

AIA

Associazione Italiana di Anglistica

Newsletter 120 Autumn 2025



Contents

Editorial	1–3
<i>Textus</i>	4–9
32nd AIA conference report	10–11
Calls for papers: conferences, journals	12–19
New publications	20–23
AIA winter school report	24–25
Conferences: information and reports	26–33
ESSE conference and book awards	34–36
Contact us and newsletter guidelines	37
General information	38–39
AIA subscription	40

Editorial

AIA Autumn Editorial 2025

Dear Members,

As the new academic year gets under way, we thank you for your continued trust and commitment to our Association. The recent AIA Conference in Turin (11–13 September 2025) confirmed the vitality of our scholarly community, with 460 registered participants, 57 seminars, and 4 plenary lectures. These figures attest to the intellectual generosity and collective energy that sustain AIA. We thank all the colleagues who organised the conference under the guidance of Virginia Pulcini, whose dedication and coordination ensured the success of this event. All contributions were of exceptionally high quality, reflecting the richness and diversity of research that characterise our Association. The Board also thanks the participants for their engagement, which made those days of dialogue and collaboration notable.

The elections held during the conference renewed the mandate of the AIA Board for the next two years, ensuring continuity as well as fresh momentum in the pursuit of our shared mission. The active electorate consisted of 733 eligible members regularly registered with AIA as of 12 September 2025, with a total of 460 votes cast (62.76%), including 94 proxy votes. We extend our warm congratulations to the re-elected AIA Board, as well as to the newly appointed Auditors Marco Canani, Antonio Fruttaldo and Eleonora Sasso, and to the Board of Arbitrators Raffaella Antinucci, Nicoletta Vasta and Francesca Vigo, and we wish them productive work and continued collaboration in the service of our Association.

Our attention now turns to the next major initiatives that will mark the 2026 AIA calendar. The Winter School will take place in Trieste in February, offering an early opportunity for in-depth discussion and advanced training. In May, we plan to hold the AIA Seminar in Genoa, continuing the tradition of fostering research exchange and collaboration across different areas of English studies. The Summer School, scheduled for July at the University of Salerno (Fisciano), will close the academic season, providing a space for reflection, learning and intergenerational dialogue within our community. Further updates, including registration details, will follow. Another key appointment for all members is the 18th ESSE Conference, to be held in Santiago de Compostela from 31 August to 4 September 2026. The call for poster and seminar papers is open: submissions for individual posters should be sent to esse2026@usc.es, and proposals for seminar papers should be submitted directly to the respective seminar convenors. The deadline is

Editorial

31 January 2026; members are encouraged to prepare their abstracts and secure participation in what promises to be a significant European gathering in our field.

Other opportunities for research visibility include the ESSE Book Awards 2026, which will recognise outstanding scholarly works published in 2024 and 2025 in the fields of English Language and Linguistics, Literatures in English, and Cultural and Area Studies in English. Two categories are open: one for senior scholars and one for junior scholars submitting their first research monograph, each carrying a prize of €1,500. Eligible books must be published in English, have an ISBN, and represent original academic research; PhD dissertations in book form are accepted, while edited collections and textbooks are not. Submissions may be made either electronically (PDF only) to esse.president@outlook.com or in printed format (three copies) sent to Prof. Dr. Lieven Buyse, President of ESSE, KU Leuven Campus Brussels, Warmoesberg 26, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. The deadline for submission is 1 February 2026. A shortlist will be announced two months before the 18th ESSE Conference, in Santiago de Compostela, where the winners will be presented during the Opening Ceremony. Further details and the application form are available at <https://essenglish.org/book-awards/>.

We also wish to thank members for their active and thoughtful participation in the recent internal consultation concerning the motion on the situation in the Middle East. The large majority in favour testifies to the sense of responsibility and civic awareness that distinguishes our community. In a world where violence and conflict still shape many lives, academic associations such as AIA have a role in maintaining dialogue and in affirming, even in small but meaningful ways, a collective “no” to war. Through open and respectful debate, AIA reiterates its commitment to human dignity, freedom of thought, and the ethical value of knowledge as a path toward peace.

On the institutional front, two significant developments have recently shaped the Italian academic landscape. The Senate Committee has approved Bill S 1518 on university recruitment and the abolition of the ASN, introducing only partial amendments. Among the main changes are the drawing of competition commissioners from a national list to reduce local influence, the non-transferability of staffing entitlements to protect smaller universities, and the possibility of defining more specific thematic profiles within disciplinary fields. Further details are available at <https://www.senato.it/export/ddl/full/59224>. Meanwhile, the government’s Decree Act No. 304 introduces substantial reforms to ANVUR, reinforcing governmental control over research evaluation. Among the most debated measures are the inclusion of a government representative in all university boards and the extension of rectors’ mandates to eight years. Public hearings on the ANVUR reform took place on Tuesday, 21 October, where AIA was represented to convey the concerns and perspectives of our academic community.

Editorial

In these times of transformation, the voice of scientific associations remains essential when defending the autonomy, integrity and plurality of knowledge. As Percy Bysshe Shelley reminds us, there is a quiet beauty in the season of change, a harmony that mirrors our shared pursuit of knowledge and renewal:

*The day becomes more solemn and serene
When noon is past: there is a harmony
In autumn, and a lustre in its sky,
Which through the summer is not heard or seen,
As if it could not be, as if it had not been.*

(Hymn to Intellectual Beauty, stanza VII, vv. 1–5, 1817)

We look forward to meeting many of you again at our upcoming events and initiatives throughout the new academic year.

With warm autumn greetings,

Giuseppe Balirano

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 1/2025**

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

edited by Bronwen Hughes, Margaret Rasulo, and Ruth Wodak

***Textus* issue 2/2025**

The Voices of Water. Intermedial Blue Eco-Stories

edited by Maddalena Pennacchia, Gilberta Golinelli, Niklas Salmose

***Textus* issue 3/2025 forthcoming**

Text Analysis and Digital Humanities in English Studies

edited by Maristella Gatto, Michaela Mahlberg, Lorenzo Mastropierro, Francesca Saggini

Textus 1/2026 - LANGUAGE

**How to Do Things with(out) Words:
Intersections between Pragmatics and Multimodality**

Guest co-editors:

Aoife Beville (University of Naples L'Orientale)

Fabio Ciambella (Sapienza University of Rome)

Jonathan Culpeper (Lancaster University, UK)

Copyeditor:

Darragh Mulcahy (Sapienza University of Rome)

Pragmatics is the study of language in context; it involves analysing the meaning-making processes employed by language users. However, as studies in multimodality have widely established, other (para-linguistic and extra-linguistic) semiotic resources are also used to convey and construe meaning. Understanding the pragmatic import of multimodal communication is becoming increasingly important in a world where digital communication dominates interpersonal and professional interactions. Indeed, as Lluís Payrató observes, the ‘speech acts’ central to traditional Austinian and Searlean pragmatics do not occur in isolation from other communicative modes – such as gesture, facial expressions, prosody, and even visual or textual elements in digital media. Instead, they should be viewed as integral components of broader “communicative events” (2017, 4), where meaning emerges dynamically from the interplay of multiple semiotic resources. This perspective highlights the necessity of examining how language functions in conjunction with other modes, particularly in digital contexts where text, image, and audiovisual elements frequently combine to shape understanding. Multimodal pragmatics, therefore – the study of how meaning is constructed and interpreted through the interplay of multiple modes (e.g., linguistic, visual, gestural, auditory, and spatial) – would seem to be a fruitful yet hitherto understudied approach to understanding the complexities of interpersonal and multimodal communication (see Mubenga 2009; Dictero 2018; Haryanti et al. 2023).

This issue of *Textus* (1/2026 – Language) aims to investigate the dynamic intersection between multimodality and pragmatics, shedding light on how theoretical approaches, analytical methods, and practical applications from each field can mutually inform and enrich one another. By bringing together scholars and practitioners from diverse disciplines, this issue seeks to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue on language in use across various forms of multimodal pragmatics.

Deadline for abstracts submission: CLOSED

Deadline for final version of article: 15 December 2025

Writing the End, Imagining the Future: Ecoapocalypses and Ecotopias in Anglophone Literature

Guest co-editors:

Gioia Angeletti (Università di Parma)

Roberta Grandi (Università della Valle d'Aosta)

Nicoletta Vallorani (Università degli Studi di Milano)

Lykke Harmony Alara Guanio-Uluru (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences)

Copyeditor:

Elizabeth Ritsema (Royal Holloway –University of London)

In *The Last Man* (1826), Shelley thus envisioned the annihilation of the human race: an endemic disease being turned into a pandemic plague by a combination of war-related increase in human contacts and an unprecedented rise in air temperature. Nearly a century and a half later, Callenbach's *Ecotopia* (1975) imagined a sustainable society featuring mandatory waste recycling and electric engines, widespread bike-sharing, and advanced technological devices called "picturephones." Science fiction has long exhibited an uncanny ability to anticipate the worst –and, more rarely, the best –of possible futures. Yet today, as climate change, global warming, the sixth mass extinction, phosphogeddon, and other eco-catastrophes have ceased to be speculative concerns and instead define the lived reality of many communities, the once-cathartic potential of apocalyptic narratives may be diminishing. As noticed by Amitav Ghosh, "There is [...] an important difference between the weather events that we are now experiencing and those that occur in surrealist and magical realist novels: improbable though they might be, these events are neither surreal nor magical. To the contrary, these highly improbable occurrences are overwhelmingly, urgently, astoundingly real." (2017, 27)

Over the last decades, eco-apocalyptic and dystopian works have functioned as a means of reflecting on contemporary environmental crises, serving as cautionary tales designed to warn and engage readers with urgent global concerns (Basu, Broad, and Hintz 2013; Bradford et al. 2008; Curry 2013). However, recent interdisciplinary research spanning psychology, anthropology, affect studies, environmental activism, participatory culture, and speculative fiction (Callahan et al. 2019; de Moor et al. 2020; Leyda 2023; Lockyer and Veteto 2015; McKinley 2008; Nairn 2019; Oziewicz, Attebery, and Dědinová 2022; Weik von Mossner 2017) suggests that an overreliance on apocalyptic frameworks may be counterproductive. Scholars argue that narratives centred on climate catastrophe risk engendering paralysis rather than action, as they can reinforce the perception of an inevitable and insurmountable collapse, discouraging proactive engagement with environmental challenges (Arnold 2018; Hull 2019). In response, alternative genres such as ecotopias and solarpunk offer visions of the future that inspire optimism rather than despair. These narratives imagine worlds that are not only sustainable but deeply appealing, fostering a desire for systemic transformation and encouraging active participation in building a more just and environmentally integrated society (Ulibarri 2022; Weik von Mossner 2017).

Textus 2/2026 - LITERATURE

This issue of *Textus* invites contributions that examine eco-apocalyptic visions, climate fiction, and environmental dystopias, as well as alternative imaginaries such as ecotopias, solarpunk, fantasy, afrofuturist and feminist utopias. We welcome ecocritical analyses of both classic and contemporary works of adult and children's literature, along with other critical approaches informed by ecofeminism, intersectionality, blue and green humanities, energy humanities, posthumanism, new materialism, and affect studies.

