



UNIMORE Summer School
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI Digital Humanities
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

Book of Abstracts
Summer School UNIMORE
June 2022



Index

Presentations.....	6
Group A - Tuesday June 7th, 11.30 – 13.00.....	6
Artists and Artificial Intelligence: to whom does the creative genius belong? - Jessica Camargo Molano, International Telematic University "Uninettuno".....	6
German English-medium linguistics journal abstracts over the last 30 years: Quantitative and qualitative structural development - Marina Ivanova, Chemnitz University of Technology.....	8
Robotics, educations and emotions - Giulia Galizia, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.....	9
AI and and humor in interaction - Jen Monroe, University of Bologna.....	11
A Corpus-based Analysis of Experiential Constructions in Hindi: the Expression of Sensations, Perceptions and Cognitions - Lucrezia Carnesale, University of Pavia-Bergamo.....	13
Group B - Wednesday June 8th, 9.30 -11.00.....	16
Transnational K-pop fandom in China: nationalism, activism, and identities - Liu Mia Xinrui, University of Sheffield.....	16
Climate change and language variation from the EU to the US - Vanessa Marcella, University of Calabria.....	18
Digital patriots: an analysis of the Spanish extreme right on Twitter - Nicola Riccardi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.....	21
Social capital and online reputation role on platforms: a cross-platform analysis - Camilla Volpe, Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II".....	23
Representations and self-representations of LGBTIQ+ identities in the British and Italian press - A corpus informed study from the broadsheet press and news releases from websites of LGBTIQ+ Organisations - Federico Zaupa, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.....	25



Communicating Safety in the Transport Sector during the Pandemic, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia – Jessica Jane Nocella, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.....	28
Group C - Wednesday June 8th, 11.30 -13.00	29
Explainable AI for Data Integration - Andrea Baraldi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.	29
Event Extraction from Web Data Streams - Giovanni Bonisoli, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.	31
Towards a Computational Geocriticism: the spaces of IRA and ETA in contemporary fiction - Simone Abbiati University of Bergamo	33
Entextualization, Playing to Place and Other Neoteric Practices on Instagram - Erin McInerney, Université de Strasbourg, University of Glasgow	35
The role of digital technology in facilitating communication between citizens, farmers and public administration to make hydrogeological risk management more effective in rural areas - Fabio Lepore, University of Pisa.	37
Group D - Wednesday June 8th, 9.30 -11.00	39
Archivio degli Scrittori Veneti between digitalization and digital genetic criticism - Silvia Bettella, Università degli studi di Padova.....	39
Dante's visual representation between Gustave Doré and Dino Buzzati - Gisella Governi, Brown University	41
What is the use of an automatic transcription of printed Latin texts in classical philology? - Lara Piva, Università degli Studi di Padova	45
Leopardi's usus punctandi: a linguistic reading of his works - Morena Rosato Università degli Studi di Palermo.....	46
Encomiastic poems in the age of Borso d'Este: editing Leonardo Montagna's Laudacio and Ludovico Sandeo's Odosophia - Francesco Sanchini.	48



Against misinformation: fake news detection on social network - Vincenzo Miracula, University of Catania.....	49
Group E - Wednesday June 8th, 11.30 -13.00.....	50
“Ban Doping”: Prevent doping by playing and educating: the development of a gaming anti-doping app for teenagers - Tony Urbani , University of Tuscia Viterbo - Italy	50
The ReTo learner corpus: Spoken language in the oral production of foreign language learners (German and Italian) - Anna-Lena Wagner, University of Turin.	52
Analysing the verbal and non-verbal mode of audiovisual materials: compiling and exploiting a corpus in the EFL classroom - Paula Wood, Universidad de Zaragoza.	54
Accessible platform for multimodal and certified storytelling: a didactic tool for cultural education - Maria Pirrone, University of Messina.	56
The digital communication of international research projects: a data-driven analysis of pragmatic strategies in websites and Twitter - Daniel Pascual, Universidad de Zaragoza	58
Posters	60
7th of June.....	
Nigerian Transnational Literature: Tracing the Figure of the Womanista in Third Generation Nigerian Female Writers Fiction - Emma Badmus Aminat, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	60
The online dimension of theatrical communication: an analysis of websites – Noemi Elonora Maria Grasso, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	61
Women's and men's voices in right-wing populist speeches: Germany and Italy in comparison - Marcella Palladino, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.....	62
Digital Maktaba: for an innovative system of preservation and management of multi-alphabetic cultural heritages – Riccardo Amerigo Vigliermo, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose (fscire)	64



