

# AIA

## Associazione Italiana di Anglistica

### Newsletter 116 Autumn 2024



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Dear colleagues,

As autumn sets in and we return to our academic activities, we find ourselves facing new challenges and uncertainties that will require our full commitment and dedication to the field of English studies. The academic landscape is evolving at a rapid pace, but I am confident that our community will continue to respond with the energy and dedication that have always defined us. It is precisely in times like these that we must approach the coming months with a spirit of collaboration and openness, seizing every opportunity for dialogue and shared growth.

I would like to begin by sharing some important updates from the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE). At the ESSE conference, held from August 26–30, 2024, at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, I had the opportunity to participate as a Board member in various meetings and working sessions. In particular, during the ESSE Board meeting on August 25-26, several key decisions were made, which I am pleased to share with you. First, Professor Lieven Buysse from Belgium was elected as the new President of ESSE for a three-year term, starting on January 1, 2025. He will replace the current President, Professor Andreas H. Jucker (University of Zurich), to whom the Board expressed their gratitude for his service during his two terms from 2019 to 2024. I also wish to personally thank Professor Jucker on behalf of AIA for his exceptional leadership. His efforts in fostering collaboration among scholars across Europe (and beyond) have been pivotal in nurturing an environment of collaboration and mutual respect. The ESSE Board also re-elected Professor Laura Esteban (Segura, Spain) as Editor of *The ESSE Messenger* for a second three-year term, beginning on January 1, 2025. Additionally, the Board appointed a Nominations Committee to oversee the selection of the new Treasurer and Secretary, whose term will begin on January 1, 2026. The call for applications will be published on the ESSE website in October 2024, and the deadline for submissions will be April 30, 2025. On the financial front, it was decided to end the temporary reduction of the annual membership fee from 9 euros to 7 euros, effective from 2025. Importantly, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to promoting research and supporting young scholars. The renewal of bursaries, including specific funding for gender studies, was confirmed, as well as grants for books and other academic resources (see the dedicated section in this newsletter for the full details on ESSE announcements and the various support schemes available). The Doctoral Symposium will continue to be held in both conference and non-conference years, with special funding allocated for doctoral students in financial need in 2025, which is a non-conference year. However, the Collaborative Project Workshop Scheme will be discontinued. Furthermore, four Board members were appointed to represent ESSE on the Academic Program Committee for the 2026 ESSE-18 conference, which will take place in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. The Board also accepted the bid of Manchester Metropolitan University to host the ESSE-19 conference in 2028. A new co-editor for the *European Journal of English Studies* was also appointed: Dr. Frederik Van Dam from Radboud University will replace Professor Greta Olson as of January 1, 2025. Finally, the Board also confirmed that ESSE membership lists will be updated once a year, with membership dues collected based on lists submitted by November 15. These lists will

## **Editorial**

Awards, as well as conference fee waivers), with the exception of the Doctoral Symposium, which will continue to have its own specific guidelines.

Many of you may have already noticed the recent release of the first two issues of *Textus* for 2024, now featuring a brand new cover design chosen by the AIA members. This visual update reflects the spirit of collaboration that fuels our Association. However, the most significant change involves the updating of the Advisory Board of *Textus* (<https://www.carocci.it/prodotto/textus-2>), a long-overdue revision undertaken by the AIA Board. As mentioned in previous communications, this update was necessary not only to align with current academic needs but also in response to new regulations for journal classification, approved on December 21, 2023, for CUN areas 8a, 10, 11a, 12, 13, and 14. These regulations have introduced stricter criteria for maintaining Classe A top journal requirements, prompting the AIA Board to update some aspects of the journal to meet these high standards. Below is the composition of the new *Textus* Board:

### **Editor in Chief**

Giuseppe Balirano (Università di Napoli L'Orientale)

### **Editorial Board**

Giuseppe Balirano (Università di Napoli L'Orientale); Paola Catenaccio (Università di Milano); Manuela D'Amore (Università di Catania); Massimiliano Demata (Università di Torino); Bruna C. Mancini (Università della Calabria); Marilena Parlati (Università di Padova); Irene Ranzato (Sapienza Università di Roma)

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## Editorial

### Editorial Office

Isobel Butters Caleffi

I am delighted to announce that the AIA Winter School, titled *Passages, Migrations, Transitions*, is in its final stages of planning. While some organisational details are still being fine-tuned, the event is scheduled to take place from January 29–31, 2025, at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. With its timely and interdisciplinary theme, the Winter School will offer a crucial opportunity for both academic and personal growth, exploring these issues through the Association's three core areas: language, culture, and literature. The programme will feature three plenary sessions – one for each disciplinary field – followed by a series of talks that will address these themes from an interdisciplinary perspective, showcasing specific case studies and research methodologies. I am pleased to confirm that plenary speakers will include Sonia Massai (Sapienza University of Rome) and Bronwen Hughes (University of Naples Parthenope). Additionally, practical workshops will be included, focusing on hands-on applications for the exploration of given theoretical issues. I hope that this initiative will particularly capture the interest of our younger AIA members, and I encourage you all to participate in what promises to be a truly enriching and interdisciplinary experience. Further details will be shared as soon as they are finalised, but in the meantime, I invite you to mark these dates in your calendars.

As for the most recent news from CUN, on October 11, 2024, I attended the Area 10 Assembly meeting at the MUR, during which our representative shared some rather bleak prospects for our universities. These stem largely from the significant budget cuts introduced by the recent Ministerial Decree 1170 on the Endowment Fund (FFO) (<https://www.mur.gov.it/it/atti-e-normativa/decreto-ministeriale-n-1170-del-07-08-2024>). In the last few days, I have come across several open letters of protest, published in major newspapers such as *La Repubblica*, *Il Manifesto*, and *Il Sole 24 Ore*, all addressed to Minister Bernini by various Italian scientific societies. In light of these developments, I believe it is crucial for us to take action. For this reason, I have signed the *Scienza in rete* document (<https://www.scienzainrete.it/articolo/rischi-di-ridimensionamento-delluniversita-e-della-ricerca-lettera-delle-societa>), which has been endorsed by numerous associations and scientific societies, including several from the field of foreign languages, whose presidents I have been in contact with over the past few days.

As I bring this editorial to a close, I would like to return to the theme with which I began: autumn is the ideal time to consolidate the progress made in previous months and to open ourselves to new opportunities for dialogue and growth. Our community, deeply rooted yet always evolving, draws its strength from collaboration and shared purpose. Each initiative, each meeting, provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen our bonds and work together toward the advancement of our field. I hope that the coming months will be filled with this spirit of renewal and collective effort.

Warm regards,

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](mailto:riviste@carocci.it)

## *Textus* issue 1/2024

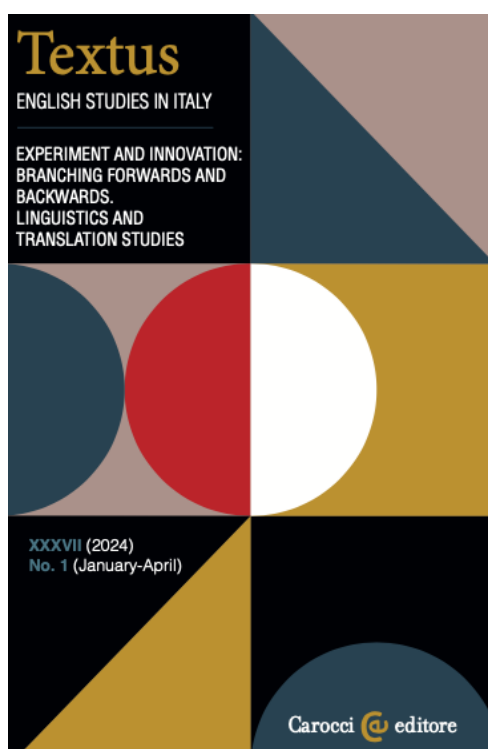
*Experiment and Innovation: Branching Forwards and Backwards.  
Linguistics and Translation Studies*

edited by Iain Halliday, Giuliana Russo, Marco Venuti and Francesca Vigo

## *Textus* issue 2/2024

*Experiment and Innovation: Branching Forwards and Backwards.  
Literary and Cultural Studies*

edited by Stefania Arcara, Maurizio Ascari and Giovanna Buonanno



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

##### **Guest co-editors:**

**Bronwen Hughes (Parthenope University of Naples)**

**Margaret Rasulo (University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli)**

**Ruth Wodak (Lancaster University/University of Vienna)**

**Copy Editor: Laura Ann McLean (University of Turin)**

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

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

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

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

Be it open or proxy warfare, online/offline hate speech, climate injustice or economic disparity, the sheer callousness of conflictual behaviour – whether ideational, ideological, or emotional - erodes the very fabric of society and leads to widespread polarization. Conflict is by its very nature complex, and the recent global pandemic with its attendant move to online platforms has added new layers of difficulty. Online environments are intrinsically conducive to the proliferation of conflictual discourses often linked to the viral spreading of disinformation. Indeed, information warfare abounds on social media sites, and is often blamed for intensifying societal polarization by creating echo chambers (E. Bakshy et al., 2015). For political, social, religious, or economic reasons, these filters tend to prevent people from being exposed to evidence-based information (Del Vicario et al. 2016), resulting in the blurring of social boundaries dangerous common ground which not only excludes the ‘other’, as an individual or perspective, but also breeds conflict. The phenomenon known as context collapse, inherent to the architecture of social media, and consisting in the blurring of social boundaries between the private and the public, or the personal and the professional only serves to aggravate the problem (Davis and Jurgenson 2014). When every interaction



is addressed to a multiple audience and the distinctiveness of context collapses, the platform takes over and controls the only gateway to/for information.

Language does participate in the worldview of conflicts, and discursive representations of antagonism may serve to exacerbate or ameliorate situations of unacceptable strife. One such dynamic is the Us and Them division (van Dijk, 1998) that reproduces positive self-presentation and negative other- presentation (Reisigl and Wodak, 2001). This view of the world not only mobilizes conflict to initiate or stifle necessary social action, such as passing vital legislation to solve climate change or immigration, but also legitimizes attacks on existing institutions and the rule of law.