Submission of abstracts and timeline

Deadline for abstracts submission: CLOSED

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

Request for revisions following peer review: 15 February 2026

Deadline for final version of article: 15 April 2026

Call for abstracts
Textus 3/2026 - CROSS-DISCIPLINARY ISSUE

**Voices Across Borders:
Reframing the Barriers of Vulnerability in Language, Culture,
and Literature**

Guest co-editors:

Gaetano Falco (Università degli Studi di Bari “Aldo Moro”)

Elena Spandri (Università degli Studi di Siena)

Jun Pan (Hong Kong Baptist University)

Copyeditor:

Eileen Mulligan (University of Bari)

In an increasingly hostile transnational political climate and environment, where current sweeping policy-making bodies demonize notions and practices of diversity, equity, and inclusion, fostering division within and between societies, nation-states, and cultures, the need to encourage inclusive dialogue in academic research has never been more pressing. By reframing the barriers of vulnerability in all its forms—whether linguistic, cultural, social, and digital, or in their literary representation—this issue of *Textus* intends to construct a comprehensive and vibrant space for scholarly investigation and social change, encouraging interdisciplinary conversation. Vulnerability is a concept that usually implies the related ideas of fragility, inequity, and risk, but is also associated with resilience, empowerment and resistance (Butler 2014). It “is a concept with fleeting contours as much as it is an idea with assured academic success” (Ferrarese 2016:149). As such, it is characterized by indeterminacy and variability, which accounts for the current, “increasingly multidisciplinary interest in the topic.” (Nungesser and Schirgi 2024: 252). Over the last decades, the notion has gained the attention of various research areas, both embracing and articulating its conceptual boundaries, as the idea itself has been subject to reconceptualization in the field of international human rights law (Morawa 2003). The call for *Voices Across Borders* offers itself to multiple inflections, showcasing the need for change and empowerment as a key quality that underlies recent developments in the fields of –amongst others –(critical) discourse analysis, literary studies, cultural studies, (critical) disability studies, gender studies, environmental studies, migration, border discourse and cultural mediation, and museum studies. Among the possible angles, one may consider for instance exploring the pliability of the novel form to contemporary ‘humanitarian imaginary’ in the current context marked by a pervasive condition of conflict, the massive experience of vulnerability and mediatic exposure to violence (Ganguly 2016). Another option may be to consider the dual role of language as both a barrier and a bridge across various fields, including translation and communication (Davies 2012); or, as a resource for inclusion and a cause of exclusion of vulnerable groups, ranging from migrants to refugees and asylum seekers (Schrover and Schinkel, 2013), to women and LGBTQI+ people (Jones 2023). The papers selected will ideally address the core topic from either theoretical or applied and text-focussed perspectives, in literature, linguistics, and cultural studies, including discussion of best practices in teaching and other professional experiences.

References

- Antinucci, Raffaella, and Adrian Grafe (eds.). *Vulnerability and Resilience in English Literature of the Long Nineteenth Century* (McFarland, 2024).
- Bonacchi, Silvia, ed. *Vulnerability: Real, Imagined, and Displayed Fragility in Language and Society*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht unipress, 2024.
- Butler, Judith. "Introduction: On Linguistic Vulnerability." In *Excitable Speech: A Politics of the Performative*. New York: Routledge, 1997: 1-42.
- Butler, Judith. "Rethinking Vulnerability and Resistance." In Judith Butler, Zeynep Gambetti, and Leticia Sabsay (ed. by), *Vulnerability in Resistance*, Duke UP, 2016, pp.12-27.
- Butler, Judith, *Precarious Lives: The Powers of Mourning and Violence* (Verso, 2006).
- Cunningham, Clare, and Christopher J. Hall, eds. *Vulnerabilities, Challenges and Risks in Applied Linguistics*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters, 2021.
- Davies, Eirlys E. "Translation and Intercultural Communication: Bridges and Barriers." In C. B. Paulston, S. F. Kiesling, & E. S. Rangel (Eds.), *The Handbook of Intercultural Discourse and Communication*. Wiley-Blackwell 2012, pp. 367–387.
- De Vogli R., Lusiardi M. (2024) "The Ecological Crisis and Human Rights: Why We Are All Vulnerable " *Peace Human Rights Governance*, 8(1), 135-152.
- Ferrarese, Estelle. "Vulnerability: A Concept with Which to Undo the World As It Is?". *Critical Horizons*, 17, 2 (2016): 149-159. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14409917.2016.1153885>
- Fernández-Santiago, Miriam, and Cristina M. Gámez-Fernández (eds.). *Representing Vulnerabilities in Contemporary Literature* (Routledge, 2022).
- Ganassin, Sara, Alexandra Georgiou, Judith Reynolds, and Mohammed Ateek. 2024. "Vulnerability and Multilingualism in Intercultural Research with Migrants: Developing an Inclusive Research Practice." *Language and Intercultural Communication* 24 (5): 385–93. doi:10.1080/14708477.2024.2411083.
- Ganguly, Debjani, *This Thing Called the World. The Contemporary Novel as Global Form* (Duke UP, 2016).
- Ganteau, Jean Michel. *The Ethics and Aesthetics of Vulnerability in Contemporary British Fiction* (Routledge, 2015).
- Giladi, Paul, and Petherbridge, Danielle. "The Vulnerable Dynamics of Discourse". *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement*. 2021: 195-225. doi:10.1017/S1358246121000151
- Heikkilä, Mikaela, and Maija Mustaniemi-Laakso. "Introduction: Approaches to Vulnerability in Times of Crisis." *Human Rights Review* (2023) 24:151–170.
- Jones, Lucy, "Language, gender and sexuality in 2022", *Gender and Language*, 17, 2 (2023): 1-18.
- Lewis, Hannah, *Precarious Lives: Forced Labour, Exploitation and Asylum* (Policy Press, 2014).
- Morawa, Alexander E., "Vulnerability as a Concept of International Human Rights Law", *Journal of International Relations and Development* 6, 2 (June 2003): 139-155.
- Nixon, Rob, *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (Harvard UP, 2011).
- Nungesser, Frithjof, and Antonia Schirgi. "Debating the Vulnerability Zeitgeist: Introduction to an Interdisciplinary Dialogue." *Human Studies*, 47, 2 (2024): 251–260.
- Scarry, Elaine, *The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World* (OUP, 1985).
- Schrover, Marlou, and Willem Schinkel. "Introduction: the language of inclusion and exclusion in the context of immigration and integration", *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 36, 7 (2013): 1123-1141.
- Slaughter, Joseph R., *Human Rights, Inc. The World Novel, Narrative Form, and International Law* (Fordham UP, 2007).
- Wu, Duncan, and Carolyne Forché (eds.) *Poetry of Witness: The Tradition in English 1500-2001* (Norton, 2014).

Submission of abstracts and timeline

gaetano.falco@uniba.it

Deadline for abstracts submission (400 words plus references): 15 December 2025. Please put as subject line "Textus Cross-disciplinary Issue 6/2025 – abstract submission"

Notification to authors: 15 January 2026

Deadline for submission of first draft of article (maximum 7500 words including references): 31 May 2026

Request for revisions following peer review: 15 July 2026

Deadline for final version of article: 1 September 2026



Associazione Italiana di Anglistica



**UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO**

32nd AIA Conference Report

11–13 September 2025 – University of Turin
Human, Humane, Humanities. Voices from the Anglosphere

On 11–13 September 2025, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Modern Cultures of the University of Turin hosted the 32nd AIA conference. The conference was organised under the direction of Virginia Pulcini, with the help of Esterino Adami, Cecilia Boggio, Carmen Concilio and Massimiliano Demata and the support of lecturers in English language and literature across four departments of the University of Turin. The main theme of AIA32, “Human, Humane, Humanities. Voices from the Anglosphere”, was chosen to spur reflections and debates on the manifold meanings of the word ‘human’ and its derivatives. In a world where the idea of what it means to be human is being questioned, changed, and reshaped by social, ideological and geopolitical crises as well as by the digital turn and artificial intelligence, how can scholars in English studies help to explore how these changes are expressed by people and communities in the Anglosphere?

Such a compelling theme led to a record number of submissions by AIA members. Almost 500 participants joined, distributed over a total of 57 seminars to present groundbreaking research on topics as diverse as the expression of identity, storytelling, dystopian narratives, the environment, the digital turn and the role of AI, among many others, as reported in the 355-page Book of Abstracts (https://corep.it/images/aia2025/AIA_Book_of_abstracts_lug25_def.pdf). Notwithstanding the canonical division between literature and linguistics, the Turin conference registered a marked drive to address these topics in an interdisciplinary way – a choice reflecting, on the one hand, the richness of the scholarly landscape of English studies in Italy, and on the other, the freshly perceived need for academics to engage in dialogue with other disciplines to best tackle the complex challenges of our ever-changing world.

In this respect, the four plenary sessions, which were held in the Auditorium of the Aldo Moro building before a capacity audience, gave much food for thought to the conference participants, as shown by the lively Q&A sessions. Carol O’Sullivan (University of Bristol, UK) investigated the changes undergone by audiences for subtitled media and the development of new subtitling norms in the UK and other anglophone countries. Rossella Ciocca (Università di Napoli L’Orientale) examined the contemporary crisis of Humanism through the dialogue between Transhumanism and Posthumanism, analysing a range of



contemporary speculative novels and reflecting on the ethical potential of a posthuman vision.

Caroline Tagg (The Open University, UK) delved into the relational and linguistic ramifications of mobile communication practices to discuss how ‘post-digital’ society is reshaping our ‘human’ need for intimacy. Finally, Indian author Radhika Jha engaged with Plato’s cave allegory to problematise our ever-increasing difficulty in telling reality from fiction now that online content has taken extremely realistic forms, while also interrogating the role of education, and social and individual attitudes to love and ideas.

Crucial to the success of the conference was the presence of a high number of young researchers. The AIA board has worked hard in the past years to involve junior scholars with seminar meetings, dedicated training, and bursaries. With this goal in mind, AIA32 introduced the Best Presentation Prize for the most noteworthy papers delivered by young scholars. The prizes reserved for the section on literature (ANGL-01/A) were awarded to Gaia Zaccaro and Angel Antonio De Oliveira Amata, while for linguistics (ANGL-01/C) prizes were awarded to Ilaria Giordano, Nicola Pelizzari and Francesca Illiano.

Most importantly, the debate that ensued from the conference papers was always held in a cheerful, convivial, and productive atmosphere. The conference was widely praised by participants not only for its organisation, but also for providing delegates with the opportunity to relax, feel part of a cohesive intellectual community, enjoy the company of fellow scholars and admire the beauties of Turin. The two most memorable events in this regard were the welcome drink reception in the elegant 17th century royal court at Palazzo Reale, and the social dinner held in the breathtaking Galleria San Federico, which is renowned for its Art Deco interiors.

On the final day, the AIA board – whose members were all confirmed in the elections held during the AIA Conference – gave their heartfelt thanks to the organising committee for offering a pleasant opportunity to share research and strengthen cohesion in our academic community, and invited all AIA members to join the 33rd AIA conference in Rome in 2027.

Alessio Mattana

Photos of the plenary sessions and of the prizes award can be accessed here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XXaTT2hu7LWiS2CKtrk9OK469mKiKe9P?usp=sharing>

Calls for papers: conferences, journals

Conferences, journals

Title: “(Un)natural Stevenson. Wild transgressions across literature, ecology, science and gender”

Dates: May 11-12, 2025

Place: Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Organisers: Lucio De Capitani, Alessandro Cabiati

Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2025. Send to: alessandro.cabiati@unive.it, lucio.decapitani@unive.it. Please find the FULL TEXT of the call for papers at: <https://www.cfplist.com/CFP/45365>

This conference aims to explore the concept of nature/natural in Robert Louis Stevenson's work, broadly understood as to intersect with several of Stevenson's intellectual, ethical and artistic engagements: reflections on literary criticism/style, conceptions of gender and sexuality, visions of science, anthropological and psychological notions of the human, and ecological/ecocritical considerations. It suggests the possibility that the Stevensonian 'natural' may also, as a matter of course, evoke its other – the 'unnatural' – either to uphold the boundary between the two or, perhaps more intriguingly, to cross it. Connected to this, the conference aims to investigate Stevenson both as a writer of dichotomies/dualisms and of their wild transgressions.