Metaphors in Science: Popularizing and Translating Astrophysics – Gloria Zanella University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	66
8th of June	
Social Pathologies of rational agency - Francesco Emanuelli, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	68
Modeling the comics reader: what comics studies can teach about how we make sense of both fiction and reality - Antonio Mirizzi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.....	70
Exploring metadiscourse and rhetorical structure in Italian EFL learners' Master's Theses. Genre-analysis across learner versus professional writing, L1 versus L2 discourse - Fabiola Notari, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	71
Battista Guarini's letters: analysis, scholar edition and digital archive - Lucia Ruggieri, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	73
Argumentation strategies in students' Master Theses: analysis and teaching applicability in the context of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia - Matteo Socciarelli, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.....	74



Presentations

Group A - Tuesday June 7th, 11.30 – 13.00

Artists and Artificial Intelligence: to whom does the creative genius belong?

Jessica Camargo Molano, *International Telematic University "Uninettuno"*.

The research project focuses on the relationship between Art and Technology, in particular on the tool that is "disrupting" the world of Art in this historical moment, that is the algorithm, investigated both as a tool or creator of works through Artificial Intelligence, and as a support, certification of possession or even as a real work of art in the case of NFT (Non-Fungible-Token).

The study starts by analysing the nature of the products made by Artificial Intelligence. In this area of research there are many questions to which we shall try to give an answer: can a painting created by Artificial Intelligence be considered a work of art? Can a machine be creative? What are the possible implications in the case in which the paternity of the work of art is attributed to Artificial Intelligence? If the human element is considered to be the creative genius, what is created by man is the algorithm, whereas the final product, be it a pictorial, musical or literary work, is created by the machine. Can the algorithm be considered as the true work of art? Is there an aesthetics of algorithms?

The other area of research that is analysed is the art market, which has been characterized by the increasingly frequent use of NFTs in the last two years. Even in this field, there are numerous open questions: some are of an economic nature (is the NFT-based art market a bubble destined to burst?), while other ones lead to reflections on the nature of Art. The use of NFTs completely changes the approach to Art: what counts is the possession and not the enjoyment of the work of art. Is the era of the technical reproducibility of art coming to an end and the era of the technical uniqueness of art emerging? And in this context, can art that is no longer widely enjoyable survive or is the "death of art" coming?



The research is divided into two phases. The desk phase is mainly focused on the study of GANs (Generative Adversarial Networks), that is the type of networks most frequently used by Artificial Intelligence in the field of art, and on the use of blockchain in relation to the NFT market, paying particular attention to the Ethereum platform.

The second phase, the field phase, involves participatory observation of the artist's creative process, from the conception of the work to its complete creation.



German English-medium linguistics journal abstracts over the last 30 years: Quantitative and qualitative structural development

Marina Ivanova, *Chemnitz University of Technology*.

Abstracts are central to academic writing as they summarise and promote publications – this research project shows that the use of abstracts has increased rapidly since the 90s, becoming a standard. It analyses 593 articles with 541 abstracts from nine linguistics journals, affiliated in the Web of Science to German institutions. The focus is on global rhetorical structures adopted – from issue/research problem and background to method, results, and conclusions. These Moves are annotated in one abstract per year ($n = 30$) using the machine learning-supported discourse annotation tool INCEpTION (Klie et al., 2018). This semi-automatic method makes the otherwise time-intensive Move classification more efficient. Then, the whole corpus is analysed for a selection of metadiscourse features after automatically tagging the sentences with Part of Speech (PoS) tags and dependencies with spaCy (Honnibal et al., 2020) in Python (Van Rossum & Drake, 2009). The language model used (`en_core_web_trf`) has high accuracy in PoS-tagging (98%) and dependency parsing (94%) and enables the fast syntactic analysis of large datasets. Thus, it becomes evident that the most frequent subjects in the abstract corpus are human (we), followed by clausal subjects and expletives (that, it, which) and non-human subjects (results, paper). Moreover, the most frequent verbs after *be* are show, find, suggest, and argue, which are typically used in that complement clauses for expressing positive authorial stance. The structural analyses demonstrate that German abstracts have become more unified towards the scientific Anglo-American IMRaD model. This model, however, has been adapted to the advertising function of the abstract with stronger emphasis on the authors' contributions and article's importance (especially in literature reviews and conclusions) and rare discussions of limitations. Thus, general academic writing structures have been adapted to genre-specific functional practices over the last 30 years.