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

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

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## *Textus*

### **Textus issue 2/2025 – Literature forthcoming**

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

##### **Guest co-editors:**

**Gilberta Golinelli (Bologna University)**

**Maddalena Pennacchia (Roma Tre University)**

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

**Copy Editor: Gaia Amrita Whitright (Roma Tre University)**

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

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

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



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

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

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## *Textus*

### **Call for abstracts**

### **Textus issue 3/2025 – Cross-disciplinary issue**

#### **Text Analysis and Digital Humanities in English Studies**

##### **Guest co-editors:**

**Maristella Gatto (University of Bari)**

**Michaela Mahlberg (University of Birmingham)**

**Lorenzo Mastropiero (University of Insubria)**

**Francesca Saggini (University of Tuscia)**

##### **Copy Editor: Eileen Mulligan (University of Bari)**

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

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### **Submission of abstracts**

**Please send abstracts to: [maristella.gatto@uniba.it](mailto:maristella.gatto@uniba.it), [m.a.mahlberg@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.a.mahlberg@bham.ac.uk), [lorenzo.mastropierro@uninsubria.it](mailto:lorenzo.mastropierro@uninsubria.it), [fsaggini@unitus.it](mailto:fsaggini@unitus.it)**

### **Timeline**

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

Notification to authors: **15 January 2025**

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

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

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

# AIA Prizes

## AIA Book Prize applications

Cristina Cavecchi, *The Art Gallery on Stage. New Vistas on Contemporary British Playwriting*, London, Bloomsbury, 2024.

Marcello Corrente, *Astrophil e Stella di Philip Sidney: edizione critica, traduzione e introduzione*, Gorgonzola, Milano, La Quercia fiorita, 2024.

Roxanne B. Doerr, *Academic Style Proofreading: an Introduction*, Berlin, Peter Lang, 2023.

Domenico Lovascio, *John Fletcher's Rome. Questioning the Classics (The Revels Plays)*, Manchester, Manchester UP, 2022.

Elisa Mattiello, *Transitional Morphology. Combining Forms in Modern English*, Cambridge, Cambridge UP, 2022.

Elisa Perego, *Audio Description for the Arts: A Linguistic Perspective*, London, Routledge, 2024.

Douglas Ponton, *Exploring Ecolinguistics: Ecological Principles and Narrative Practices*, London, Bloomsbury, 2024.

Laura Tommaso, *Ageing Discourse in the News. A Corpus-Assisted Study*, Roma, Aracne, 2023.

Annalisa Zanola, *La lingua inglese per la comunicazione scientifica e professionale*, Roma, Carocci, 2023.

## AIA PhD Prize applications

Antonio Arnieri, *Sound and Identity in Shakespeare's Theatre*, 2022, UniVr

Giacomo Ferrari, "A little scene to monarchise". *Modern Tragic and the Crisis of Medieval Nomos in Elizabethan Political Drama*, 2023, UniFi.

Stefano Rossi, *A Sense of Time. Temporal Disorders and Distorted Sensitivity in Samuel Beckett and Wilfred Ruprecht Bion*, 2023, UniPD.

Rossana Spadaro, *Dalla traduzione per il web alla transcreazione SEO: metodi, implicazioni e analisi dell'efficacia degli user-generated tools*, 2023, UniCT.

## **AIA Junior Book Prize applications**

Emilio Amideo, *Queer Tidalectics: Linguistic and Sexual Fluidity in Contemporary Black Diasporic Literature*, Evanstone IL, Northwestern UP, 2021.

Carmen Ciancia, *Beyond Standard English. Variation and Change in Eastern England*, Roma, Carocci 2023.

Carlotta Fiammenghi, *Exploring Vaccination Debates through Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis. The MMR Vaccine Debate and Its Relevance to the Covid-19 Pandemic*, Milano UP, 2024.

Giuliana Regnoli, *Accent Variation in Indian English: A Folk Linguistic Study*, Berlin, Peter Lang, 2021.

Silvia Pettini, *The Translation of Realia and Irrealia in Game Localization: Culture-Specificity between Realism and Fictionality*, London, Routledge, 2022.

Kamelia Talebian Sedehi, *Uncovering History through Testimony. A Traumatic Account of Aboriginal Peoples in Canadian Residential Schools*, Roma, Aracne, 2022.

Luca Valleriani, *Upper-class English in Natural and Audiovisual Dialogue*, Berlin, Peter Lang, 2021.

Valentina Varinelli, *Italian Impromptus. A Study of P.B. Shelley's Writings in Italian with an Annotated Edition*, Milano, LED, 2022.

### **ALL BOOK PRIZES DEADLINES:**

**Deadlines for 2024 (no General AIA  
Conference)**

**CLOSED**

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

**Deadlines for 2025 (Turin AIA  
Conference)**

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

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



# AIA Winter School

## *Passages, Migrations, Transitions*

29–31 January 2025

Università di Tor Vergata

### **Plenary Speakers:**

Bronwen Hughes (Università degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope)  
Sonia Massai (Sapienza Università di Roma)

### **Scientific Committee:**

Giuseppe Balirano, Paola Catenaccio, Manuela D'Amore, Massimiliano Demata,  
C. Bruna Mancini, Elisabetta Marino, Marilena Parlati, Irene Ranzato

### **Organising Committee:**

Giuseppe Capalbo, Mattia De Luca, Giulia Magazzu, Elisabetta Marino, Rossana Sebellin, Angela Sileo

### **Accommodation:**

20 rooms have been reserved at CX Rome (Campus X) for the period 28 January–  
1 February 2025

### **You can book by writing an email to:**

[booking.rome@cx-place.com](mailto:booking.rome@cx-place.com) – final deadline: 8 January 2025

Fees: € 54.00 DUS

€ 75.00 Twin/Double

€ 97.00 Triple





## 32<sup>nd</sup> AIA Conference

11–13 September 2025 – University of Turin

### Human, Humane, Humanities. Voices from the Anglosphere

The new millennium is witnessing new geopolitical crises, ideological conflicts, the effects of climate change, which make us reflect on what ‘being human’ involves.

Real-life experiences of people struggling for survival, suffering from ethnic, religious, political, gender and linguistic discrimination or isolation tell us that ‘humane’ values are often violated or ignored.

The emphasis on ‘human, humane and humanities’ in the title of the 32<sup>nd</sup> AIA Conference is meant to offer scholars in linguistic, literary, cultural and transmedial studies the opportunity to explore the various facets of ‘human nature’, as they emerge from the voices of communities in the English-speaking world. The polysemic nature of these words lends itself to reflect on the state of being human, but also on being humane, that is, feeling empathy, compassion, and understanding for fellow living entities.

The digital turn represents a huge step forward for present and future generations of scholars. However, artificial Intelligence seems to be subverting the primacy of human intellect, threatening to dehumanize many aspects of human creative and communicative practices.

Recently literature has incorporated notions of neo-materialism and posthumanism to better take into account the more-than-human agency and the interconnectedness of all living beings. In postcolonial literature new forms of enslavement determine a constant concern both in the traditional and in the new media. Environmental humanities in the Anglosphere is increasingly engaged in interconnected issues of social and climate justice, asymmetrical power relations and decolonial thinking.

AIA members are invited to submit proposals for Seminars relevant to the following themes, from the perspective of literary, linguistic and cultural studies. Inter- or cross-disciplinary Seminars, addressing issues from multiple perspectives, are strongly encouraged.

- Human experience(s) within and across texts and discourses
- Storytelling, old and new textualities, cross-digital narratives
- Stylistic approaches to texts and discourses about the human and the non-human
- Neo-material and posthuman perspectives in literary, cultural and postcolonial studies
- Ethics, empathy, compassion and tolerance
- (New) metaphors for the world we live in



- Social, climate justice, and decolonial thinking
- Migration flows, new forms of enslavements, new forms of agencies and activism
- Environmental humanities and eco-criticism
- Indigenous knowledge and the need for new ecological paradigms
- Representations of identity, gender, race, and class
- Cultural diversity, inclusivity and intersectionality in the English-speaking world
- Linguistic landscapes: exploring language variation and change
- Historical perspectives on English language, literature, and culture
- Digital humanities: diachronic and synchronic application to English studies
- Specialized discourse and international communication
- Human-machine interaction in the real and in the fictional world
- Multimodality in texts and discourses
- Truthfulness and post-truth
- The digital turn in education, teacher training, EFL teaching and learning
- The digital turn in translation
- Interdisciplinary approaches to the teaching of English literature
- Translation studies, cross-cultural communication, audio-visual translation (AVT) and media accessibility (MA)
- The human aspect of translation

AIA32 will host the following plenary speakers:

**Rossella Ciocca**, University of Naples L'Orientale

**Radhika Jha**, cosmopolitan author

**Carol O'Sullivan**, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

**Michele Zappavigna**, University of New South Wales, Australia

### **Call for Seminars**

AIA members are invited to submit proposals (max 300 words, including references). Proposals can be jointly submitted to the Scientific Committee by a minimum of two or a maximum of three convenors from different universities.

Please send your proposals to [aia32@unito.it](mailto:aia32@unito.it) by **1 February 2025**.

Notification of acceptance: **15 March 2025**.

The full list of Seminars with outlines and contact addresses of convenors will be published on the conference website by **15 March 2025**.

### **Call for Papers**

AIA members are invited to submit abstracts of individual papers for specific Seminars only from **15 March 2025** when the list of Seminars will be made available.

Deadline for submission of abstracts for individual papers: **15 April 2025**.



Abstracts (WORD format) should be about 300 words long, including references. Font: Times New Roman, 12 points.

Notification of acceptance: 15 May 2025.

Please note that:

- Seminars must include either 4, 5 or 8 speakers (each speaker will be allowed 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for Q&A);
- AIA members may present only one paper (this applies both to single-author and co-authored presentations).

Please send your proposals to [aia32@unito.it](mailto:aia32@unito.it)

**Link to AIA32 website:** <https://corep.it/aia-conference-2025>

### **Organizing Committee**

Esterino Adami, Harjot Banga, Cecilia Boggio, Maria Cristina Caimotto, Stefania Cicillini, Carmen Concilio, Michelangelo Conoscenti, Irene De Angelis, Massimiliano Demata, Paola Della Valle, Maria Laura Ferroglio, Maria Festa, Antonella Maria Giacosa, Alessio Mattana, Vincenza Minutella, Alessandra Molino, Costanza Mondo, Iaria Parini, Teresa Prudente, Silvia Pireddu, Virginia Pulcini, Giorgia Riboni, Marco Santello, Karolina Anna Tatar, Nesrine Triki, Virginia Zorzi, Angela Zottola.