Topics include but are not limited to: Theoretical reflections on the idea/concept of nature, the natural, and the unnatural with reference to Stevenson's fiction and nonfiction; Conceptions/visions of the environment, the nonhuman (including animals and plants) and ecology in Stevenson; Weird, eerie and unnatural landscapes; Stevenson as writer of binaries/dichotomies, Stevenson beyond binaries/dichotomies; Ecocritical, posthuman, neo-materialist readings of Stevenson; Stevenson and science (positivist or otherwise); Stevenson, Victorian psychology, and theories on double or “multiplex personality”; Stevenson and queerness, or Stevenson as queering genre/gender and literary style; queer ecologies in/and Stevenson; Normative conceptions of kinship (and their overcoming); queer kinship; Fear of/embracing of miscegenation; The natural/artificial dichotomy in Stevenson, and/or its overcoming; Stevenson and the body/mind duality, and/or its overcoming; Transcorporeality in Stevenson; Ecophilia and ecophobia in Stevenson.

Title: “Unruly bodies and astral corporealities in science fiction cinema and television series”

Journal: *ContactZone*

Editors: Giuseppe Balirano, Oriana Palusci

Deadline for abstract submission: October 30, 2025. Send to: gbalirano@unior.it and aisff.starfiction@gmail.com

In recent decades, science fiction films and television have persistently reimagined the body as a site of contestation, hybridity, and transformation. From disabled and prosthetic bodies to queer, non-gendered, and monstrous forms of embodiment, the genre interrogates the boundaries of what is considered human, alien, artificial or cosmic. At the same time, astral and otherworldly corporealities disrupt traditional understandings of matter, identity, and subjectivity, proposing bodies that are not bound by earthly logics of conformity, productivity, or normativity.

This special issue seeks to explore how science fiction films and television stage non-normative embodiments, both terrestrial and astral, to challenge conventional narratives about gender, sexuality, ability, and monstrosity. We invite contributions that analyze the ways in which sci-fi series construct, critique, and celebrate bodies that resist classification, bodies that disturb comfort zones, and bodies that gesture toward new forms of being in the universe.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to: Disabled, prosthetic, and cybernetic bodies as counter-

Conferences, journals

narratives to ableist futurisms; Genderless, trans, and posthuman embodiments beyond binary logics; Monstrous, hybrid, and alien corporealities as sites of resistance and desire; Astral or cosmic bodies, immaterial or energy-based life forms, and their cultural meanings; Intersections of race, disability, and queerness in the representation of non-conforming bodies; The politics of spectatorship: how audiences engage with disruptive embodiments in science fiction films or TV series; Case studies of specific series or characters (e.g., *Star Trek*, *Doctor Who*, *The Expanse*, *Sense8*, *Raised by Wolves*, *Black Mirror*, *Battlestar Galactica*, among others) or films.

We welcome interdisciplinary approaches drawing from critical disability studies, queer theory, trans studies, posthumanism, media studies, and cultural studies.

This issue aims to foster a dialogue across disciplinary boundaries and to showcase innovative perspectives on how science fiction films and TV series destabilize normative visions of embodiment while imagining radical alternatives for the future.

Title: “Inheriting Eco. Umberto Eco, the University of Bologna and all the knowledge in the world”

Dates: May 27–29, 2026

Place: University of Bologna

Organisers: Centro internazionale di Studi umanistici “Umberto Eco”

Deadline for abstract submission: October 30, 2025. <https://centri.unibo.it/cue/it/convegno-eco-2026>

The year 2026 will mark the 10th anniversary of Umberto Eco's death on 19 February 2016.

Ten years during which Eco himself had asked not to organise any conferences about him, so as to better determine and appreciate what to forget, what to keep, and what to build on.

Indeed, a decade is an adequate time span to allow culture to fulfil two of its essential functions, adopted by Eco as central themes of his essays: that of filtering knowledge, offering subsequent generations only that which deserves to be remembered, and of opening, or renewing, a text through new interpretations. Two actions that, alone, serve to appreciate what can and must remain.

This conference on the 10th anniversary of Eco's death, which the Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna is promoting through its Centro internazionale di Studi umanistici “Umberto Eco”, aims to make Umberto Eco's intellectual legacy visible, inviting participants to shape the conference with the ambition of developing a scientific event that is genuinely close to Umberto Eco's way of thinking.

By bringing together scholars in the many fields of knowledge in which Eco worked, the conference aims to bring out Eco's legacy of thought; the aspects that emerge following the progress and distance brought about by ten years; the elements of thought that are still worthy of attention; and the directions in which these elements can be developed and relaunched today. This conference, therefore, has no set themes or sub-themes for reflection; instead, it makes room for the most important themes to emerge from the papers, debate and work of the scholars summoned to Bologna.

In short, the Centro internazionale di Studi umanistici “Umberto Eco” is organising an open work-conference enabling the emergence of new paths of reflection by re-examining and re-filtering Umberto Eco's immense body of works. The proposals should be structured around six main areas: Narrative; Interpreting and Translation; Semiotics; Philosophy and History of ideas; Middle Ages; Media. With these areas in mind, those who identify with one or more of Eco's ideas will be able to interact and reflect dialogically with the conference's community of scholars.

In doing so, not only will the conference redesign a legacy destined to become ever richer and more open; it will also make it possible to commemorate Eco's vast intellectual legacy of thought in a non-ceremonial manner, revealing its strength, renewing its interpretation, and creating an occasion that is not merely commemorative or retrospective, but rich in thought, innovation and future.

Title: “Clerici Day III. Tennis in literature and film”

Dates: April 16-17, 2026

Place: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Brescia

Organisers: Giuseppe Cosio, Valentina Varinelli

Deadline for abstract submission: October 31, 2025. Send to: valentina.varinelli@unicatt.it and franco.lonati@unicatt.it

While Sinner-mania is steadily growing in Italy, a measure of the global hype surrounding tennis is the proliferation in the past few years of literary and cinematic representations of this game. From Andre Agassi’s bestselling autobiography *Open* to the recent success of Luca Guadagnino’s *Challengers*, tennis occupies a central place in contemporary pop culture. Yet these are only the latest expressions of an artistic tradition as old as the sport itself, encompassing film and theatre, ‘high’ literature (think of Giorgio Bassani’s *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* or David Foster Wallace’s *Infinite Jest*) and commercial fiction (such as Sophie Kinsella’s debut novel, *The Tennis Party*, and Taylor Jenkins Reid’s *Carrie Soto Is Back*), life writing and journalism – not to mention tennis fanatics like Samuel Beckett, Vladimir Nabokov, and Martin Amis.

This conference aims to investigate the forms and modes of representation of tennis – both in its modern version and in its early manifestations – in world literature, cinema, and TV series. It will also be the opportunity to promote the impressive tennis library and archive built by Italian TV commentator, journalist, and writer Gianni Clerici (1930-2022), now held at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Brescia (<https://brescia-raccoltestoriche-gianniclerici.unicatt.it/>).

We welcome 20-minute papers in English or Italian from academics as well as journalists and tennis experts. The proceedings will be published in a volume of the double-blind peer-reviewed *Quaderni delle Raccolte Storiche* series of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore.

Title: “Artificial Intelligence and Audiovisual Translation. Challenges and new horizons ”

Dates: April 23-24, 2026

Place: University of Palermo

Organisers: Ester Gendusa, Alessandra Rizzo, Marianna Lya Zummo

Deadline for abstract submission: December 22, 2025. Send to: alessandra.rizzo@unipa.it; gabriele.uzzo@unipa.it; marialuisa.pensabene@unipa.it. Further information at: <https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/scienzeumanistiche/Artificial-Intelligence-and-Audiovisual-Translation-Challenges-and-New-Horizons/>

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a transformative force across domains, reshaping professional practices, academic debates, and user experiences. Audiovisual Translation (AVT), with its multimodal and interdisciplinary nature, stands at the forefront of this transformation. AI-driven tools such as automatic speech recognition, machine translation, text-to-speech systems, synthetic voices and AI dubbing, among others, are redefining how AVT is conceived, produced, and consumed, from dubbing and subtitling to audio description (AD), subtitling for people who are d/Deaf or hard-of-hearing (SDH), voiceover, and live subtitling.

The connection between AI and AVT is now central not only to advancing research, but also to forging sustainable ties with the AVT industry. Cloud-based platforms, automated workflows, and AI-enhanced translation environments are revolutionising professional practice while reshaping student training. Preparing the next generation of audiovisual translators requires embedding AI literacy, practical competence, and industry collaboration into curricula to ensure a smooth transition into the professional world.

This conference invites scholars, students, practitioners, and industry stakeholders to explore, critically and concretely, the synergies and tensions between AI technologies and AVT. We aim to assess the state of the art, interrogate emerging challenges, and envision the future of AVT in a world increasingly shaped by automation and algorithmic mediation. Particular attention will be devoted to practical

Conferences, journals

applications not only in the media and entertainment industries (film, television, streaming platforms, gaming), but also in the arts and cultural heritage sectors, such as museums, galleries, and live performance, where AI-enhanced AVT practices are opening unprecedented avenues for accessibility and cultural engagement. Focus will be also on the origins of the earliest chat systems within audiovisual and cinematic products. We welcome studies and research that foreground the historical significance of chats both as a digital tool and a writing/narrative device within audiovisual texts.

Title: “Regional perspectives, planetary reach. Themes, genres, forms of narration in contemporary Irish and Scottish fiction”

Dates: May 28-29, 2026

Place: University of Naples L’Orientale

Organisers: Rossella Ciocca, Marta Cariello, Giuseppe De Riso, Daniela Vitolo, Luca Sarti, Gaia Zaccaro

Deadline for abstract submission: January 10, 2026. Send to: IRSConference2026@gmail.com.

Further information at: <https://sites.google.com/view/irsconference/home-page>

Since the turn of the millennium, the European Anglophone literary scene has seen a growing prominence of Scottish and Irish fiction. This is evidenced by the numerous awards given to writers of Scottish and Irish origin and/or residence over the last two decades. What is particularly remarkable about this productivity is the ability of these writers to combine an interest in identities that can be significantly characterised as local/regional or migrant, with the ability to represent, on the global stage of the West, all the thematic and genre trends closely connected to the most pressing current events and the urgencies of contemporaneity. Climate change and eco-anxieties, the disintegration of democracy and civil coexistence, the culture of hate and apocalyptic imaginings of the future, identity politics and, in particular, the question of identities and gender relations are promptly and appropriately articulated in a stylistic-expressive variety that ranges from particularly effective and original forms of realism to speculative and dystopian tendencies intertwined with all possible narrative subgenres. Authors such as Ali Smith or Paul Lynch, to name just a couple among many others, have shown the ability to renew contemporary literary canons by combining stylistic innovation and formal experimentation with a firm grasp on contemporary reality, problematising its observation and narration. Both from the perspective of the stories and themes they address and from the formal perspective of linguistic and expressive research, these two literary scenes are therefore extremely interesting and capable of intersecting critical perspectives informed by the most recent theories in the fields of the post-humanities and metamodernism.

The Conference organisers invite scholars and researchers interested in this area and its latest trends in fiction, poetry, drama, cinema, TV series, digital media, and critical theory to submit proposals for 20-minute presentations.

Title: “Post-truth and populism in politics, communication and discourse”

Journal: *Status Quaestionis*

Editors: Massimiliano Demata, Donatella Montini

Submission deadline for abstracts: November 15, 2025. Send to: Massimiliano Demata (massimiliano.demata@unict.it) and Donatella Montini (donatella.montini@uniroma1.it). <https://rosa.uniroma1.it/.../status.../announcement/view/119>

This issue of *Status Quaestionis* seeks to investigate contemporary political communication from a sociolinguistic perspective, with particular attention to the phenomena of post-truth and populist

Conferences, journals

discourse. In recent years, the relationship between language, politics, and society has been profoundly reshaped by the impact of social media, the spread of polarizing narratives, and the erosion of the traditional link between factual truth and public credibility. In this context, where “fake news”, “alternative facts”, and algorithmically driven amplification circulate at scale, the stakes for democratic debate are increasingly high.

