink the relationships between the classics and modernity in ways which do not reject the classical tradition, but do in fact reclaim it in a fruitful way. Along similar lines, Chiara Lombardi (University of Turin) analysed the different functions of the classics and their rewritings in the work of J.M. Coetzee,

Conferences, seminars, events: information and reports

underscoring how, through the multifaceted contacts between art and life which he presents in his novels, he repeatedly emphasises the relevance of the classical legacy, which reactivates a continuous and exciting short-circuit between word, soul and body. Lastly, Petra Bjelica (University of Verona) examined Wole Soyinka's adaptation of Euripides' *The Bacchae*, convincingly contending that his rewriting positions violence as a celebrated avenue for liberation against both colonial and postcolonial oppressions, by inscribing it within his own theory of tragedy and the wider context of Yoruba mythology.

Cristiano Ragni

**The next Board meeting with PhD candidates
will take place in Catania (April 2024)**

Università di Catania

12 April 2024

Scuola Superiore di Catania

Aula Minutoli

ore 10.30 – Salutation

**ore 11.00 – AIA Board meeting with supervisors, PhD students, early-career
researchers**

ore 13.00 – Light lunch

ore 15.00 – Doctoral seminars

**Mariagrazia Nicolosi (Università di Catania): Literary/Cultural Studies:
Patterns and Practices**

**Marianna Zummo (Università di Palermo): Digital Interactional Grounds
and Ideologies**

**Chiara Sciarrino (Università di Palermo): Irish Studies: Research
Approaches and Data Collection Today**

**Marco Venuti (Università di Catania): A Path to a Successful Career. Critical
Metaphor Analysis and Neoliberal Academia**

ore 17.00 – Final discussion

The event will take place at

Villa San Saverio Via Valdisavoia, 35

You can also connect at: Teams

To participate, you need to fill in this form

The AIA Board met with PhD students and early-career researchers in Turin (December 2023), Naples (January 2024), Milan (February 2024) and Rome (March 2024)

AIA PhD Students Meeting

January 12, 2024 - Parthenope University of Naples

On December 14, 2023, the AIA Board convened with a group of young researchers in English Studies at the University of Turin during the International Conference Linguaging Diversity 2023. The aim of the meeting was to foster collaboration and exchange knowledge and ideas in the field of English Studies. As a result of the success of the first meeting, the Association organised a second meeting on January 12, 2024, at the Parthenope University of Naples. The PhD students and young researchers who participated in the event are grateful to the Parthenope University of Naples for hosting the event at Palazzo Pacanowski (Naples) and to the AIA Board for organising it. The meeting was open to PhD students and young researchers who had been invited to discuss and exchange ideas with the AIA Board and the so many professors participating in the event. The AIA Board's initiative of holding a regular meeting with and for PhD students had a positive response. The meeting was, as said, attended by not only PhD students but also adjunct professors, research fellows, associate and full professors, as well as PhD supervisors and co-supervisors. Those who could not attend in person participated remotely. After introducing themselves, the Board members asked doctoral students, "What can AIA do for PhD students?". The participants were then asked to form small groups to get to know each other and share their questions and requests for the Association. The groups were made as diverse as possible to encourage collaboration and interdisciplinarity. The group activity was productive, and many recurring questions and needs were identified. Before listening to the various groups, all young researchers were asked to introduce themselves, their field of expertise, mentors and research overview. The Association has received various questions and requests, some of which align with recent proposals from the Board. These include: the need for continuous communication between the Board and PhD students for information exchange; assistance in creating a network of contacts and cooperation among PhD students of English Studies; organising information sessions to clarify the possibilities and requirements for advancement within Academia, providing updates on current norms and reforms; making funds available for research materials and mobility, especially for those who do not benefit from scholarships; promoting and increasing participation of expert scholars in PhD symposia and poster sessions at conferences. The discussion highlighted the critical nature of the abovementioned points. The meeting was clearly significant for PhD students as it marked their first meeting with the AIA Board. This demonstrates the willingness of the AIA Board to take significant steps towards fostering the well-being of young researchers in the field of English Studies throughout their academic careers.