### **Scientific Committee**

Esterino Adami (Università di Torino), Giuseppe Balirano (Università di Napoli L'Orientale), Roberto Baronti Marchiò (Università di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale) Cecilia Boggio (Università di Torino), Paola Brusasco (Università di Chieti), Claudia Cao (Università di Cagliari), Valentina Castagna (Università di Palermo), Paola Catenaccio (Università di Milano), Carmen Concilio (Università di Torino), Michelangelo Conoscenti (Università di Torino), Giuseppina Cortese (Università di Torino), Manuela D'Amore (Università di Catania), Irene De Angelis (Università di Torino), Bianca Del Villano (Università di Napoli L'Orientale), Paola Della Valle (Università di Torino), Massimiliano Demata (Università di Torino), Elena Di Giovanni (Università di Macerata), Eleonora Federici (Università di Ferrara), Cristiano Furiassi (Università di Torino), Francesca Guidotti (Università di Bergamo), Siria Guzzo (Università di Salerno), Bronwen Hughes (Università di Napoli Parthenope), C. Bruna Mancini (Università della Calabria), Pierpaolo Martino (Università di Bari), Vincenza Minutella (Università di Torino), Alessandra Molino (Università di Torino), Marilena Parlati (Università di Padova), Donatella Pallotti (Università di Firenze), Silvia Pireddu (Università di Torino), Virginia Pulcini (Università di Torino), Irene Ranzato (Sapienza Università di Roma), Enrico Reggiani (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore), Federico Sabatini (Università di Torino), Rossana Maria Sebellin (Università di Roma Tor Vergata), Maria Grazia Sindoni (Università di Messina), Elena Spandri (Università di Siena), Massimo Sturiale (Università di Milano), Laura Tosi (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia), Angela Zottola (Università di Torino).

# Calls for papers: conferences, publications

## Conferences

**Title: “INCS – Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies: Speed and Acceleration”**

**Dates: June 18-20, 2025**

**Place: University of Genova**

**Organisers: INCS**

**Submission deadline for abstracts: October 31, 2024. For individual papers, send 250-word proposals; for panels, send individual proposals plus a 250-word panel description to [incsgenova@gmail.com](mailto:incsgenova@gmail.com)**

The experience of an accelerating pace of change across various dimensions of life is one of the distinguishing marks of modernity. As shown by Hartmut Rosa and others, this is the result of complex, wide-ranging and interconnected transformations. Advances in technology lead to an acceleration of process, communication and information flow. This, in turn, leads to the rapid development and dissemination of technologies that influence how we interact, work, and live. Social practices, norms, and expectations accelerate, demanding quicker adaptation and response from individuals and institutions, as testified to by the faster turnover of trends, changes in social roles, and evolving cultural norms. The pace of change in personal relationships, and lifestyles also accelerates: individuals need to adjust rapidly to changes in family structures, societal expectations, and personal identities. Throughout, speed and acceleration are connected, but they are not synonyms: high-speed technology should give us more time and make our life, if anything, more relaxed; conversely, contemporary social acceleration results in a culture of “chronic time famine” (H. Rosa and W. E. Scheuerman, *High-Speed Society* 2009). Life in technologically and economically advanced countries entails experiencing the paradox of being relentlessly pressed for time while having at one’s disposal an amazing range of time-saving technologies. This implies that, historically speaking, we are now ideally positioned to reconsider the past in this light and explore the ways previous experiences of acceleration impacted society, were saluted with satisfaction and/or alarmed outcries, generated discourses of, and attempts at, deceleration, modified the perception of history and time, and shaped individual attitudes to life. In this respect, the nineteenth century – which began under the aegis of such formidable “accelerator” as the industrial revolution (with the concomitant political upheavals of the Age of Revolutions), and ended with the onset of another peak of social acceleration (1880 1920) – provides especially fertile terrain for scholarly investigation. How did nineteenth-century writers, artists, philosophers, intellectuals, economists, scientists and politicians articulate the discourse of social acceleration? How did they position themselves regarding speed and speeding up technologies? How did they react to the feeling that history was accelerating its pace, and that the experience of the previous generations was becoming obsolete/irrelevant in modern times? How was the changing pace of life conceptualised or artistically represented? Which dimensions of life, or sectors of society, or geographical areas, were perceived as accelerating? Which actively resisted the accelerating trend or passively lagged behind? What conflicts resulted from these differences of pace?

Confirmed keynote speakers: Clare Pettitt (University of Cambridge); Diego Saglia (University of Parma)

## Conferences

**Title: Communicating transparency: New trends and insights for professional and intercultural settings”**

**Dates: May 29-30, 2025**

**Place: Tropea, Calabria (Italy)**

**Organisers: Assunta (Susie) Caruso, Belinda Crawford Camiciottoli, Jean Jimenez, Vanessa Marcella, Sergio Pizziconi, Ian Robinson, Ida Ruffolo- University of Calabria**

**Submission deadline for abstracts: November 20, 2024. Abstracts to [PRIN-CLAVIER2025@unical.it](mailto:PRIN-CLAVIER2025@unical.it) More information at the conference website: <https://prin2020commtran.dices.unical.it/>**

Transparency broadly refers to the degree of openness in conveying information to key stakeholders as well as the public at large. A perception of transparency becomes a precursor to trust as manifested in the belief that organizations will act in the best interests of their stakeholders and also assume accountability for their actions (Ball, 2009; Rawlins, 2008). Thus, demonstrating transparency remains a critical communicative objective of organizations, particularly in light of growing scrutiny on the part of informed citizens whose expectations of and access to information are ever-expanding (Christensen & Cheney, 2015).

The timely topic of transparency will be the focus of the PRIN/CLAVIER 2025 Conference to be held on May 29-30, 2025 in Tropea, Calabria. The conference marks the end of a PRIN research project entitled Communicating transparency: New trends in English-language corporate and institutional disclosure practices in intercultural settings. It is being jointly organized under the auspices of CLAVIER, an Italian inter-university research center. The conference intends to provide a platform for research that sheds light on how transparency is constructed and communicated across professional and intercultural contexts. We invite proposals related but not limited to the following themes: Communicating transparency across sectors and discourse domains; Communicating transparency in institutional contexts; The impact of digital technologies on communicating transparency, Cultural differences in communicating transparency; The role of English in communicating transparency in cross-cultural/intercultural contexts; The role of normative requirements in communicating transparency; Transparency in the context of sustainability; Transparency in the context of diversity, equity and inclusion; Enhancing, hindering or violating transparency; and Teaching skills for communicating transparently. The keynote speakers will be Lars Thøger Christensen (Copenhagen Business School) and Marlies Whitehouse (ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences).

## Publication

**Title: European Journal of English Studies (EJES) - Call for proposals for special issues**  
**Submission deadline for proposals for topics for volume 30 (2026) should be sent to the editors before 30 November 2024: Isabel Carrera Suárez (University of Oviedo): [icarrera@uniovi.es](mailto:icarrera@uniovi.es); Katerina Kitsi-Mitakou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): [katkit@enl.auth.gr](mailto:katkit@enl.auth.gr); Frederik Van Dam (Radboud University, Nijmegen): [frederik.vandam@ru.nl](mailto:frederik.vandam@ru.nl)**

The European Journal of English Studies is inviting proposals for special issues in volume 30 (2026). EJES takes an interest in topics that investigate the borders and intersections between different research fields in English studies, including, but not limited to, literary analysis, linguistics, critical and cultural theory, and gender and sexuality studies. This expansive focus allows the journal to encompass the plurality of English studies in Europe, a reflection of its affiliation with the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE). Topics of special issues feature high-level scholarship as well as a reflection on the argumentative strategies behind ongoing work and emerging directions in the study of Anglophone language and culture.

Guest editing teams should consist of two or three scholars who work in different locations within Europe and who have some previous editorial experience. In some cases, EJES publishes issues that have grown out of a conference or a conference panel. Such issues can be considered if the resulting CFP also appeals to scholars who did not participate in the original event. All submissions undergo a double-blind peer-review process.

Proposals for topics for volume 30 (2026) should be sent to the editors before 30 November 2024:

Isabel Carrera Suárez (University of Oviedo): [icarrera@uniovi.es](mailto:icarrera@uniovi.es)

Katerina Kitsi-Mitakou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): [katkit@enl.auth.gr](mailto:katkit@enl.auth.gr)

Frederik Van Dam (Radboud University, Nijmegen): [frederik.vandam@ru.nl](mailto:frederik.vandam@ru.nl)

### Procedure

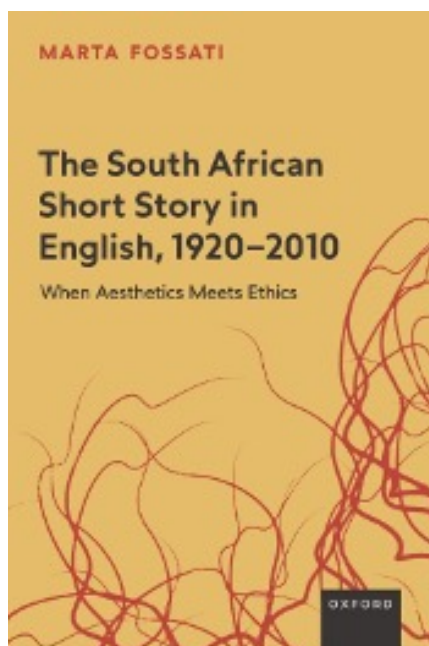
1. Aspiring guest editors submit a CFP of 300-500 words to the general editors. This document includes a list of leading questions (for examples, see the current CFPs on the ESSE website), and brief biographies of the guest editors.
2. The general editors select new topics for the issues before the end of 2024. The chosen CFPs are edited to cohere with EJES's aims.
3. During the following calendar year, the resulting CFPs are distributed widely. Abstracts for potential submissions are collected in the spring of 2025 and are reviewed by the guest editors and general editors.
4. Selected authors are then invited to submit full-length essays of between 6,000 and 8,000 words by November 2025. These essays are peer-reviewed and appear in the EJES issues scheduled for 2026.