This issue of SQ aims to provide a critical contribution to the understanding of ongoing transformations in political communication, while reflecting on the risks and opportunities for democratic debate in a context increasingly marked by fragmentation, disinformation, and discursive oversimplification. It welcomes analyses that foreground how discursive practices shape public credibility, the mobilization of identities, and the production of simplified oppositions between “the people” and “the elites.”

We will publish original papers drawing on textual corpora from public speeches, electoral campaigns, and digital interactions, examining how rhetorical strategies and linguistic choices contribute to redefining discursive authority, influencing not only electoral dynamics but also the collective perception of reality (including, crucially, social reality). Approaches may include or combine insights from discourse analysis, pragmatics, and critical sociolinguistics, with the goal of identifying recurring patterns in populist political language and assessing how these contribute to the construction of a simplified, oppositional, and identity-based imaginary.

In view of the publication of this issue, we invite scholars to submit a 250-word proposal for an article. Contributions may address one or more of the following areas, or propose alternative topics closely related to them: Discursive constructions of truth, authority, and legitimacy in the post-truth era; Populist rhetoric: linguistic, pragmatic, and stylistic strategies; Political discourse, polarization, and identity-building; Language, emotions, and the mobilization of publics; The role of metaphors, narratives, and frames in populist communication; Digital discourse, social media dynamics, and disinformation; Critical Discourse Analysis, corpus-based studies, and computational approaches to political language; Comparative perspectives on populist discourse in national and international contexts; Interdisciplinary intersections: sociolinguistics, political science, media studies, and philosophy of language. We further welcome contributions that explore: Platform-mediated dynamics (algorithmic visibility, virality, and influencer ecologies) and their effects on discursive authority and credibility; Conspiracy and post-truth formations as pragmatic and interactional practices (e.g., social validation through repetition).

Title: 18th ESSE Conference. Call for Seminar Papers: “Disinformation in and out: qualitative linguistic analyses of digital disinformation texts”

Dates: August 31–September 4, 2026

Place: Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Convenors: Dominika Beneš Kováčová, Massimiliano Demata, Jiří Lukl

Deadline for the submission of proposals for seminar papers: January 31, 2026. Send to: dominika.kovacova@osu.cz, massimiliano.demata@unict.it, jiri.lukl@osu.cz

Further information at: www.esse2026.com

With the challenges and crises of recent years, digital disinformation texts (in popular – though not always precise – usage also referred to as ‘fake news’) have become increasingly popular and seem to have gained ground among various groups of internet users. Defined as “false information [that] is knowingly shared to cause harm” (Wardle & Derakhshan, 2017), disinformation is essentially the result of one’s text production – shaped by the author’s intentions that manifest themselves in the text’s intentionality (cf. Haugh & Jaszczolt, 2012) – and its spread is contingent on the readers’ perception and further interaction with it.

While previous (primarily quantitative) studies of disinformation texts have mainly focused on disinformation detection by identifying recurrent grammatical patterns and stylistic features (e.g., Grieve & Woodfield, 2023), this seminar seeks to bring together contributions that expand this research

Conferences, journals

and underline the relevance and potential of qualitative analyses of disinformation discourse currently on the rise (e.g., Maci et al., 2024). Acknowledging the methodological and ethical challenges this kind of research faces, the seminar takes into account the diversity of the topics disinformation texts are devoted to (e.g., immigration, conflicts, climate change, conspiracy theories) as well as the variety of their discursive structures and formats (e.g., anti-establishment websites, social media posts, online broadcasts). Given the impact disinformation texts are likely to exert both online and outside the digital environment, the seminar also aims to emphasize that adding a critical dimension to the analysis may be necessary in certain contexts.

Considering the above, we invite contributions exploring disinformation texts from a qualitative linguistic perspective that address (but are not restricted to) the following areas: recurrent linguistic and multimodal strategies; adopted argumentative strategies; linguistic differences between mainstream news and disinformation texts (e.g., information-structural, lexical and other features); uptake and audience reactions to disinformation texts; cross-linguistic differences between disinformation texts.

Title: “Transimperial encounters. Networks of cultural and literary exchange between India and Europe, 1870-1947”

Journal: *LEA (Lingue e Letterature d'Oriente e d'Occidente)*

Editors: Ujjwal Jana, Greta Perletti

Deadline for abstract submission: June 8, 2026. Send to: Ujjwal Jana (ujana@english.du.ac.in) and Greta Perletti (greta.perletti@unitn.it). Further information at: <https://journals.fupress.net/call-for-paper/transimperial-encounters-networks-of-cultural-and-literary-exchange-between-india-and-europe-1870-1947/>

This special issue of the journal *LEA* seeks to explore the transimperial intellectual, cultural, and political exchanges between India and Europe in the colonial period, until Partition (1870-1947). While much scholarship on empire has focused on the binary relationship between the colonizer and the colonized, recent work in colonial and global studies has drawn attention to the complex, multidirectional flows of ideas, people, and cultural forms across imperial boundaries. For example, Antoinette Burton was among the first to call attention on the need to destabilise “the certainty of the nation as an analytical category, as a cherished ideal, as a guarantor of the sovereign Western self as well” (2011: 3). More recently, Sukanya Banerjee has argued for the adoption of “a transimperial analytical framework that places Britain in constant tension and connection with its imperial constituencies (...) by continually questioning the discrete solidities of the (British) nation and placing it in an inexhaustible relation of contiguity and interconstitutiveness with the empire ‘out there’” (2018: 925). While the notion of ‘transimperial encounters’ immediately evokes postcolonial theory and frameworks, it also responds to the recent ‘global turn’ of Victorian studies, with scholars advocating for the need to “widen” (Banerjee, Fong and Michie 2021) or “undiscipline” the field (Chatterjee, Christoff and Wong 2020) and showing how a transimperial lens enables a more productive and “contrapuntal” engagement with critically contested topics like, for example, religion (Lecourt and Werner 2024). This issue builds on such approaches by investigating how exchanges between the East and West – whether through travel, political activism, literary production, philosophical or religious discourse – reshaped anti-colonial thought, cultural movements, and intellectual traditions on both sides of the colonial divide. It is especially interested to explore transimperial cultural movements like feminism, radicalism, vegetarianism etc. (Gandhi 2006; Selbin 2024), as well as transimperial literary genres like science fiction, spiritual autobiographies, realism etc. (Joshi 2002; Boehmer 2015; Gibson 2019). It welcomes contributions from a range of disciplines, including literary studies, history, intellectual history, cultural studies, and transnational studies. In addition, we aim to bring together scholars working on different national and linguistic contexts to explore how anti-colonial and cultural networks functioned beyond the Anglo-Indian binary. We thus encourage also contributions that examine less-explored East/West connections (e.g., between India and Italy, France, Germany, etc.), as well as the role of multilingual and cross-cultural literary production.

Conferences, journals

Title: “Tennyson 2006. Ecology, landscape, environment”

Dates: July 14–17, 2026

Place: Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln (UK), in partnership with The Tennyson Society

Organisers: Claudia Capancioni, Jim Chesire, Valerie Purton

Deadline for abstract submission: January 31, 2026

Contact: tennyson2026@bishopg.ac.uk. Further info at: <https://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2025/08/06/tennyson-2026-ecology-landscape-environment>

Tennyson’s poetry was central in forming Victorian responses to the natural world and to scientific advances which underpin today’s emerging fields of environmental studies and plant humanities, as well as interdisciplinary studies of literature and science, literary geographies, literature and the arts, and literature and print culture. His evocative idyllic settings inspired painters from the Pre-Raphaelites to Edward Lear, while his struggles with evolutionary theory engaged with a different vision of ‘Nature, red in tooth and claw’. His poetic sonorities inspired new soundscapes in music and even later film adaptations. This will be a timely opportunity to explore the varied legacies left to us by the Victorians and their Poet Laureate, and to assess their relevance to the global climate and social justice crises of today.

Our conference welcomes proposals that range widely, from geology to garden design, from the celebration of landscape to warfare and the destruction of landscape, from the minutiae of the ‘Flower in the Crannied Wall’ to the ‘Vastness’ of Space, from the threat of industrialisation and global capitalism to the promise of a utopian future, from imperial land-grabbing to the preservation of local identities and dialects.

Title: “DN33. Discourse, sustainability, and education: interdisciplinary perspectives on climate and communication”

Dates: March 26-27, 2026

Place: University of International Studies (UNINT), Rome

Organisers: Marina Brancaccio, Cristina Benicchi, Thomas Jacobs, Benno Herzog

Deadline for abstract submission: October 31, 2025. Send to: dn33rome2026@gmail.com

In recent decades, the discourse surrounding sustainability and climate change has become central to global public debates, policy-making, activism, education, and everyday life. Discourses on the environment frame not only what is perceived as the climate crisis but also what solutions, responsibilities, and futures are imaginable or excluded (Hajer, 1995; Dryzek, 2013; Stibbe, 2021). This framing takes shape through media narratives, political communication, and institutional discourses that both reflect and influence public engagement (Carvalho & Burgess, 2005; Boykoff, 2008; Cox & Pezzullo, 2019; Moser, 2010).

Education has also emerged as a key arena for cultivating sustainable mindsets and practices, where language, texts, and multimodal communication play crucial roles in influencing knowledge, instilling values, and guiding actions at all levels — from higher education curricula to narrative design in climate change education (UNESCO, 2020, 2021; Sonetti, 2020; Deriu, 2024; D’Orto, 2025). At the same time, discourse-oriented research has shown how pedagogical strategies, framing devices, and communicative practices affect learners’ agency, identity, and capacity for transformative change (Sterling, 2011; Russo & Bevitori, 2023, 2024).

This conference invites scholars to critically examine how sustainability and climate issues are communicated, contested, and enacted through discourse in diverse social, institutional, and technological contexts. We seek to explore how discourse contributes to constructing environmental problems, mobilising collective action, and framing pedagogical approaches to sustainability education. Contributions that interrogate how discursive practices may reinforce inequities, marginalise certain voices, or limit transformative change (Fairclough, 2015; Whyte, 2017; Wodak, 2021; Sultana, 2022) are also welcome.

Conferences, journals

We invite papers from across the full spectrum of discourse studies — including but not limited to critical, multimodal, narrative, ethnographic, interactional, corpus-based, and practice-oriented approaches — and encourage interdisciplinary perspectives drawing from linguistics, education, media and communication studies, sociology, environmental humanities, and political science (van Dijk, 2008; Charteris-Black, 2018; Kress & van Leeuwen, 2021).

Title: “Stories That Matter: Rethinking Disability through Literature, Culture, and Storytelling”

Dates: May 14-15, 2026

Place: University of Verona

Organisers: Chiara Battisti, Sidia Fiorato, Anja Meyer

Deadline for abstract submission: January 19, 2026. Send to: chiara.battisti@univr.it; sidia.fiorato@univr.it; anja.meyer@univr.it

This international conference brings together the critical perspectives of Disability Studies and the Health Humanities to explore the narrative, cultural, and discursive dimensions of disability. By engaging with literature, culture, pedagogy, and digital media, the conference seeks to investigate how disability is represented, narrated, and reimagined across contexts and traditions. We invite scholars from diverse disciplines to contribute to a dialogue that examines disability not only as an object of representation but also as a lens that reshapes the ways we think about storytelling, access, and cultural imagination.