Roberto Esposito, University of Naples L'Orientale

AIA for PhD

AIA PhD Students Meeting

February 23, 2024 - University of Milan

On February 23rd, the University of Milan's Department of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Mediations hosted the Board's regional meeting with PhD students and early-career researchers. The morning seminar featured two presentations by Stefania Maci (University of Bergamo) on English Corpus Linguistics and by Nicoletta Vallorani (University of Milan) on Cultural Studies Perspectives.

Maci introduced the baseline characteristics of research emphasizing the difference between methods and methodology. She then presented corpus linguistics as a methodological approach to discourse analysis with its own principles and composition rules that should be followed in order to provide a solid ground for a developing research project. Corpora are a useful tool for researchers to find new insights into language as access to large amounts of data makes it possible to develop an understanding of how naturally occurring speech works, particularly when investigating linguistic variables and language varieties. The interpretation of corpus data, however, calls for a triangulation of perspectives as context plays a crucial role in disambiguating meanings. To prove this point, Maci offered results from a paper by herself and Abbiati (2024) showing how a researcher's bias can influence the collection, analysis, interpretation, and publication of data.

Nicoletta Vallorani proposed a Cultural Studies perspective on Migration Studies with special regard for its ever-increasing connection with translation practices and processes. Citing Homi Bhabha's works, she presented translation not only as a linguistic process but rather as a cultural process, a necessary action that migrants have to perform in their countries of destination because of their marginalized identity. Translation is, therefore, a performative act that highlights cultural differences and occupies that in-between space that is typical of migrant cultures. As a cultural process, the linguistic nature of translation cannot be separated from its contextual specificity: The study of migration demands therefore a translational "turn" aimed at coming to terms with the foreignness of languages to each other. The "movement" that characterizes both translation and migration is not only physical and spatial, but also symbolical, epistemological, and necessarily political and it is bound to bring about change for both cultures involved.

In the second half of the day, the Board had the opportunity to get to know PhD students and early-career researchers participating in the meeting and listened to their desires and expectations regarding the role that AIA can play in their current and future endeavours. A fruitful discussion on topics ranging from career-related opportunities to future AIA initiatives included suggestions by PhD students and researchers on how AIA can improve its support to their careers and involve them in its activities.

Giulia Meroni, University of Milan

AIA for PhD

AIA PhD Students Meeting

March 15, 2024 - Roma Sapienza University

The AIA PhD meeting opened with a seminar titled “Peer review and other wonderful adventures”. It was presented by Riccardo Capoferro and Carmen Gallo to an audience of PhD students from different Universities in Italy. The first section of the seminar, presented by Riccardo Capoferro, offered an overview on the importance, as well as the shortcomings, of peer review as a fundamental part of the academic career. In particular, the speaker underlined the social aspect of peer review drawing from the social nature of academic work, including difference in length of received reviews, the tenets of good reviewing practice and what is necessary to develop a healthy relationship with the reviewing process. The various points explained in the talk were complemented with personal experience from the speakers as both reviewed authors and reviewing researchers. Carmen Gallo joined the conversation with a detailed talk on the process required to adapt and edit a doctoral dissertation into a monograph. In particular she focused on the differences, both in linguistic registers and structural layout, which ought to be considered when turning one’s dissertation into a monograph. One last contribution was offered by Massimiliano Demata and concerned the highly challenging practice of curating and editing a volume; drawing attention to the multiple factors at play, the speaker managed to convey a clear idea of such cooperative and social process, and provided a series of tips to better comprehend its intricacies. In the early afternoon, the AIA Board and the PhD students present at the event discussed interdisciplinarity and the early stages of post-doctoral career. The event was concluded with a conversation regarding the numerous steps necessary to pursue an academic career.

Giovanni Raffa and Michele Brugnetti, Roma Sapienza University

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To publish information on conferences, seminars, schools, calls for papers, events and publications on the

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For the newsletter: please send your documents in Word or Pages format. News on conferences, publications etc. maximum 350 words; conference reports maximum 700 words.

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have two reference letters from two AIA members, send the form and the two letters of reference to aiasegreteria@unito.it.

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