## New publications

Marta Fossati

*The South African Short Story in English, 1920-2010: When Aesthetics Meets Ethics*  
Oxford University Press, 2024, pp. 289. ISBN: 9780198910978



This book explores, through a detailed close reading and several digressions into the history of print culture, the development of the South African short story in English from the late 1920s to the first decade of the new millennium. It explores a selection of short stories by Black South African writers (Rolfes and Herbert Dhlomo, Peter Abrahams, Can Themba, Alex La Guma, Mtutuzeli Matshoba, Ahmed Essop, and Zoë Wicomb) with particular focus on the dialogue between ethics and aesthetics performed by these texts with regards to the evolution of South Africa's socio-political situation. By focusing on Black short fiction, this book problematizes and complicates the often-polarized readings of Black literature in South Africa, torn between the notions of literariness, protest, and journalism. Owing to a set of material constraints, short fiction in South Africa indeed circulated first and foremost through local print media, which this study analyses in some detail with a focus on the cross-fertilization between journalism and the short story. While rooted in the South African context, this book is also alert to the translocal dimension of the short stories considered, exploring the ethical and aesthetical practice of intertextuality. It is thus also a book that complicates the aesthetics/ethics binary, generic classifications, and the categories of the literary and the political. <https://academic.oup.com/book/58073>

Giuseppe Balirano, Margaret Rasulo (eds)

*Advances, Trends and Approaches in Language Teaching, Learning and Education in the Post-pandemic Era: Theory and Practice*

Special issue della *Rassegna Italiana di Linguistica Applicata* – Quadrimestrale di ricerca linguistica e glottodidattica, Anno LV, 2-3/2023



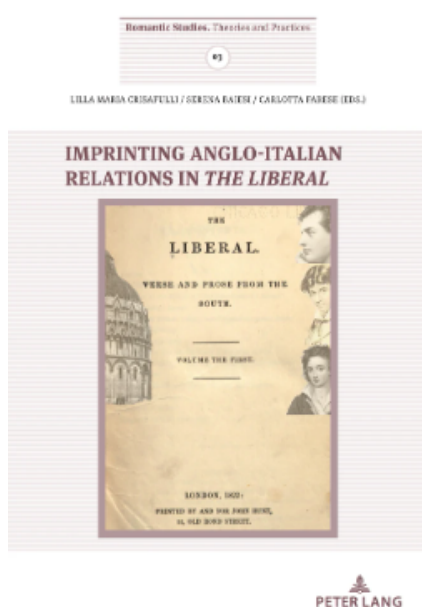
Inspired by the insightful contributions delivered during the First International Conference on New Trends and Emerging Approaches in English held in Procida in September 2022, this Special Issue of RILA collects original scholarly work which discusses some cogent themes regarding societal transformations and their consequential repercussions on education systems around the world. By highlighting the socially and historically constructed relationship between learners and the target language in shifting and developing contexts (Blommaert 2013, Balirano 2021), this Special Issue specifically addresses the complexities of the current linguistic landscape in which advances in ELT have replaced traditional notions of education, and introduced innovative ways of thinking and learning as individuals traverse local and global boundaries, occupying multiple online and offline spaces, while coping with the aftermath of post-pandemic times.

## New publications

Lilla Maria Crisafulli, Serena Baiesi, Carlotta Farese (eds)

*Imprinting Anglo- Italian Relations in The Liberal*

Peter Lang, 2023, pp. 262. ISBN: 9783034346696

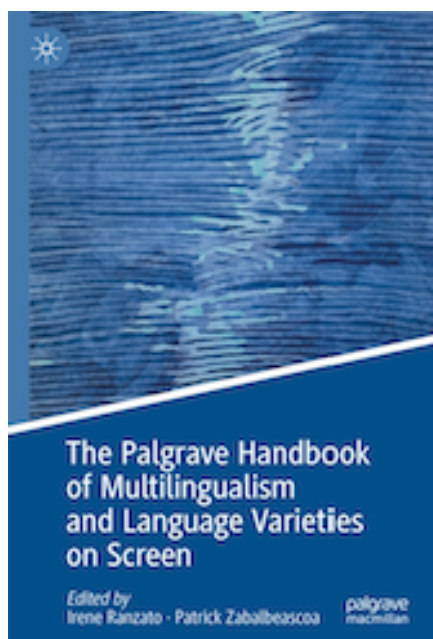


When the first issue of *The Liberal* was published on 10 October 1822, the periodical was largely dismissed by the British press as a political project conceived by well-known and controversial figures (L. Hunt, P.B. Shelley, Lord Byron, W. Hazlitt, and Mary Shelley). They were all members of the so-called “Pisan circle”, an Anglo-Italian community of liberal writers aspiring to cultural and social reform. Even though *The Liberal* was addressed to an English public, it was entirely conceived in Italy, a country which had become a symbolic as well as a geographical space, playing a crucial role in defining the journal’s aims and themes. This collection of essays examines the short and difficult life of the periodical, reassessing its cultural politics, its relationship to Italy, the controversial British reception, and its relevance to Romantic (and indeed contemporary) debates on

Irene Ranzato, Patrick Zabalbeascoa (eds)

*The Palgrave Handbook of Multilingualism and Language Varieties on Screen*

Palgrave Macmillan, 2024, pp. 645. ISBN: 978-3-031-61620-4

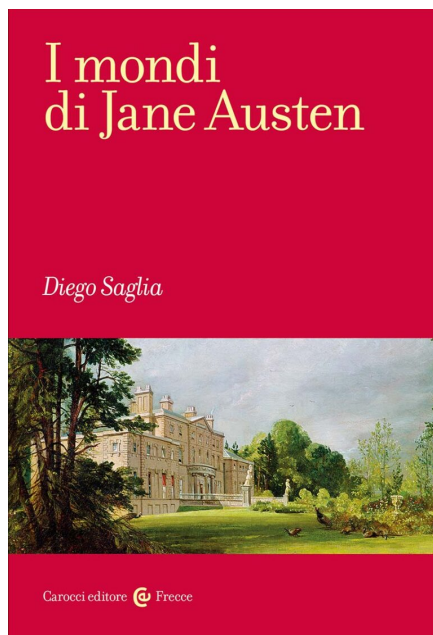


This handbook brings together contributions from the main experts in the field of multilingualism and language varieties (including dialects, accents, sociolects, and idiolects of specific speech communities) as expressed in fictional dialogue on-screen in films, and television series. The chapters included in the volume cover both the representation of these varieties and multilingual situations on screen as well as their translation into a range of languages. The handbook will thus be an essential resource for scholars and students in diverse fields including translation studies, audiovisual translation, linguistics, dialectology, film and television studies.

Diego Saglia

*I mondi di Jane Austen*

Carocci, 2024, pp. 240. ISBN: 9788829026470

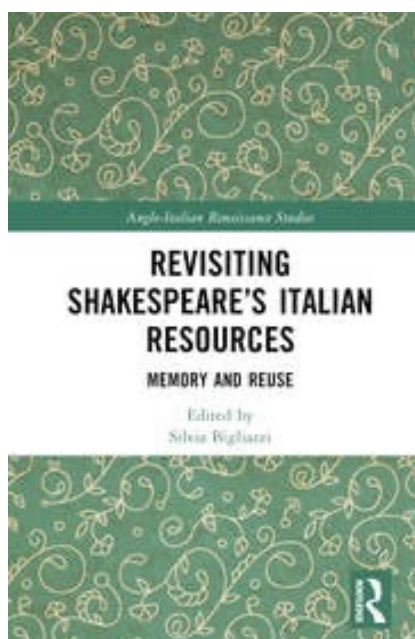


Tracing the boundaries of the world – or, rather, the worlds – of Jane Austen, this book sets out to explore the multifaceted reality experienced by the novelist and represented in her letters and narratives. The book's chapters open up insights into the historical context, socio-political and cultural institutions, international and global horizons, the local sphere, religious practices, the idea of national identity, urban and rural England, forms of moving and travelling, men and women in their social spheres, the economy, money and the world of things, leisure and culture, and literature and publishing. Through a reconstruction of these contexts and phenomena in Romantic-period England and Britain, and of their traces in Austen's letters and fictions, this study contends that a detailed knowledge of these worlds is crucial properly to approach Austen's granular narrative constructions and sustained investments in often imperceptible, though incalculably significant, details. In investigating the Austen/world binary, *I mondi di Jane Austen* offers new ways to discover and rediscover an author and a textual corpus that have achieved the status of timeless classics by being deeply rooted in their times and places.

Silvia Bigliuzzi (ed.)

*Revisiting Shakespeare's Italian Resources. Memory and Reuse*

Routledge, 2024, pp. 344. ISBN: 9781032294445



The book is about the complex dynamics of transmission and transformation of the Italian sources of twelve Shakespearean plays, from *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* to *Cymbeline*. It focuses the works of Sir Giovanni Fiorentino, Da Porto, Bandello, Ariosto, Dolce, Pasqualigo, Grotto, as well as on *commedia dell'arte* practices. It discusses hitherto unexamined materials and revises received interpretations, disclosing the relevance of memorial processes within the broad field of intertextuality vis-à-vis conscious reuses and intentional practices.