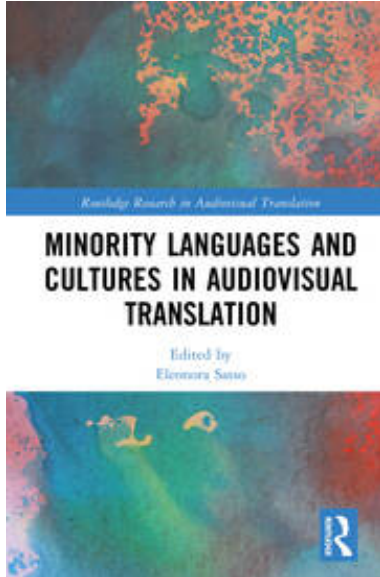
The conference will develop along four main lines of investigation: 1. Narratives of Disability in North American Literature and Culture: this line focuses on how disability has been represented, challenged, or re-signified in North American literary and cultural traditions. While grounded in literary and cultural studies, this line also invites interdisciplinary reflections at the crossroads of medicine, philosophy, sociology, and the arts; 2. Narratives of Disability in English Literature and Culture/Dis-ability narratives in children’s and young adult’s narratives: this line focuses on how disability narratives in English literature has been represented, narrated, and reimagined in English literature, from the Victorian to the contemporary era , as well as in children’s and young adult literature. We welcome contributions that examine how literary form, genre, and narrative strategies reflect cultural attitudes toward disability, or challenge and reframe them. 3. Accessible Pedagogies and Inclusive Literary Practices: this line explores the role of accessibility in educational and cultural institutions, with a particular focus on literature and the arts. We welcome contributions that explore practical strategies, theoretical frameworks, and innovative approaches for inclusive teaching of literary and cultural texts; Interdisciplinary perspectives, including education, disability studies, digital humanities, and cultural studies, are encouraged. 4. Digital Storytelling and Disability: this section investigates how digital media reshape narratives of disability, opening new spaces for creativity, participation, and advocacy. Digital environments — ranging from social media platforms to interactive installations, video games, and mobile applications — have transformed the ways in which stories about disability are created, shared, and experienced. These technologies not only expand access and visibility but also invite reconsideration of authorship, embodiment, and collective imagination in the digital age.

New publications

Eleonora Sasso (ed.)

Minority Languages and Cultures in Audiovisual Translation

Routledge, 2026, pp. 338. ISBN: 9781032793375



This collection explores the range of approaches and frameworks used in the study of minority languages and cultures in audiovisual translation (AVT), encouraging interdisciplinary conversations toward fostering linguistic diversity on screen.

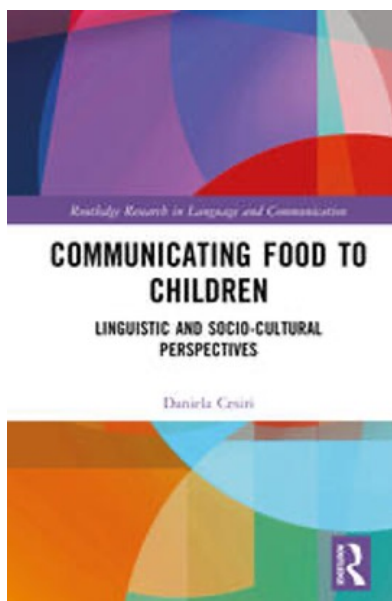
The volume is organized around five parts, looking at examples from across the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, and China as well as issues around sign languages in AVT. Chapters explore innovative strategies in subtitling, dubbing, and fansubbing to address non-standard varieties, ethnolinguistic diversities, and multilingualism, among other key themes, across different forms of media. The volume also looks ahead to how the study and practice of AVT might be re-envisioned in relation to minority languages, societies, and cultures in the future.

This book will be of interest to scholars in translation studies, audiovisual translation, media accessibility, and media studies.

Daniela Cesiri

Communicating Food to Children. Linguistic and Socio-Cultural Perspectives

Routledge, 2025, pp. 174. ISBN: 9781032394350



This book offers a systematic account of communication on food aimed at children, investigating verbal and visual strategies used in food media in English from synchronic and diachronic perspectives.

While there is a wide body of research on food discourse, there has been little to date on children as a particular category of actors within food-related communication. Cesiri integrates work from corpus linguistics, genre analysis, and multimodality to analyze verbal and visual components in media that transmit specialist knowledge and familiarize children with foundational food concepts, the extra-linguistic factors that shape food-related communication, and the ways in which different genres represent culinary traditions to children. The volume features an extensive corpus of technical products such as cookbooks, commercial products such as advertisements, and institutional products such as leaflets from international institutions. In applying a multi-layered perspective to a diverse range of food-related communication materials, Cesiri seeks to unpack whether potential differences in communicative strategies can be attributed to the source culture of interactants or those shared by a specific community of actors, and in turn, further insights into the nature of domain-specific discourse.

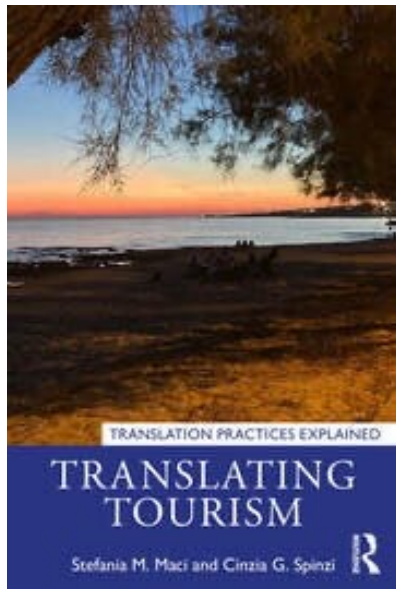
This volume will appeal to scholars in discourse analysis, multimodality, corpus linguistics, and childhood studies.

New publications

Stefania M. Maci, Cinzia G. Spinzi

Translating tourism

Routledge, 2025, pp. 286. ISBN: 9781032736648



This volume offers a comprehensive exploration of tourist discourse and the challenges of translating tourism texts. By analysing how tourism communication operates at the intersection of language, culture, and society, the book demonstrates how translation is not merely a linguistic transfer but a complex mediatory act requiring cultural sensitivity, accessibility and inclusivity. Bridging theory and practice, the book draws on insights from tourism studies, discourse analysis, and translation studies, while illustrating its arguments with practical examples. It emphasises the growing importance of digital communication in tourism and the translator's role in ensuring inclusivity and cultural resonance. Accessible in style yet grounded in scholarly research, the volume is intended as an essential resource for students, researchers, and practitioners working in translation studies, English linguistics, and tourism communication. It equips readers with both critical perspectives and practical strategies for translating tourism in a globalised, digitalised world.

Thomas Middleton, Thomas Dekker

Il banchetto di sangue. Una tragedia. Prima traduzione italiana (con testo a fronte) e note a cura di Angela Sileo, con una premessa di Daniela Guardamagna

Bulzoni, 2025, pp. 250. ISBN: 9788868973698



The publishing series “Teatro inglese di Seicento e Settecento,” directed by Alba Graziano within Research Group IRGORD (Italian Research Group on Restoration Drama), presents the first Italian translation of *The Bloody Banquet. A Tragedy*, a play composed by Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker in the early 17th century. This is the second volume of the series, following the collaborative translation of Edward Ravenscroft's *Careless Lovers* (*Amanti spensierati*, Bulzoni Editore, 2024). *Il banchetto di sangue. Una tragedia* attempts to render the original text into a loosely hendecasyllabic verse and adopts a generally ‘historicizing’ approach to convey the original flavor and texture of the play, preserving its historical and poetic resonance. The preface opening the volume, written by Daniela Guardamagna, situates the work within its historical and literary context as a “tragedy of blood,” dominated by violence, intrigue, and betrayals, with the motif of the banquet at its center.

Emanuel Stelzer (ed.)

Receptions of Ophelia: from the Early Modern Period to the Fin-de-Siècle (eds)
Skenè. Text and Studies 11(1), 2025.

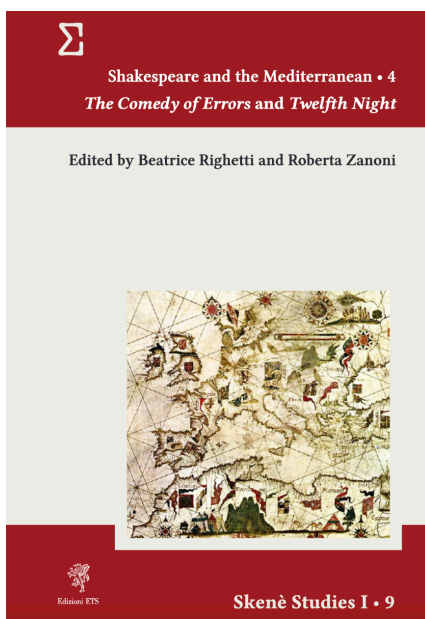
This monographic section aims at investigating some of the receptions of Ophelia from its Elizabethan/Jacobean original context to the end of the nineteenth century, encompassing different fields, including theatre history and the history of literature in England, France, Italy, and Spain; girlhood studies; material culture studies; classical receptions studies; the history of emotions; opera, and iconography.



Beatrice Righetti, Roberta Zanoni (eds)

Shakespeare and the Mediterranean 4. The Comedy of Errors and Twelfth Night
Skenè. Text and Studies, 2025.

Washed by the Mediterranean Sea, Illyria is paralleled by Viola, immediately after the shipwreck, with “Elysium”, a “non-place” that merges reality with a mythical past, thereby materialising paganism and classical myth on the Renaissance stage. As Lisa Hopkins remarks, Shakespeare’s portrayal of the settings stands for a “Greece of the Mind”, a “reflection of [the character’s] inner state”, rather than an accurate representation of the classical or contemporary places involved. In *Twelfth Night* and *The Comedy of Errors*, two plays deeply rooted in the search for identity, the liminality of the places that form the setting of the events is also due to their proximity to the Mediterranean.

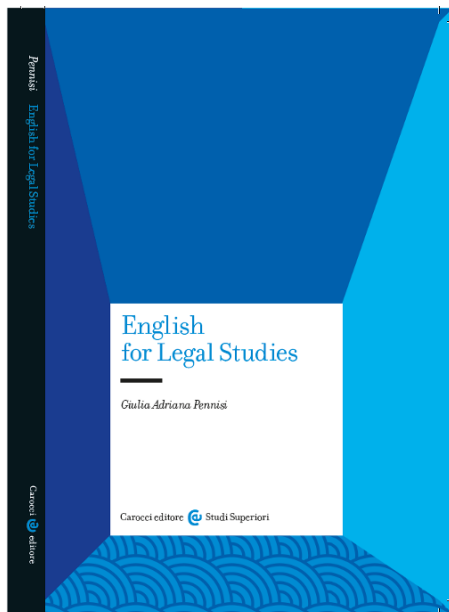


New publications

Giulia Adriana Pennisi

English for Legal Studies

Carocci, 2025, pp. 180. ISBN: 9788829030606



Legal English nowadays calls for different levels of specialized expertise within the academic and professional worlds. It must take into account the interaction between speakers, and especially native and non-native ones, but must also be grounded on a sound working knowledge of use within differing register(s) and context(s). This places considerable demands upon the teachers and curriculum designers responsible for teaching legal English to students at university level. They themselves may have trouble in understanding the cognitive complexity of legal documents, and the linguistic realization of that complexity. It is to such meanings that *English for Legal Professionals* will draw attention. By giving prominence to its users and contexts/sub-genres in a new manner, the book explores legal language – English-speaking jurisdictions, legal genres/text types – and the linguistic needs of law school and legal practice – vocabulary in contexts, basic sentence structure, textual constraints and conventions. The author demonstrates that the teaching of legal English should equip native/non-native learners, as well as professionals, with a clear understanding of how language functions within specific legal context.

This book written by Giulia Adriana Pennisi is the new volume of the *English Linguistics for Academicians and Professionals (ELAP)* series, edited by Laura Pinnavaia and Annalisa Zanola. The *ELAP* series brings together research in linguistics and related fields within English for Scientific and Professional Purposes. The *ELAP* series features contributions from both established and emerging scholars, highlighting “language in context(s)” – that is, how individuals across academic and professional disciplines engage with lexico-grammatical competence and language proficiency.

Passages, Migrations, Transitions

AIA Winter School

University of Rome Tor Vergata

29–31 January, 2025

REPORT

Title: “Passages, Migrations, Transitions”

Date: 29–31 January, 2025

Place: University of Rome Tor Vergata

Scientific Committee: Giuseppe Balirano, Paola Catenaccio, Manuela D’Amore, Massimiliano Demata, C. Bruna Mancini, Elisabetta Marino, Marilena Parlato, Irene Ranzato

Organising Committee: Giuseppe Capalbo, Mattia De Luca, Giulia Magazzù, Elisabetta Marino, Rossana Sebellin, Angela Sileo

Last January, the AIA Winter School *Passages, Migrations, Transitions* took place at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. The programme featured three plenary sessions – respectively echoing the Association’s core areas of language, literature, and culture – plus three research-methodology talks that preceded hands-on workshops.

First, the inaugural keynote speaker, Bronwen Hughes (Parthenope University of Naples), presented her research. This was conducted using a CADS approach (with AntConc software), on a corpus of thirty interviews with people from nine Countries (e.g., Gambia, Nigeria, Pakistan) who were living in Campania. Hughes showed how women’s narratives emphasise family-focused actions and emotional introspection, whilst male narratives concentrate on systemic frustration.

In the afternoon, Lilla Maria Crisafulli (University of Bologna) presented her work on questions of genre and gender in Mary Shelley’s *Valperga* (1823). She later invited participants to translate selected extracts. Crisafulli’s lab session – assisted by tutors Giuseppe Capalbo and Elisabetta Marino – developed into a practical exercise in navigating references such as Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, and analysing the metaphorisation of the human soul as “a vast cave” (Book III, Chapter 5).

Sonia Massai (Sapienza University of Rome) introduced her talk on *Diasporic Shakespeare* with a specific research question: How can we account for the ways in which Shakespeare functions in diasporic spaces? She claimed that the exponential growth in non-English productions of Shakespeare – from *Vakomana Viviri Ve Zimbabwe* (2008, 2012) to the World Shakespeare Festival (2012) – fosters cultural mobility by re-centring marginal voices.

Next, Eleonora Federici (University of Ferrara) discussed the Museum of Italian Emigration (MEI) in her demonstration of how erratic and usually machine-translated English hinders the museum’s mission to give voice to migrants. She called for professional, multimodal translation strategies to match the MEI’s immersive displays, and for a commitment to multilingual engagement. Then, with her tutors Giulia Magazzù and Angela Sileo, Federici invited participants to rethink museum narratives accordingly.

In the late afternoon, Elisabetta Marino (University of Rome Tor Vergata) delivered a lecture titled *Migrant Lives in Contemporary British Literature*. Drawing on the concept of ‘occupational identity’, she moved from Monica Ali’s *In the Kitchen* (2009) to Sunjeev Sahota’s *The Year of the*

AIA Seminar

Runaways (2015), by analysing how both novels portray undocumented workers as dehumanised and stripped of hope.

The final day opened with Paolo Caponi (University of Milan) and his talk *Kilometres or Miles? Translating Social Distances in “The Turn of the Screw”*. Using Henry James’s novella as a case study, Caponi traced the history of Italian forms of address. He demonstrated how each Italian translation disambiguates the English ‘you’ in different ways (e.g., *voi/lei*), thereby inscribing shifting ideologies of class, gender, and intimacy. During the lab session, Caponi and tutors Mattia De Luca and Rossana Sebellin challenged students to re-translate a short passage from James’s novella, while focusing on those instances in which the English ‘you’ posed particular difficulties for translation.

Overall, the AIA Winter School offered an intense and stimulating programme: participants learned about world literatures in English, corpus-assisted discourse analysis, and translation studies; they also applied them during the practical workshops. This format of the Winter School worked successfully, as participants actively joined in discussions and activities, which ensured valuable exchange and learning.

For more information, see: <https://www.anglistica.it/2024/11/27/aia-winter-school-2025-passages-migrations-transitions-tor-vergata-university-of-rome-29-31-january-2025-2/>

Giuseppe Capalbo

University of Rome Tor Vergata (IT)

Mattia De Luca

University of Rome Tor Vergata (IT)

Conferences: information and reports

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

Title: “(Im)politeness on Stage”

Dates: December 15-16, 2025

Place: University of Naples L’Orientale

Organisers: Valentina Vetri, Bianca Del Villano, Chiara Ghezzi, Roberto Esposito, Mariaconcetta Mirto, Emma Pasquali, Aoife Beville

(Im)politeness plays a crucial role in the analysis of dramatic dialogue, revealing complex aspects of characterization, plot development, and the underlying structure of social harmony or discord. The ways in which characters deploy impoliteness strategies on stage provide insights into power dynamics, relationships, and the negotiation of social boundaries. Beyond its narrative function, impoliteness also serves as an important theatrical tool: it can enhance entertainment, generate humour, and, in the case of mock impoliteness, even express intimacy, affect, or strategic cunning. While dramatic texts have often been overlooked in stylistic and pragmatic studies due to the long-standing debate between text based and performance-based approaches, the increasing availability of filmed stage performances — through platforms such as National Theatre Live, National Theatre at Home, Digital Theatre — has facilitated new analytical possibilities. The integration of multimodal analysis now allows scholars to examine not only the language of dramatic texts but also their performative realization, including prosody, gesture, and spatial dynamics. As Boulton argues, a play is an organic, complex organism: it does not simply signify, but it “walks and talks before our eyes” (1960: 3). This highlights the need to examine dramatic dialogue from multiple perspectives, considering how meaning emerges not only from the text itself but also from its delivery, interactional dynamics, and performative realization. By integrating linguistic, pragmatic, and multimodal approaches, scholars can explore the full range of strategies through which (im)politeness operates in drama—whether in written scripts, staged performances, or filmed versions.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

Title: “Workshop: Literature and Sport – Genre and Gender”

Dates: December 10, 2025

Place: University of Aosta Valley/online

Organisers: Roberta Grandi, Armela Panajoti, Angelika Reichmann

Fuelled by such critically acclaimed films as *Chariots of Fire* (1981), *Million Dollar Baby* (2004) or *Invictus* (2009), recently re-engorged discussions of representation have a growing interest in sports in visual media. This interest has produced such insightful analyses of sports’ role in performing gender as for instance Viridiana Lieberman’s *Sports Heroines on Film* (2015) or various chapters in *Sports, Film and National Culture* (2021). Nonetheless, no systematic study of this aspect is discernible in literary studies, though relevant texts, like Bernard Malamud’s *The Natural* (1952) or Naomi Benaron’s *Running the Rift* (2010), abound. In this workshop, we discuss sport(s) in Anglophone fiction, with the aim to analyze the various forms of representations—cultural, social, political—featuring sports in literatures in English since the late 19th century. We scrutinise, specifically, the interrelationships of gender, genre and sports, bearing in mind that genres are “cultural categories” associated “with the cultural practices of the society [i.e. social groups] in which they are produced,” and thus “[w]hen writers make use of a genre which has traditionally been an avenue of expression for another [...] group, they attempt to make that form of expression relatable to other [...] groups of people.”

Conferences: information and reports

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

Title: “Cognition and the Media”

Dates: October 30-31, 2025

Place: University G. D’Annunzio Chieti-Pescara

Convenors: Eleonora Sasso, Marcello Giovanelli

Drawing inspiration from the work of scholars such as Gilles Fauconnier, George Lakoff, Ronald W. Langacker and Mark Turner (cognitive linguistics), as well as more recent contributions by Giuseppe Balirano (digital and social media, multimodality, and multimodal stylistics), Jorge Díaz-Cintas (screen and digital media, cybersubtitling and cyberdubbing), Yves Gambier (translation, cognition, and media accessibility) and Marcello Giovanelli (stylistics, cognitive studies, and the public humanities), the conference seeks to explore the dynamic relationship between cognitive processes and media forms - including film, television, digital platforms, games, and social media - with a particular emphasis on translation and audiovisual practices. We aim to foster dialogue on how media influence, shape, and are shaped by cognitive mechanisms as perception, attention, memory, emotion, and narrative comprehension, especially in contexts involving multilingualism, accessibility, and intersemiotic mediation.

At the heart of this conference is a key question: How do media shape and reflect the ways we think, feel, and communicate -especially across languages and cultures? In an era of saturated information, real-time interaction, and constant cross-linguistic exchange, cognition is at the centre of how media function and how meaning moves across borders. As cognitive science deepens our understanding of how we perceive, process, interpret and memorise information, it raises critical questions for media scholars, translators, and communication experts.

Confirmed keynote speakers: Giuseppe Balirano, Charlotte Bosseaux, Jorge Díaz-Cintas, Yves Gambier, Marcello Giovannelli, Luc van Doorslaer.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

Title: “African Cosmologies across the Atlantic: Literary, Linguistic, Artistic and Cultural Representations” - AISCLI Seminar Day

Date: November 10-11, 2025

Place: University “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara and University Campus of Pescara

Organisers: Aminat Emma Badmus, Alessandra Di Pietro, Lisbety Mirabal Díaz

Recent years have seen an upsurge of narratives from the Global South that engage in the representation of various African cosmologies. In contrast with Western traditions, these narratives are contributing to an epistemological shift from “the study of African religion as object [to] the study of African religion as subject” (Olupona 2013: xix).

This epistemological relocation seems almost a necessity in the current state of today’s globalised world, in which neo-colonialist and capitalist forces fuel genocides, environmental destructions and economic recessions, while also posing a threat to civil and human rights all over the globe. It is no wonder, then, that some contemporary writers and artists are turning their attention to the realm of spirituality in order to find a valid alternative to society’s lack of human ethos.

In this sense, the vast worlds of African religious practices and cosmologies are redefining literary, linguistic, artistic and cultural representations across the Atlantic, from Africa to the Caribbean. Whether to represent the fluidity of queer bodies, to offer alternatives to Anthropocentrism or to convey the traumatic legacies of the Middle Passage, contemporary authors such as Akwaeke Emezi, Eloghosa Osunde, Nnedi Okorafor, Jacqueline Crooks and Edwige Danticat, among others, are using

Conferences: information and reports

representations of African cosmologies to challenge westernised dichotomies and epistemologies, opening up our world to new possibilities of being.

This one-day international conference aims to investigate the literary, linguistic, artistic and cultural representations of African cosmologies, posing particular attention to the points of contact between the African continent and the Caribbean regions. This seminar will be of interest to scholars of African, Caribbean and Afro-American Literatures, Linguistics, Anthropology, Religious and Diaspora Studies.

FORTHCOMING SEMINAR

Title: “From English Language Teaching to Plurilingual Education: research, innovation, and training for primary and secondary education”

Date: November 7, 2025

Place: University of Bergamo

Organising and scientific committee

Coordinators: Roberta Grassi, Valentina Adami, Ilaria Borro

Members: Patrizia Anesa, Martina Bellinzona, Chiara Brambilla, Paola Gandolfi, Silvia Minardi, Michele Sala

This Seminar aims to bring together innovative perspectives on English teachers training. In line with the international debate on equity, diversity and inclusion, a plurilingual approach to English teaching is suggested, transforming what is usually the first foreign language that students learn into a gateway towards the development of Plurilingual and Intercultural Competence (CEFR, 2001).

The contributions will combine academic research and the sharing of teaching and workshop experiences with future teachers, in order to encourage the exchange of data, reflections, and examples of methodological innovation, in line with the principles of the Council of Europe (Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)1 on The importance of Plurilingual and Intercultural Education, Council of Europe).

The final round table, with university professors, trainee teachers, and teachers in service, will offer an opportunity for dialogue between research and teaching practice, promoting collaboration and mutual enrichment.

The Seminar adopts an inclusive and plurilingual language policy: the main languages will be Italian and English, with openings to Romance languages and dialects of Italy, enhancing fluid and multimodal discursive and textual practices.