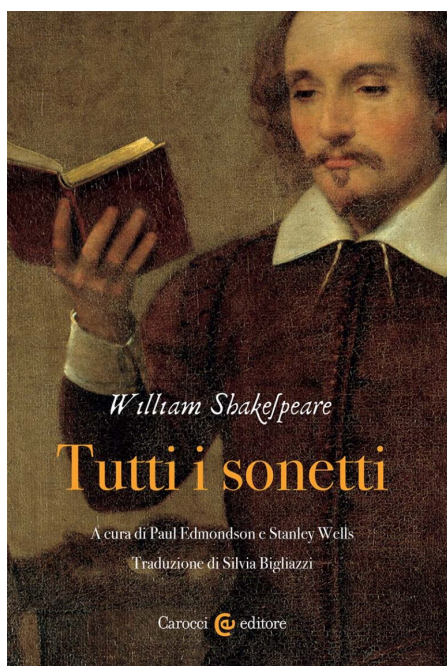


Silvia Bigliuzzi, Rocco Coronato, Bianca Del Villano (eds)  
*Shakespeare, Il teatro dell'io. Individuo, soggetto, testo*  
Carocci, 2024, pp. 408. ISBN: 9788829025404



In the early modern age, a new conception of subjectivity gradually articulated itself in ways that have often been read through philosophical and literary approaches to the self in its deepest stirrings and dialogues with the cultural discourses of the time. This is a phenomenon best interpreted by Shakespeare's elaboration of new conceptions and forms of the tragic, the comic, as well as the lyrical at the crossroads of the old and the new. The volume tackles Shakespeare's prismatic theatrical and lyrical experience of the self by focusing on four main areas: on its historical-political and philosophical context; on the theatricality and linguistic-pragmatic performativity of his dramaturgy; in relation to ethical acting; finally, with regard to the materiality of books, digital texts and the posthuman, thus moving from the page to the stage to the virtual and beyond.

Paul Edmondson, Sir Stanley Wells (eds), translated by Silvia Bigliuzzi  
*William Shakespeare. Tutti i sonetti*  
Carocci, 2024, pp. 524. ISBN: 9788829021970

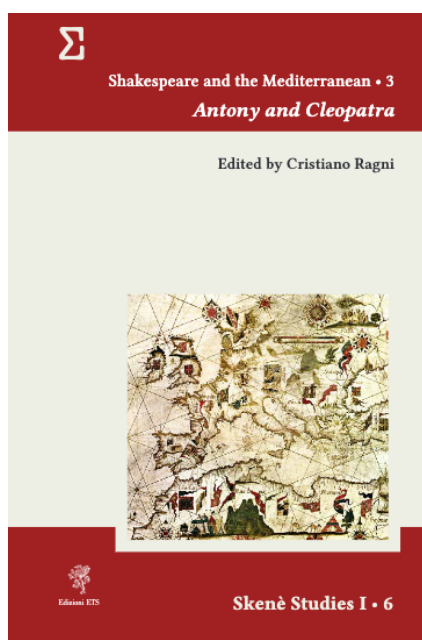


This Italian edition of *All Shakespeare's Sonnets* edited by Paul Edmondson and Stanley Sells (Cambridge UP), carried out by Silvia Bigliuzzi, offers a radically new perspective of Shakespeare's sonnets, as it places them in chronological order alongside those composed for plays throughout Shakespeare's entire career. Their rearrangement with respect to the 1609 edition, alongside sonnets from plays such as *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, through to *Cymbeline* and *Henry VIII*, makes it possible to read them outside traditional biographical approaches, in order to enhance their thematic mobility and the multiplicity of their possible addressees. For the first time in the editorial history of these extraordinary Sonnets, this volume shows across poetry and theatre the unfolding of the motions of desire and jealousy, of love and its lies, of the poet's struggle with Time and the impending sense of looming death as well as the immortality of art. This new translation, attentive to the ways in which both genres affect the articulation of the sonnets, delivers their inexhaustible complexity to the Italian public.

Cristiano Ragni (ed.)

*Shakespeare and the Mediterranean 3 - Antony and Cleopatra*

Skenè. Texts and Studies, 2024, pp. 246. Online ISSN: 2464-9295



In *Antony and Cleopatra*, the Mediterranean Sea plays a particularly vital role. Maybe more than in other works, as prominent scholars have famously noted, Shakespeare seems to have identified sea-related images – and, by extension, water-imagery – as being peculiar to this story. Changeable, slippery, and unfathomable, the Mediterranean Sea stands out as the perfect element to give shape to what has been defined as the play's 'sense of instability', which dominates both its more explicitly political dimension and the intricate, personal dynamics between the two eponymous characters. This volume offers fresh insights into the Mediterranean dimension of *Antony and Cleopatra*, exploring issues as varied as performance and self-representation, motherhood, and statecraft, as well as the ways in which contemporary digital tools can contribute to underscoring the play's enduring relevance.

Silvia Bigliuzzi, Tania Demetriou (ed.)

*What is a Greek Source on the Early English Stage? Fifteen New Essays*

Skenè, Text and Studies, 2024, pp. 516. Online ISSN: 2464-9295

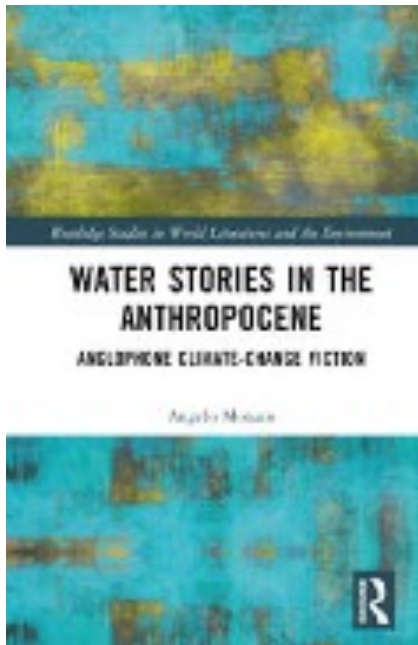


A renewed focus on classical receptions in early modern English culture has now gone beyond the fundamental questions of whether or not Greek texts were translated into English, or how they were translated, and whether their original language had any cultural value. The question the book engages with is whether either was truly significant and how. What did 'classical' mean for them and did 'classical' literature, notably Greek, circulate in early modern England in ways comparable to our own conception of it? This book offers fifteen new essays on the receptions of Greek drama in early modern English drama inquiring what a Greek source meant for the English stage.

Angelo Monaco

*Water Stories in the Anthropocene: Anglophone Climate-Change Fiction*

Routledge, 2024, pp. 200. ISBN 9781032861326



The book explores how climate change has emerged as a major theme in our daily lives as it poses a myriad of economic, scientific, political and cultural challenges in the age of the Anthropocene. In all its forms and manifestations, climate change is primarily a water crisis. Water scarcity, droughts, floods, deluge, rising sea levels, ice melting, wetlands loss, and sea pollution are among the main threats posed by climate change, wreaking havoc on both human and nonhuman forms of life. This book engages with instances of extreme events related to water (droughts, floods, deluges) and the impact of climate change on some waterbodies (seas and wetlands) in contemporary Anglophone novels. By taking into account a corpus of novels ranging from the various areas of the Anglophone world, and thus shuttling between the Global North and the Global South, the book reads these novels as ‘water stories’. *Water Stories in the Anthropocene: Anglophone Climate-Change Fiction* pays attention to the pervasive presence of water in all aspects of our lives, thus showing how narratives can offer insightful accounts of the present water crisis. Alternating between an econarratological perspective, reflections on the Anthropocene and the human/nonhuman imbrications within the blue humanities, the book contributes significantly to the considerations of the imaginative possibilities of these water stories, showing how narratives can offer insightful accounts of the present water crisis.



## Conferences and events: information and reports

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

**Title:** 8<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL PhD CONFERENCE “Reimagining Crises. Turning Points in Language Studies and Literary Narratives”

**Dates:** November 4-5, 2024

**Place:** University of Venice Ca' Foscari

**Organisers:** Giulia Cavalli, Chiara Facipieri, Carolina Celeste Granini, Paola Grasso, Maria Grazia Marrocu, Emanuela Masi, Silla Paneghel, Silvia Scolaro, Francesco Tortato

From the ancient Greek “κρίσις”, meaning decision, outcome and consequently used within the medical field to refer to a turning point in the condition of a patient, the term “crisis” gradually acquired a figurative meaning, referring to pivotal moments in which a crucial transition will alter the state of affairs. The 8<sup>th</sup> Doctoral Conference draws inspiration from such a term and aims to explore the nuanced implications of crises and turning points within the disciplines of Linguistics, Literature, Language Teaching and Translation and Interpreting. Submissions are welcome from doctoral students currently enrolled in a doctoral programme, as well as from research doctors who have obtained their degree no more than one year ago, from Italian or international universities. The conference will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2024, at Sala B, Ca' Bernardo, Venice and the keynote speakers will be Mikhail Kissine (Université Libre de Bruxelles), Penelope Pelizzon, (University of Connecticut) and Federico Zanettin (Ca' Foscari University).

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

**Title:** “(Im)politeness on the Small Screen”

**Dates:** December 5-6, 2024

**Place:** University of Naples L'Orientale

**Organisers:** Giuseppe Balirano, Bianca Del Villano, Roberto Esposito, Chiara Ghezzi

**Conference website:** <https://archivio.unior.it/ateneo/19063/1/news-ed-eventi.html>

(Im)politeness is a core interpersonal function of language, deeply linked to sociocultural values, and fundamental for meaning and context interpretation. The Conference aims to analyse facework practices and (im)politeness strategies in tv series, considering a variety of sources (drama, comedy, docu-series, talk shows, sitcoms, animated series, etc.). By welcoming different approaches, including pragmatics, stylistics, argumentation, multimodality, and characterisation, the conference offers a space for interdisciplinary exchange. We invite proposals for 20-minute papers (in Italian or English) on a wide range of topics related to (im)politeness in televisual discourse. The main topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following: (Im)politeness in televised representation; (Im)politeness as fictional characterisation in tv series; Mock-politeness, humour, sarcasm, banter; Multimodal approaches to (im)polite non-verbal language; Rhetoric in inter-character dynamics; Stylistics and narration in tv series; Persuasive discourse; Taboo language; Audio-visual translation and (Im)politeness Theory; Further methodological approaches to audience perception and involvement. We welcome contributions from scholars across a variety of disciplines, including: linguistic and literary pragmatics, stylistics, argumentation, multimodality, media studies, and sociolinguistics. The Conference will also encourage further critical insights on the role of online streaming platforms (Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+, Paramount+, Hulu, etc.) in language use.