CONFERENCE SERIES

Title: “‘I Venerdi di Argo’ - Conference Series - Autumn 2025 Programme ‘Methods and Models: Research in 2025’”

Date: October 17–December 5, 2025

Place: online

Organisers: Bianca Del Villano, Daniela Tononi

Contact: centroargo@unior.it

Information and links on the Argo Research Centre's website: <https://centroargo.unior.it/it/i-venerdi-di-argo-autunno-2025-metodi-e-modelli-la-ricerca-nel-2025>

The "Venerdi di Argo" conference series is back with a stimulating programme for Autumn 2025 entitled "Metodi e modelli: la ricerca nel 2025" (Methods and Models: Research in 2025). The conferences will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams between October 17 and December 5, 2025.

The series presents a diverse range of current research topics and methodological approaches across the humanities, presented by Italian and international scholars. Key themes include: Genetic Criticism and Phantasmagoria; War Discourse; Ecolinguistics and Corpus Studies; Narratology; Stylistics; Collaborative Translation. The series offers a broad intellectual platform for discussing the intersections and divergences of contemporary research methodologies and models across various scholarly fields.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

Title: “Migrants’ voices in discourse. Bottom-up perspectives on migration”

Dates: November 4, 2025

Place: Roma Sapienza University

Organisers: Samuel Bennett, Sofia Lampropoulou, Franco Zappettini

CDS literature has long scrutinised how migration is discursively constructed and to what societal effect. Research foci have extensively ranged from discrimination and racialisation to the increasing politicization and mediatization of moral panic and resentment towards migrant groups or individuals (van Dijk, Wodak, Krzyzanowski). These different strands of scholarship have provided extremely valuable insights into the discourses of top-down, institutional actors (e.g. government, politicians and mass media) but have focused only to a lesser degree on bottom-up perspectives whether by the civil society, advocate organisations (Lampropoulou, Giaxoglou and Johnson. 2024), or by people with lived experience of migration (Krzyzanowski and Wodak 2010; Bennett 2015). In their close attention to top-down exclusion and racism, then, in some respects at least the predominant research streams in CDS seem to have inadvertently excluded migrant voices and/ or have opted to advocate on their behalf. Moreover, the exclusive attention to dominance and power within CDS has resulted in the neglect of voices of resistance resulting in CDS failing to engage with the very communities, such as migrant communities it seeks to advocate for.

As worldwide migratory patterns increase - sustained by economic, social, and environmental pushes - and migration (management) continues to be a highly mobilised topic in public discourses, issues of (political) representation and (lack of) migrants’ agency remain key concerns warranting close scrutiny of the interplay between discourses and social hierarchies. This one-day workshop aims to broaden understanding of migration in discourse with two distinct aims that address gaps in previous research:

1) To offer bottom-up perspectives and highlight discursive affordances for migrant voices and narratives (Hymes, 1996) of their situated subjectivity to be heard, departing from mainstream top-down approaches in CDS.

2) To account for exclusion dynamics and power asymmetries between actors engendered by and reflected in discursive practices on migration.

Methodologically we privilege affective and ethnographic approaches to discourse, welcoming interdisciplinary contributions (including from the civil society and outside academia) that take a critical perspective to the issues outlined above.

Rather than focusing on one single geographical context, we try to capture the overarching dynamics of different transnational and transcultural realities of migration including but not limited to the effect of diasporas on migrants’ political awareness and the political mobilisation of their social capital, the racialisation and/ or bordering practices in representations of migration mobility, the (mediated) lived experiences of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

The workshop aims to bring together scholars working on the issues outlined above. We welcome all contributions, including working papers.

REPORT

Title: “4th International ELT Conference. *New Trends in English Language Teaching, Learning and Education: Empowering Teaching and Learning in EMI*”

Date: October 9-10, 2025

Place: Parthenope University of Naples

Organisers: Lucia Abbamonte, Emilio Amideo, Raffaella Antinucci, Giuseppe Balirano, Gabriele Basile, Eleonora Federici, Bronwen Hughes, Maria Cristina Nisco, Tania Zulli

The 4th International ELT Conference, *New Trends in English Language Teaching, Learning and Education: Empowering Teaching and Learning in EMI* brought together international scholars and practitioners to explore current and emerging trends in English-Medium Instruction (EMI), highlighting

Conferences: information and reports

innovative approaches, pedagogical practices, and the challenges of teaching and learning through English in today's multifaceted and ever-evolving higher educational contexts. Organised by the University Language Centre (CLA) at the Parthenope University of Naples in collaboration with L'Orientale University of Naples, the G. d'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara, the University of Ferrara, and sponsored by the Italian Association of University Language Centers (AICLU) and the Italian Association for the Study of English (AIA), the conference aimed to promote interdisciplinary dialogue among linguists, educators, and researchers in applied linguistics and language pedagogy.

The conference opened with greetings from Enrico Marchetti (Vice-Rector for Teaching Affairs, Parthenope University of Naples) and Raffaella Antinucci (Head of the University Language Centre, Parthenope University of Naples), who highlighted the growing importance of EMI in reshaping higher education and fostering inclusivity and intercultural awareness in global learning environments. As underscored by the Vice-Rector, equipping university teachers with the tools to deliver high-quality EMI teaching is not just timely, but essential, as Italian universities increasingly embrace internationalisation in higher education. Hence the subtitle "Empowering Teaching and Learning in EMI". Raffaella Antinucci also retraced the origins and development of the ELT initiative: launched in 2022 by Giuseppe Balirano, former Head of the L'Orientale Language Centre and current President of the Italian Association for the Study of English (AIA), the ELT Conference series was born out of the need to bridge the gap that emerged in Italy when the British Council decided to invest elsewhere and ceased its teacher training activities. For this reason, several Language Centres came together to create this itinerant conference, now in its fourth year. After previous editions organized by the Language Centres of L'Orientale University of Naples, the "G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti-Pescara, and the University of Ferrara, the conference returned to Naples, hosted by the newly established Language Centre of the Parthenope University.

The inaugural plenary, chaired by Bronwen Hughes, featured Ernesto Macaro (University of Oxford), who provided an overview of current and future directions in EMI research and development, setting the stage for the discussions that followed. The first day continued with three panels addressing, respectively, assessment, technology, and multilingualism. The morning session, chaired by Maria Cristina Nisco, focused on *Assessment, Fairness, and Policy*. Katherine Ackerley (University of Padua) examined the impact of language and culture on fairness in EMI assessment in a paper co-authored with Fiona Dalziel (University of Padua), while Nick Saville (Cambridge University Press & Assessment) offered a plurilingual perspective on EMI practices in Europe. Sonia Teronpi (Independent Scholar) concluded the session with a critical reflection on the role of EMI in Indian educational policy. The afternoon featured a panel on *Technology, Games, and Digital Learning Environments*, chaired by Annalisa Zanola (University of Brescia). Presentations ranged from Mariangela Picciuolo's (University of Bologna) Moodle-based platform for engineering lecturers to Jane Simone Tagliani's (University of Ferrara) blended approach to doctoral student preparation for the Oxford Test of English. Gabriele Basile (Parthenope University of Naples) closed the session with an engaging exploration of teaching Cold War history through the video game *Metal Gear Solid* in an EMI classroom. The final panel of the day, *Multilingualism, Translanguaging, and Language Development*, chaired by Lucia Abbamonte, examined the role of multilingual resources in EMI contexts. Papers by Francesca Costa (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore), Jennifer Lertola (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia), and Cristina Mariotti (University of Pavia) investigated language gains in EMI and IMI contexts, while Hassane Razkane (Chouaib Doukkali University) presented a paper co-authored with Salah Ben Hammou Salah (Hassan I University) and Adil Youssef Sayeh (Chouaib Doukkali University), discussing language practices and pedagogical implications in Moroccan higher education. Francesca D'Angelo (University of Bologna) concluded with an analysis of multimodal translanguaging strategies in content and language integrated learning.

Conferences: information and reports

The second day began with a plenary lecture by Maria Pavesi (University of Pavia), chaired by Anna Romagnuolo (L'Orientale University of Naples), titled *Informal Language Learning at University: The Many Encounters with English in the Wild*. Pavesi's talk addressed the role of informal learning environments in shaping students' language competence and identity within EMI contexts. Subsequent sessions were devoted to *EMI Methodologies, Pedagogical Strategies, and Professional Development, and Identity, Autonomy, and Learner Perception*. The first panel, chaired by Paolo Donadio (Federico II University of Naples), included contributions from Annalisa Zanola, who discussed the intersection of EMI and ESPP; Giovanni Licata and Jessica A. Thonn (University of Florence), who illustrated strategies for empowering multidisciplinary professors to teach in English; and Almerinda Di Gaetano (Suor Orsola Benincasa University of Naples), who analysed EMI applications in workplace training within the airport handling sector. The final panel, chaired by Flavia Cavaliere (Federico II University of Naples), featured a study conducted by Valeria Russo (University of Calabria) on register awareness in scientific English, a paper by Serena C. Santonocito (University of Messina) on blended medical English learning, and a corpus-based research by which Fabio Cangero (Federico II University of Naples) investigated learners' affective metaphors and identity construction in EMI contexts. The closing remarks included the announcement that the 2026 edition of the ELT conference will be held at the CLA of the University of Brescia, directed by Annalisa Zanola, who also participated as a speaker at this year's conference.

The 4th International ELT Conference represented a constructive platform for reflecting on the dynamics of English-Medium Instruction in contemporary higher education: by integrating perspectives on assessment, pedagogy, technology, and multilingualism, the event emphasised how EMI continues to evolve as a site of linguistic, cultural, and pedagogical negotiation. The conference further reaffirmed the central role of interdisciplinary collaboration in shaping equitable and effective EMI practices worldwide.

Marco Cimini (Parthenope University of Naples)

REPORT

Title: "10th Richard Allsopp Memorial Lecture"

Date: March 14, 2025

Place: University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill, Barbados

Organiser: Jason F. Siegel (Richard and Jeannette Allsopp Centre for Caribbean Lexicography)

Guest lecturer: Cristiano Furiassi

The Richard and Jeannette Allsopp Centre for Caribbean Lexicography in conjunction with the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature held the 10th Richard Allsopp Memorial Lecture on March 14th, 2025, in the Cynthia Wilson Arts Lecture Theatre at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

Celebrated as a significant milestone honoring the legacy and contributions of Professor Richard Allsopp, this year's guest lecture was delivered by Cristiano Furiassi, Associate Professor in English Linguistics at the University of Turin, Italy.

Under the topic Richard Allsopp's 'Amateur' Sources: Reviving Barbadian Folklore, Professor Furiassi presented on the contribution of information from non-professional or 'amateur' lexicographers contained within Richard Allsopp's publications – the Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage (DCEU), the New Register of Caribbean English Usage (NRCEU) and A Book of Afric Caribbean Proverbs (BACP) – while focusing mainly on Barbadian English and Bajan.

Professor Furiassi further highlighted examples of Barbadian toponymic, i.e., placename-based, idioms extracted from the above-mentioned sources. He also expanded on how 'amateur' endeavors may continue to shed new light on territorial lexis and phraseology, thus attesting to their role in reviving local

Conferences: information and reports

folklore by ensuring that Barbadian lore remains available to future generations.

The lecture was held as a hybrid event, bringing together members of the university community, Jeannette Allsopp, other members of the Allsopp family and specially invited guests, including the Acting President of Barbados, His Excellency the Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey Gibson, and his wife, who graced the occasion with their presence. An article by John Sealy, published in the national newspaper *Weekend Nation* on Friday, March 21st, 2025, testified to this by also including a picture by Lennox Devonish portraying Prof. Furiassi and the Very Reverend Dr Gibson in conversation.