## Conferences and events: information and reports

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

**Title:** “Shifting Boundaries: AI and Human Interactions Redefining Reality (SHAI)”

**Dates:** November 6–8, 2024

**Place:** University of Naples L’Orientale

**Organiser:** Anna Mongibello

**Conference website:** <https://shaiconferenceunio.wixsite.com/shaiconferenceunior>

The conference aims to delve into the profound impact of Artificial Intelligence - including chatbots, virtual assistants, and advanced technologies associated with machine learning and deep learning - on human interactions and reality perception. In an era where digital tools have become integral to communication, our understanding of the relationship between individuals and intelligent machines has evolved significantly. This conference seeks to explore how the advent of advanced digital technologies is reshaping our daily interactions, social contexts, and perception of reality, leading to the construction of alternative yet believable new realities. The scholarly attention towards digital tools in the realm of communication has a longstanding history. As early as the late 1990s and early 2000s, academics such as Susan Herring (1996) and David Crystal (2011) had begun to anticipate the transformative impact of these technologies on the dynamics of human interactions. Recent studies have investigated metaverse and augmented reality experiences, particularly within video games utilizing AI to create immersive environments fraught with bias and discrimination (Heritage 2021). Furthermore, advancements such as ChatGPT-4 have raised concerns about the manipulation of public opinion through artificially generated content, leading to emotionally charged online discussions (Ahmad 2023; Montasari 2024). One example is the massive diffusion of fake news and deepfakes produced with AI (Mongibello 2023) during presidential campaigns (Vaccari and Chadwick 2020). Despite these challenges, AI technologies have also proven to be invaluable in fields such as language teaching (Bibauw et al. 2020) and scientific research, offering new avenues for real-time interactions and data analysis (Curry et al. 2024; Zappavigna 2023). Through an interdisciplinary approach, the conference aims to investigate the multifaceted implications of interactions between artificial intelligence and human users. Special emphasis will be placed on the linguistic and discursive dimensions of these interactions, exploring the role of language in mediating between individuals and AI, and addressing issues of bias and discrimination in AI systems employed in video games, chatbots, virtual assistants etc. We invite submissions that contribute to the critical debate surrounding the complexities of the relationship between artificial intelligence, language, and society, to foster a deeper understanding of the evolving landscape of AI and human interactions.

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

**Title:** “Enhancing Sustainability: Bridging Corporate Practices with Academic and Popular Discourse”

**Dates:** December 18–20, 2024

**Place:** University of Naples L’Orientale

**Organisers:** Giuseppe Balirano, Roberto Esposito, Francesco Nacchia, Marina Niceforo, Annalisa Raffone, Giuseppina Scotto di Carlo

A complex, “contentious concept” (Catenaccio, 2019: 208), sustainability is the subject of interdisciplinary interest, spanning several research areas and occupying a central role in recent international literature (see Krieg and Toivanen, 2021) in its attempt to contribute to “th[e] ecological transformation founded on shared democratic values [...]” (Brüggemann et al., 2023: 5039). Due to its multifaceted nature, sustainability has largely entered popular discourse, opening to several theoretical

## Conferences and events: information and reports

and methodological approaches for the analysis of different genres and text types. On the one hand, language and discourse studies have explored the persuasive nature of sustainability communication – “how emotions are triggered by language and performance and then channelled within the minds of the people in an audience” (Burke, 2023: 22). On the other hand, they have underlined how dialogue between the various stakeholders is crucial to creating mutual understanding and “introduc[ing] new discourses that may open up new directions in how companies contribute to sustainability” (Higgins and Coffey, 2016: 18). Based on these premises, the conference aims to promote an in-depth understanding of sustainability communication while providing innovative insights and practical solutions to current sustainability challenges. The event is intended as a meeting place for local companies, academia, and other subjects (e.g. from media, film and television) to exchange knowledge and practices, improve communication, and expand theoretical, methodological, and practical approaches to the study of sustainability. Papers selected for the conference will take a close look at sustainability in its linguistic, discursive, multimodal, and pragmatic aspects. Theoretical and methodological approaches include, among others: (critical) discourse analysis, corpus linguistics, multimodal (critical) discourse analysis, media and film studies, communication studies, corporate communication, digital humanities, pragmatics, stylistics, sociolinguistics, comparative studies, translation studies, and literary studies.

### **FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE**

**Title: “ELF Communication Today: Acceptability and Accessibility in Focus”**

**Dates: December 4-5, 2024**

**Place: University of Salerno**

**Organisers: Jacqueline Aiello, Rita Calabrese and Rossella Latorraca (University of Salerno)**

This conference, which marks the end of the first year of the PRIN 2022 PNRR project “Acceptability strategies through variations of English as a lingua franca in multicultural and multimodal discourse types” (University of Salento | University of Salerno) funded by the European Union – Next Generation EU, aims to offer a platform for interdisciplinary scholarly exchange on the features and complexities of contemporary English communication across various fields and global contexts. It emphasizes the optly shaped the sociocultural fabric of European society and it serves as a medium through which European citizens express support for European integration and a common European identity. He raises the critical question of whether an EU English - characterized by unique forms and functions resulting from European nativization processes and thus freed from the stronghold of Inner Circle varieties - can gain ty and well-being. Thus, another key focus of this conference is to investigate efforts by international, supranational, and/or local institutions and individuals to achieve greater accessibility in their English communication. These efforts can be explored through the linguistic, discursive, and communicative strategies adopted to enhance communication effectiveness with multilingual and multicultural audiences across different formats. Additionally, individuals and organizations have also capitalized on resources such as translanguaging, multilingualism, translation, multimodality and spatiality in their linguistic practices in their efforts to enact intercultural stances, to overcome barriers posed by the potential lack of linguistic, digital and/or specialized skills or knowledge, and to develop more inclusive discourses.

## Conferences and events: information and reports

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

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

**Dates:** December 5-6, 2024

**Place:** Roma Sapienza University

**Organising Committee:** SL@VT Research Team

**Conference website:** <https://web.uniroma1.it/seai/it/node/4522>

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

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

**Title:** “Anomalies. Doctoral conference. Disruptions from linguistic, literary, and cultural norms”

**Dates:** December 3–5, 2024

**Place:** University of Milan

**Organising committee:** Andrea Bernardi, Matilde Bazzano, Francesca Cappellini, Harriet Carnevale, Elena Donati, Elisabeth Falcicchio, Tiziano Faustini, Camilla Godi, Giovanni Gorla, Luisella Leonzini, Michael Lioi, Giulia Meroni, Marianna Montanaro, Andrea Spedale, Letizia Paglialonga, Daniel J. Santos Pizarro, Francesco M. Scaringella, Alessandro Vallati, Andrea Verdino

In a world perpetually shaped by societal norms, the emergence of ‘anomalies’ triggers a transformative dialogue that questions the very essence of what is considered conventional. “An irregular fact, characteristic, or circumstance; an oddity, an outlier; an anomalous person or thing”, as defined by the Oxford English Dictionary, anomalies escape unambiguous categorization. So much so that from different disciplinary perspectives emerges a constellation of constantly evolving definitions (e.g. in psychiatry and psychology, medicine, anthropology, literature, culture, didactics and linguistics). This conference involves researchers in linguistic, literary and cultural disciplines to explore and analyse the profound impact of anomalies on language, literature, theatre, education and culture.

## Conferences and events: information and reports

### CONFERENCE AND FORTHCOMING EVENT

**Title: “Final SELSI Event: So Easy – Spoken Easy Language for Social Inclusion”**

**Dates: October 17, 2024 + October 24, 2024 (online event)**

**Place: Ljubljana, Slovenia, and online**

**Organisers: SELSI (Spoken Easy Language for Social Inclusion) project team - Vilniaus universitetas (Lithuania)/Università degli studi di Pavia (Italy) - Partner leader for Italy: Elisa Perego**

The SELSI (Spoken Easy Language for Social Inclusion) project, funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ Programme, is approaching its conclusion with a pivotal event on October 17, 2024, in Ljubljana, Slovenia. This final conference will celebrate the project's achievements, highlighting the importance of easy spoken language in fostering social inclusion across key sectors such as healthcare and legislation.

Since its launch in 2022, the SELSI project has focused on making spoken language more accessible, especially for individuals with intellectual disabilities, ensuring they can fully engage in societal activities. The conference will bring together partners from several European countries, including Slovenia, Italy (with the key contribution of two AIA members: Piergiorgio Trevisan from the University of Trieste and Elisa Perego from the University of Pavia), Latvia, Lithuania, and Sweden, to present the project's outcomes and discuss its real-world applications.

The event will also feature keynote speeches from leading experts, presentations on research into easy language, and discussions about its use in sectors like mental health and human rights. This conference represents a crucial moment for advancing research and practices that promote inclusive communication, offering a significant platform for ongoing dialogue and innovation in the field.

A follow-up online session on October 24, 2024, will offer participants a hands-on demonstration of the SELSI tool, designed to facilitate the adoption of easy spoken language in various professional settings. The SELSI project's final event marks an important step towards ensuring more inclusive communication in Europe, contributing to a growing body of research with far-reaching implications for social integration and human rights.

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

**Title: “Waiting for the US Election Day: Linguaggi, rappresentazioni e discorsi mediatici”**

**Date: October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 14.00–17.00**

**Place: Università dell’Insubria, Room 9MTG, Via Monte Generoso 71, Varese**

**Organisers: Alessandra Vicentini, Daniel Russo**

The seminar "Waiting for the US Election Day: Linguaggi, rappresentazioni e discorsi mediatici" explores the role of language, representation, and media discourse in shaping public perception and opinion in the lead-up to the United States presidential election. By examining the intersection of political communication and media influence, it will address how various forms of communication - from news outlets to social media - frame the narrative of the election campaign, highlighting key issues, candidate portrayals, and policy discussions. The seminar will include both academic experts in linguistics and Anglophone studies as well as professionals from the media industry, creating an ideal environment for a constructive debate. A particular focus will be given to how media discourse constructs different realities for audiences based on political and cultural contexts, and how linguistic choices impact the reception and dissemination of election-related content. The analyses will also tackle the representations of political figures, electoral processes, and ideological stances in both US and international media, examining how these contribute to the creation of distinct narratives. By bringing



## Conferences and events: information and reports

together experts from both academia and the media industry, the session is expected to foster a rich and constructive discussion.

Guest speakers: Massimiliano Demata (Università di Torino), Denise Milizia (Università di Bari), Laura Tommaso (Università del Piemonte Orientale), Farian Sabahi (Università dell'Insubria), Viviana Mazza (Corriere della Sera).

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

**Title: “Into English at Political and Social Sciences (PoSS): setting the scene, posing the challenges”**

**Date: November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 09.00–18.00**

**Place: Room 3D233, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, University of Turin, Lungo Dora Siena 100, Turin 10153**

**Organisers: Massimiliano Demata, Kim Grego**

English language, translation and linguistics (Angl01/C, formerly L-Lin/12) is a required course in almost all undergraduate and graduate programmes of Political and Social Sciences Faculties throughout Italy. As a consequence, a significant number of researchers and professors over the years have been employed or have joined Departments within such Faculties, initially or partly for didactic purposes, but later or even immediately developing an interest in researching English in the fields of Political and Social Sciences.

Like in classic language and literature university programmes, scholars of English are fully involved in the academic life of their Departments; unlike in language-specific programmes, though, linguists teach in a challenging and diverse environment, which encompasses several other disciplines and is strictly connected to the global world we live in. This has often led to the development of interdisciplinary methodologies and flexible as well as heterodox approaches to teaching English, often in constant dialogue with the major non-linguistic disciplines constituting the core of the students' syllabi in these departments, such as Sociology, International relations, Politics, etc.

This initiative intends to explore precisely this singular aspect of our work, at both the didactic and the research level. What good practices are there to share among language practitioners of English in departments of Politics and Social Sciences? What are the educational challenges we face? How does the environment we work in shape and direct our research? What are the latest trends in our field(s), and can we ourselves be trend-setters in the English taught at Political and Social Sciences? To these exploratory questions, many others may certainly be added. In addition, our work at the forefront of faculties and programmes deeply immersed in current affairs and political and social matters provides endless opportunities to promote public engagement (terza missione) initiatives.

This one-day meeting is being proposed as an opportunity for all those involved and/or interested in this environment to meet and exchange information, practices, ideas, thoughts – a (possibly ongoing) lab to monitor and promote our work and, why not, showcase it to colleagues, students, institutions and the public for what it is: a distinctive specialised field with enormous educational and social relevance. A collective, round-table-style discussion involving all participants will be followed by four sessions with short papers (10-15 minutes each) addressing some aspect of the scholar's research which is directly connected to the activities offered in their course of study (UG and/or PG).



### REPORT

**Title:** 3<sup>rd</sup> International ELT Conference “New Trends in English Language Teaching, Learning and Education Studies and Linguistics”

**Date:** September 19-20, 2024

**Place:** University of Ferrara

**Organisers:** Anna Anselmo, Richard Chapman, Dario Del Fante, Eleonora Federici, Valentina Di Francesco, Giovanni Ganino, Ilaria Iori, Loredana La Vecchia, Tamara Zappaterra

**<https://www.unife.it/it/cla/progetti/3-rd-international-elt-conference-new-trends-in-english-language-teaching-learning-and-education>**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International ELT Conference “New Trends in English Language Teaching, Learning and Education Studies and Linguistics” was organized by the University of Ferrara and its Language Centre, in collaboration with Unife inclusiva, the body responsible for diversity, equity, and inclusion at the university of Ferrara. The event was supported by several organizations, including the Italian Association for the Study of English (Associazione Italiana di Anglistica [AIA]), the Italian Association of University Language Centers (Associazione Italiana dei Centri Linguistici Universitari [AICLU]), and the Universities of Chieti-Pescara “G. D’Annunzio” and Naples L’Orientale along with their respective language centres.

The conference was held at the Department of Humanities at the University of Ferrara and sparked discussions among English language teaching scholars about diverse approaches to the field. It focused on two key areas: the challenges posed by the post-pandemic shift from traditional in-person learning to online and hybrid formats, which increased the use of digital technologies and AI, and the significance of special needs education in language learning through multimodal and interactive activities.

In their opening remarks, Paolo Tanganelli (University of Ferrara), Tamara Zappaterra (Rectoral Delegate for Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion, University of Ferrara), Giuseppe Balirano (President of the Italian Association for English Studies), Tania Zulli (Director of the University of Chieti-Pescara Language Centre), and Eleonora Federici (Director of the University of Ferrara Language Centre and Rectoral Delegate for Foreign Language Teaching) highlighted the importance of embracing digital technologies in language learning, addressing the challenges of post-pandemic education, and ensuring inclusivity by focusing on special needs education to create more flexible, accessible, and effective teaching environments. In this perspective, Fortuna Notaro, Anna Galderisi, and Carla Virgilio (Unife Inclusiva) stressed the need for adapted strategies to support diverse learners, especially those with special needs, through digital tools.

The conference featured several keynote speakers who presented various aspects of language education. Franca Poppi (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia) opened the conference with her keynote lecture, “*From ERT to AI-Powered Classes: The Digital Transformation of Language Education*”, where she discussed the evolution of language teaching from Emergency Remote Teaching (ERT) to the integration of AI tools, showcasing specific activities that enhance language learning and reshape teaching practices in modern classrooms. Elena Di Giovanni (University of Macerata) followed with her keynote lecture, “*Teaching Accessibility and Inclusion: A Higher Education Perspective*”, which emphasized the role of higher education in promoting accessibility and inclusive teaching to meet the diverse needs of learners. Heath Rose (University of Oxford) presented “*The Centrality of English Language Teaching for Student Success in English-Taught Programs*”, stressing how English language teaching is essential for the academic success of students in English-medium programs. Finally, Elena Refraschini (Owner of the “Inglese Americano” Online Language School) discussed “*Integrating Popular Media in the English Classroom*,” demonstrating how popular media can foster students’ engagement and effective language learning. The conference brought together educators and scholars to exchange ideas and explored innovative practices that address the pressing challenges in English language teaching and new technologies.

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### REPORT

**Title: "ClaRE – Classical Receptions in Early Modern English Drama"**

**Date: August 20-21, 2024**

**Place: Verona University**

**Organisers: Silvia Bigliuzzi and Tania Demetriou**

**<https://skene.dlss.univr.it/en/2024/07/02/prin-2017-clare/>**

Speakers and Chairs: Carlo Maria Bajetta, Michela Compagnoni, Francesco Dall’Olio, Giovanna Di Martino, Marco Duranti, Evgeniia Ganberg, Alessandro Grilli, Tom Harrison, Domenico Lovascio, Francesco Morosi, Yves Peyré, Cristiano Ragni, Jane Raisch, Emanuel Stelzer, Carla Suthren, William N. West, Susanne Wofford, Roberta Zanoni

On 20 and 21 August 2024 the University of Verona hosted the Final Conference of the 2017 PRIN project “Classical Receptions in Early Modern English Drama”. It was organized by the Skenè Research Centre at Verona in collaboration with Cambridge University. This conference brought to its conclusion an articulate research project bringing together scholars from the Universities of Verona, Pisa, Genoa and Aosta as well as a network of international researchers who annually met at Verona to reassess the role of Greek legacies and their Latin and vernacular mediations in the English Renaissance. Previous meetings included discussions of theoretical perspectives, such as how the study of classical receptions in early English drama goes beyond individual examples; how individual instances of reception in the drama that we are examining inform a wider sense of reception in this period, and how this period-specific sense informs the study and the paradigms of classical reception itself; whether there is anything to be gained for the broader field by considering the distinctiveness of the early modern English context and the methodologies that have been applied to studying it; and given that the subfield of Shakespearean drama is one of the most distinctive aspects of this period, where classical reception leaves the inquiry of ‘source-study’. Some answers to such questions have recently been published in Silvia Bigliuzzi and Tania Demetriou eds, *What is a Greek Source on the Early English Stage? Fifteen New Essays* (Skenè. Texts DA. ClaRE 1; Pisa, ETS, 2024 <https://textsandstudies.skeneproject.it/index.php/TS/catalog/book/81>). If in this book one major issue was to ask “*whether* [Greek texts] really mattered for early modern theatre and *how*” (p. 19), this conference has further challenged received views by exploring processes of transcultural *contaminatio* in five main research areas: (1) “Regendering and Dismembering Receptions”, where Silvia Bigliuzzi (Verona University) discussed Shakespeare’s development of a gendered politics of female lament in relation to ancient and early modern models, and Susanne Wofford (NYU) investigated figures of dismemberment in Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus* in the light of Euripides’ *Bacchae* and its Renaissance receptions; (2) in “How much Greek?”, Marco Duranti (Verona University), Giovanna Di Martino (UCL), Carla Suthren (Oxford University) and Tania Demetriou (Cambridge University) tackled the circulation and relevance of Greek texts, as well as their scholarly knowledge, through practices of fragmentation, collage and recreation with a focus on Aeschylus and Euripides as well as the mediations of Italian and French novellas; (3) in “Mapping Receptions”, Francesco Dall’Olio (Verona University) and Carlo Maria Bajetta (University of La Vallée d’Aosta) focused on Marlowe’s reception of ideas of Persia through Xenophon and Herodotus and on the links between Hakluyt, Edward Wright, and Sir Walter Raleigh’s circle, modern and Ptolemaic cosmography and Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*, respectively. In (4) “Comedic Receptions”, Francesco Morosi (Pisa University), William N. West (Northwestern University), Tom Harrison, and Jane Raisch (University of York) shifted the attention to forms of *contaminatio* in comedies showing not only the spectral presence of Greek names and settings in comedies otherwise looking very little Greek, but also how in early modern comedies it functioned as a kind of comedic content, which positively valorized different kinds of hybridity or even

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cosmopolitanism. Examples included the puppet show with the Hero and Leander story in Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair and the revitalisations of Aristophanes and Plautine dramaturgy in early modern England. Finally, in (5) "De(i)fyng Receptions", Evgeniia Ganberg (Cambridge University) and Domenico Lovascio (Genoa University) took up the relation between the representation of gods in Heywood's *The Golden Age* and in Fletcher's *The Mad Lover*, focusing on the relation between rulers and poets within the political context of James I's reign, on the one hand, and on the other on Fletcher's knowledge of the classics and his fundamental disengagement with them. The conference was opened by Yves Peyré's keynote lecture on the myth of Proserpine, Shakespeare's late plays and the Greek prose romances available at the time (University of Montpellier), and closed on the presentation of the ClaRE online archive which collects four repositories offering open access to critical editions of the material resulted from the overall project: <https://clare.dlcs.univr.it/>

### REPORT

**Title: "English Language Teaching in Italy (1900–2000). A historical archive of ELT materials at the University of Milan"**

**Date: September 20, 2024**

**Place: University of Milan**

**Organisers: Luciana Pedrazzini, Andrea Nava, Martin Ruskov, Emanuela Tenca, Andrea Verdino**  
**<https://italy-elt-archive.unimi.it/>**

On 20 September 2024, the Italy ELT Archive, a project led by Luciana Pedrazzini and Andrea Nava at the University of Milan, was launched during a symposium which gathered experts from the world of academia, education, and teachers' associations. The symposium included paper presentations, a round table, and a workshop, which explored the history of English language education and materials development in the Italian context from different perspectives.