REPORT

Title: “Echoes of Hate, Screens of Resistance International Conference ”

Date: October 23–25, 2025

Place: University of Naples “L’Orientale”

Organiser: Giuseppe Balirano

The international conference *Echoes of Hate, Screens of Resistance*, held on October 23–25, 2025, at the University of Naples “L’Orientale”, marked the culmination of the PRIN 2022 project ECHOES: English Studies to Contrast Hate Online and Enhance Solidarity, a multidisciplinary initiative funded by the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research. The project, coordinated by Giuseppe Balirano as PI, focused on the critical analysis of HOPs (Harmful Online Practices) in English multimodal discourse and strongly fostered the values of solidarity, inclusion, and responsible digital citizenship.

The event was the result of a collaborative effort between the University of Naples “L’Orientale” coordinated by Prof. Giuseppe Balirano, the University of Messina led by Prof. Maria Grazia Sindoni, and the University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli,” together with the University of Naples “Parthenope” under the guide of Prof. Margaret Rasulo. It was aimed to reflect on the critical role of language and pedagogical practices in addressing hate and fostering inclusive initiatives. The conference was divided into two parts: the first explored how digital texts construct and circulate hate, and how these can be addressed with the aim of promoting an interdisciplinary dialogue capable of countering digital toxicity. The second part, held on October 25, was dedicated to workshops and materials presentations specifically designed to support English language teachers.

The conference opened with welcome addresses by the convenors and was immediately followed by Salvatore Attardo’s (Texas A&M University–Commerce) keynote address *The Cruelty is the Punchline: Cruelty, Humour and the US Extreme Right*, which offered an illuminating reflection on how humour within US Republican discourses contributes to the perpetuation of discriminatory and hateful ideologies.

Following the keynote address, the first panel, *Humour, Satire and the Affective Charge of Hate*, provided some interesting examples of online hate disguised as satirical and humorous discourses. Before the lunch break, Giuditta Caliendo (Université de Lille) investigated neurodiversity-affirming discourses, examining how language and communication practices challenge deficit-based models of cognition and promote more inclusive representations of neurodivergent identities. After lunch, the panel *Digital Discourse of Hate and Solidarity* explored how digital communication environments become sites for both hate and solidarity. Majid KhosraviNik (Newcastle University) offered a groundbreaking example of how technological features influence emotional expression and how affective responses are normalised, amplified, or contested in online environments. The third and last panel of the day, *Narratives of Hate in Media and Culture*, effectively highlighted how narratives of hate are constructed and circulated in media and cultural texts.

The second day of proceedings started with Michaël Toulza’s (Université de Lille) compelling investigation of the use, misuse and reappropriation of hate speech in 21st-century American cinema and television, focusing on the N-word and exploring how media representations perpetuate, challenge,

Conferences: information and reports

or reinterpret racialised language and its social implications. Reprising the digital insight offered by Toulza, the following panel explored hate in digital spaces, focusing on how online platforms, regulatory policies, and educational practices interact to shape, moderate, and mitigate the expression of hateful content. Tiziana Terranova's (University of Naples "L'Orientale") eloquent keynote examined how bubbles, echo chambers, and polarisation emerge as techno-social phenomena that shape public discourse and societal divisions. The third and fourth panels of the day – *Bodies, Identities, and Intersectional Hate and Not Weird, Just Wired Differently* – explored how digital and media discourses construct and contest identities, focusing on intersectional categories such as race, gender, and neurodivergence.

The third and last day of the conference focused on practical and interdisciplinary approaches to digital literacy, online civility, and countering digital toxicity. Michael Burke's (Utrecht University) keynote eloquently highlighted a community-engaged learning approach aimed at developing rhetorical confidence in primary school children as a foundation for responsible online behaviour. Subsequent workshops addressed teaching human rights through English and introduced participatory online resources specifically designed to combat digital toxicity among lower- and upper-secondary school students. Workshops emphasised both pedagogical strategies and practical tools for educators. The day concluded with the *ECHOES* round table, bringing together experts from multiple universities to reflect on collaborative strategies and share insights on promoting safer and more inclusive digital environments.

Overall, through an interdisciplinary approach combining applied linguistics, discourse analysis, media and film studies, education, and social semiotics, the conference succeeded in cultivating and promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and reinforcing the role of education and research in eradicating digital toxicity.

Dalia Mennella (University of Naples L'Orientale)



18th ESSE Conference

31st August – 4th September 2026
Santiago de Compostela, Spain

CALL FOR POSTERS AND SEMINAR PAPERS

Submissions of proposals for individual posters to esse2026@usc.es
Submission of proposals for seminar papers to seminar convenors (see full list on the conference website).

31st January 2026

<https://www.esse2026.com/en/>

Registration will begin on 1st March 2026

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Zeltia Blanco Suárez (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain); Vladimir Ž. Jovanović (University of Niš, Serbia); Ludmilla Konstantinova Kostova (University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria); Alberto Lázaro Lafuente (University of Alcalá, Spain); Paloma Núñez Pertejo (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain); Noemí Pereira Ares (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain); Denis Renevey (University of Lausanne, Switzerland); Jorge Sacido Romero (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain)

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Carlos Acuña Fariña; María Alonso Alonso; Zeltia Blanco Suárez; Tamara Bouso Rivas; Margarita Estévez-Saá; Martín Fernández Fernández; Patricia Fra López; Rubén Jarazo Álvarez; Laura Lojo Rodríguez; Paloma Núñez Pertejo; Ignacio Palacios Martínez; Noemí Pereira Ares; Raquel Pereira Romasanta; Jorge Sacido Romero





The European Society for the Study of English

ESSE BOOK AWARDS 2026 for books first published in 2024 and 2025

The European Society for the Study of English is proud to announce its biennial ESSE Book Awards for books published in 2024 and 2025 in English Language & Linguistics, Literatures in the English Language, and Cultural & Area Studies in English.

ESSE Book Award (Category A): A book prize of € 1,500 will be awarded by ESSE in 2026, coinciding with the 18th ESSE Conference to be held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, for books first published in 2024 or 2025 (date of imprint in the published book) in each of the following fields:

**English Language and Linguistics;
Literatures in the English Language;
Cultural and Area Studies in English.**

ESSE Book Award for Junior Scholars (Category B): A further book prize of € 1,500 will be awarded by ESSE in 2026 to a junior scholar for a first research book published in English in each of the three fields mentioned above, provided that publication was in 2024 or 2025 (date of imprint in the published book).

The deadline for submission of books is 1 February 2026. The winners will be announced at the Opening Ceremony of ESSE-18 in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

The requirements are as follows:

Books eligible for prizes will be those published in English; they must have an ISBN. PhD dissertations published in book format, with an ISBN, are accepted. Editions of collected essays will NOT qualify for these prizes. The books must be works of scholarly research in the field of English studies. Undergraduate textbooks will not be considered.

Any number of books may be submitted by the same author (provided that they are published within the admitted period of time), except for category B, since junior scholars are expected to submit their first research book published in English.

All books will be evaluated strictly on the basis of their academic value, without regard to publisher, country of publication or nationality of the author.

Authors must be members of national associations affiliated to ESSE (according to the official membership lists submitted in November 2025).



The European Society for the Study of English

Books can be submitted in electronic format (PDF only) or in printed format. If submitted in printed format, three copies must be provided of each book submitted for consideration. The copies will not be returned.

The candidates are required to fill in the form, available here (<https://forms.gle/pYt1v6hZrYEPKViG6>) by 1 February 2026.

In case the applicant opts to submit an e-book (PDF only!), electronic submission should be made to esse.president@outlook.com by 1 FEBRUARY 2026.

In case the applicant opts to submit a printed book, the three review copies must be sent to the address below by 1 FEBRUARY 2026.

The deadline must be observed.

Books must be sent to the following address:

Prof. Dr. Lieven Buysse
President of ESSE
KU Leuven Campus Brussels
Warmoesberg 26
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Two months before the opening of the ESSE-18 conference a shortlist of a maximum of five books in each field and category will be announced on the ESSE Website. Board members are asked to report to the President any misgivings that they may have about the propriety of awarding a prize to any book on the shortlist, with the President passing on such comments to the committees if he deems it appropriate. The committees will recommend the awards to the Board, or they may recommend that no award be made in a particular field. The President will report to the Board whether the work of the committees has been satisfactorily conducted. The Board may then approve the recommendations of the committees or they may reject a recommendation, in which case no award will be given in that field or category. Winners will be informed immediately in confidence, and the awards will be publicly announced during the opening ceremony of the ESSE-18 conference, in Santiago de Compostela (Spain).

<https://essenglish.org/book-awards/>

CONTACT US

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

AIA Facebook and Bluesky pages please write to Massimiliano Demata
aiasegreteria@unito.it

AIA website please write to C. Bruna Mancini
bruna.mancini@unical.it

AIA newsletter please write to Irene Ranzato
irene.ranzato@uniroma1.it

Newsletter guidelines: please send your documents in Word or Pages format. News on conferences, maximum 350 words; publications, maximum 250 words; conference reports maximum 700 words.

AIA ON THE WEB

AIA official website:
www.anglistica.it

AIA on Bluesky:
<https://bsky.app/profile/aianglistica.bsky.social>

AIA on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/associazioneitalianadianglistica>

AIA on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/@AIABroadcast>

General info

AIA BOARD

Giuseppe Balirano
gbalirano@unior.it

Paola Catenaccio
paola.catenaccio@unimi.it

Manuela D'Amore
m.damore@unict.it

Massimiliano Demata
massimiliano.demata@unito.it
aiasegreteria@unito.it

C. Bruna Mancini
bruna.mancini@unical.it

Marilena Parlati
marilena.parlatti@unipd.it

Irene Ranzato
irene.ranzato@uniroma1.it

AUDITORS

Marco Canani
Antonio Fruttaldo
Eleonora Sasso

BOARD OF ARBITRATORS

Raffaella Antinucci
Nicoletta Vasta
Francesca Vigo

General info

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Abruzzo **Eleonora Sasso** eleonora.sasso@unich.it
Basilicata **Luisa Caiazzo** luisa.caiazzo@unibas.it
Calabria **Mirko Casagrande** mirko.casagrande@unical.it
Campania **Siria Guzzo** sguzzo@unisa.it
Emilia Romagna **Carlotta Farese** carlotta.farese@unibo.it
Friuli Venezia Giulia **Roberta Geffer** geffer@units.it
Lazio **Elisabetta Marino** marino@lettere.uniroma2.it
Liguria **Laura Santini** Laura.Santini@unige.it
Lombardia **Elisa Perego** elisa.perego@unipv.it
Marche **Francesca Raffi** f.raffi@unimc.it
Molise **Francesca D'Alfonso** francesca.dalfonso@unimol.it
Piemonte **Virginia Pulcini** virginia.pulcini@unito.it
Puglia **Maria Grazia Guido** mariagrazia.guido@unisalento.it
Sardegna **Michela Giordano** mgiordano@unica.it
Sicilia **Maria Grazia Sindoni** mariagrazia.sindoni@unime.it
Toscana **Denise Filmer** denise.filmer@unipi.it
Trentino Alto Adige **Andrea Binelli** andrea.binelli@unitn.it
Umbria **Annalisa Volpone** annalisa.volpone@unipg.it
Valle d'Aosta **Roberta Grandi** r.grandi@univda.it
Veneto **Sidia Fiorato** sidia.fiorato@univr.it

AIA Subscription

If you want to join AIA for the first time as a "Socio/a di diritto"

or

if you want to renew your AIA membership

as "Socio/a di diritto" or "Socio/a culture" and pay your membership fees and your personal data and status have changed please go to this link:

[AIA membership](#)

If you want to renew your AIA membership and pay your membership fees and your personal data and status have not changed, please go to this link:

[AIA membership](#)

If you are a Dottorando/a, Collaboratore/trice Esperto/a Linguistico/a, Borsista a vario titolo, Specialista di studi anglistici who would like to join AIA for the first time as a Socio/a culture, you need to fill the relevant form (modulo A):

[Modulo A](#)

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

The AIA Board will then discuss the application and, if approved, new members should then fill the following form, which includes a payment form:

[Join AIA](#)