In the first presentation, Richard Smith (University of Warwick), discussed the significance of historical research in ELT, a field which is usually forward-looking and innovation-oriented. Smith underlined how archives such as the one he founded at the University of Warwick and the Italy ELT Archive itself help challenge universalism in ELT by uncovering local histories that go beyond native speakers' models and emphasise materials, practices, and the role of teachers. Indeed, archives in teacher education can assist teachers in shaping their identity and enhance their autonomy.

In the second presentation, Lucilla Lopriore (University of Roma 3) showed how Italian materials writers catalogued in the Italy ELT Archive contributed positively to decentering ELT by harnessing their status as non-native speakers. This was reflected, in particular, in the local implementation of communicative language teaching in coursebooks published in the 1990s. Lopriore pointed to the implications of the Italy ELT Archive for research and for teacher education, and she hinted at its potential for better understanding and responding to current political issues.

Gisella Langé (Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito) traced the evolution of language education in Italy over the last five decades, focusing on the impact of international policies introduced by the EU and the UN, and their local implementation by the Italian Ministry of Education. She considered strategic objectives and key areas in teacher education, while also accounting for recent developments and global perspectives for the future of foreign language education in Italy and beyond.

Paola Vettorel's (University of Verona) talk foregrounded the traditional, fundamental role of coursebooks as a reference point for both teachers and learners, and problematised the way in which their design has taken into account the status of English as a global language. Vettorel stressed the need

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to move beyond monolingualism and native-speakerism, and the value of introducing cross-cultural and cross-linguistic elements in ELT materials, in order to develop intercultural awareness and communication strategies which will aid learners in real-life interactions.

Luciana Pedrazzini, Andrea Nava, Martin Ruskov, and Emanuela Tenca (University of Milan) presented the Italy ELT Archive project against the background of historical research into language learning and teaching. They illustrated the design of the online archive and outlined the criteria for sampling and organising the items to be included in its catalogues. They demonstrated how the Archive can be used to investigate the adaptation of language teaching methods in Italy, and they performed preliminary data analysis to show possible applications of the Archive for answering research questions.

The presentation of the Italy ELT Archive was followed by a roundtable chaired by Stefania Nuccorini (University of Roma 3), which considered the impact of universities, teachers' associations, and journals on the learning and teaching of English in Italy, on teacher education, as well as on research. The invited discussants were Lucilla Lopriore (University of Roma 3/TESOL Italy), Silvia Minardi (LEND), Gianfranco Porcelli (ANILS), and Maria Cecilia Rizzardi (University of Milan), who highlighted the importance of establishing stronger connections between universities and associations in order to foster the professional growth of teachers and teacher trainers, and thus better address the current and future challenges of language education.

In the final part of the symposium, Sharon Hartle (University of Verona) actively engaged participants in a workshop which aimed to increase their awareness of the resources available in the Italy ELT Archive and of the methods which underpin them. The participants were invited to work together to evaluate a selection of materials from the Archive, and then to suggest ways for adapting those materials depending on the approaches they may wish to implement in their classes.

The Symposium was attended by in-service and pre-service teachers, students, researchers, materials writers, and professionals from the publishing sector, who had the opportunity to learn about the relevance of historical research for learning and teaching English today, and its positive impact for training teachers and for designing future language policies.

## Other news from AIA members

Care e Cari,

è con piacere che condividiamo il programma dell'evento **Regency Mania** che si terrà a **Bologna il 25 e 26 ottobre prossimi**.

Saranno due giorni dedicati l'epoca inglese della Reggenza come momento di intensi scambi culturali, sociali e letterari che la rendono ancora oggi così moderna e di grande attrattiva, come dimostrano le recenti rivisitazioni mediatiche.

La prima giornata, 25/10 prevede la partecipazione di studiosi e studiose di UNIBO e di altre università italiane che parleranno del periodo Regency da diverse prospettive: culturali, letterarie, artistiche.

Il 26/10 è prevista la messa in scena presso il DAMSLab di una commedia Regency molto amata da Jane Austen, *Lovers' Vows* di Elizabeth Inchbald a cura degli studenti e delle studentesse di letteratura inglese UNIBO guidati dalla regista Lea Cirianni (Teatro dell'Argine).

L'evento, aperto a tutto il pubblico anche esterno all'UNIBO, è organizzato da Serena Baiesi e Carlotta Farese del CISR (Centro Interuniversitario per lo Studio del Romanticismo) della sede UNIBO in collaborazione con JASIT (Jane Austen Society of Italy).

Vi preghiamo di condividere la notizia con colleghi e studenti.

**Sito web:** <https://eventi.unibo.it/regencymaniacisr>

Un caro saluto,

Serena e Carlotta

(Sede CISR di Bologna)

## Ricordo di Lina Unali

Nella notte tra il 14 e il 15 agosto, Lina Domenicangela Unali ci ha lasciati.

Già professoressa ordinaria di Letteratura Inglese presso l'Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata, è stata figura di spicco dell'anglistica e dell'americanistica italiana. Con le sue numerose e appassionate attività dal respiro internazionale, capaci di spaziare dalla critica letteraria alla scrittura creativa, ha contribuito a dischiudere canali di comunicazione tra Asia e Occidente. È stata Instructor e graduate student Fulbright presso la University of Washington (1961-62), professoressa incaricata all'Università di Cagliari (1970-1982), Visiting Professor presso la Nerhu Unversity di New Delhi, India, negli anni 1980-1985. L'attività di Visiting Professor l'ha poi condotta alla National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, nel 1985-86. Fulbright scholar presso l'Università di Harvard, nel 1971-1972, è stata docente per tre semestri presso la State University of Somalia, Mogadiscio negli anni 1988, 1989, 1990. Nel 2009 ha fondato il Centro di ricerca Asia and the West, oggi presso il Dipartimento di Storia, Patrimonio culturale, Formazione e Società dell'Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata.

Si è distinta come anglista e americanista, riuscendo a far dialogare le due discipline in opere critiche sempre innovative e di grande rilievo, testimonianza dei suoi molteplici interessi, dall'Early Modern period all'Ottocento inglese e americano, fino alla letteratura asiatico americana. Si ricordano, tra le sue numerosissime pubblicazioni, *Mente e Misura. La Poesia di William Carlos Williams*, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, Roma, 1970, *Stella d'India: Temi imperiali britannici, modelli di rappresentazione dell'India*, Edizioni Mediterranee, Roma, 1993, *Beautiful China*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2016 e *William Shakespeare amidst Monarchs, Revolutions and Actors*, Lago Sole Luna, 2019.

Come autrice di testi creativi, ricordiamo *La Sardegna del desiderio*, Ripostes, Roma, 1991, *Trilogia della Somalia musulmana*, Il Grappolo, Salerno, 2001, *Viaggio a Istanbul*, Edes, Sassari, 2009, *Andalusian General. A narrative of Sardinia and Spain*, Edes, Sassari, 2010 e *Fiori sardi di Capo Spartivento*, Vitale Edizioni, Sanremo, 2020.

Ma è soprattutto come maestra che vogliamo ricordarla: ci ha insegnato che la verità va sempre perseguita, anche quando si fa tagliente come lama; ci ha insegnato ad amare ciò che appare diverso, senza averne paura; ci ha insegnato ad abbracciare qualsiasi destino, ingegnandoci per "cambiare il dato" (come amava ripetere) quando il fato sembra avverso; ci ha insegnato a credere fino a riuscire; ci ha insegnato a celebrare la vita, a rispettare ogni suo aspetto, a coltivare il corpo, l'anima, l'intelletto perché, memore dell'insegnamento di William Blake, tutto partecipa della stessa sostanza.

Vogliamo salutarla con affetto e gratitudine, attraverso le parole di Emily Dickinson:

Unable are the Loved to die  
For Love is Immortality,  
Nay, it is Deity—

Unable they that love—to die  
For Love reforms Vitality  
Into Divinity.

**Elisabetta Marino, per tutti i suoi allievi e le sue allieve**



## ESSE support schemes and announcements



Various ESSE **research support schemes** for 2025 are now posted at the ESSE website: <https://essenglish.org>.

Here is the list of various support schemes that ESSE offers, all posted at <https://essenglish.org/research-and-support/>:

- ESSE **bursaries for both senior and junior scholars**, for study trips: <https://essenglish.org/bursaries-for-research-trips/>. Deadline for applications: 1 February 2025.
- ESSE **bursaries for Gender studies** within English studies, a relatively new category of bursary similar to the regular ones, introduced in 2022, and continued in 2023, 2024 and 2025: <https://essenglish.org/bursaries-for-gender-studies/>. Deadline for applications: 1 February 2025.
- ESSE **book and resources grant**, the old support scheme which has recently been expanded to include not only books but other research resources as well: <https://essenglish.org/book-and-resource-grants/>. Deadline for applications: 1 May 2025.

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ESSE **Doctoral Symposium**, for PhD students working on their dissertations: <https://essenglish.org/doctoral-symposium/>. Deadline for applications: 15 January 2025.

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Support scheme for the national associations:

**Conference plenary speaker support** <https://essenglish.org/conference-plenary-speaker-support/>, to invite plenary speakers to their national associations' conferences.

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Announcement for the **positions of ESSE Treasurer and ESSE Secretary**. Deadline for applications: 30 April 2025. More details how to apply at <https://essenglish.org/esse-announcements/>.

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

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

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**have two reference letters from two AIA members, send the form and the two letters of reference to [aiasegreteria@unito.it](mailto:aiasegreteria@unito.it).**

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