Robotics, educations, and emotions

Giulia Galizia, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*

Social robots are being used increasingly every day in new fields. Education is just one of these. Human Robots Interaction (HRI) is relevant in today's studies because not only it enhances new approaches towards well known fields, but it also can help understanding the developmental phases of humans' psychology and behaviours. Moreover, as research goes on, scholars may figure out which could be the best strategies to help develop indispensable skills for humans thanks to social robots' approaches.

In the last decade there have been several research which included the use of social robots and storytelling processes (Westlund, 2017). Some other studies, on the other hand, showed how social robots could be useful to interact with people and observe their reactions (Di Dio, 2020). The development of humans' mind is still today a mystery to scholars of every academic field. We have yet to discover most of the brain's secrets. Using social robots, therefore, could especially help psychologists and psychiatrists to determine how to discover new ways to understand pathologies or illnesses.

The aim of this PhD project is to have an ethical point of view of social robots, to analyse the reasons why emotions are still a hard topic to explain with robotics and create new valid hypothesis concerning both storytelling, robotics, and psychology to shed light on new undiscovered paths of the subject. The social robots used can be set to show somehow empathy (or empathic feedbacks with facial expressions or human like voices). However, they still cannot show emotions since the knowledge of said topic is still blurry also on a human perspective. These kinds of robots (such as Pepper, Miro, DragonBot, Care-o-Bot, etc.) can also play the role of mediators between humans and moderators of the activities.

This project, therefore, wants to have a theoretical approach on how hard it is to apply studies and theories about emotions on robots and, eventually, speak about what was learnt during a mobility in University of Hertfordshire in the UK on how social robots can be used for speech



impairment projects or other experiments on children's developmental age. Moreover, the research might contribute to build the blocks of further experiments and studies.



AI and humour in interaction

Jen Monroe, *University of Bologna*

In the wider context of how language and culture influence interactions of requests and to specifically further the understanding of human reactions to non-serious, incongruous, and humorous interactions with non-human personal assistants (IPA), interactions between native speakers of Italian, English US and English UK and an Alexa (intelligent personal assistant-IPA) device will be observed in Italy, the US and the UK. The Alexa device will be set to the language pair Eng-Ita.

Investigations into humour responses or the perception that something is ‘funny’ show that, while perceptions to intentional humour are based on the individual, the element of surprise plays a role, especially in incongruity-resolution humour and nonsense humor (Ruch, 2001). We could expect this also holds true when an IPA provides a response to a request for a joke, riddle, information on the IPAs personality, likes and dislikes or requests that are intentionally beyond the expected abilities of the IPA. These responses may be perceived as more or less satisfying, but given the nature of the request, a humorous response was likely the expected outcome so the surprise might lie simply in discovering a previously unknown response that was intentionally included in the IPAs repertoire of responses more than surprise due to unresolved ambiguity or incongruity. Therefore, digging deeper into the ‘intentional humour’ programmed into the IPA is outside the scope of this study.

More interesting are the responses provided by an IPA that cause surprise resulting in a perception that something is ‘funny’ by generally failing to provide an expected outcome, which could be due to a pragmatic misalignment between the response and the request, because the information provided is not deemed relevant, when the response is an admission that the request cannot be met, or where no response is given at all. When the IPA is bilingual or set to a specific language pair, the potential for creating unintentional humour likely increases to also



include responses not in the same language as the request, unusual prosody, translations of content from another language or a response that doesn't fit with the cultural conventions of the language. Previous studies have classified types of interactions and documented the presence of humour in interactions with non-human personal assistants in English, yet little has been done to investigate other languages and interactions with IPAs.



A Corpus-based Analysis of Experiential Constructions in Hindi: the Expression of Sensations, Perceptions and Cognitions

Lucrezia Carnesale, University of Pavia-Bergamo.

My PhD project aims to provide an exhaustive analysis of the syntactic and semantic properties of Hindi experiential constructions, which is currently lacking in the typological panorama. Hindi exhibits more than one construction for the encoding of experiential events: transitive patterns and intransitive ones (in particular, dative, genitive and allative constructions) can be used for the encoding of an experience in Hindi. Given the tendency of this language to use specific syntactic alignments on the basis of specific semantic properties (Montaut 2004a, 2004b), the analysis of Hindi experiential constructions is quite interesting: the Experiencer being an argument with exceptionally variable semantic properties (Luraghi, 2020: 38). My purpose is to apply the concept of linguistic iconicity (as defined in Malchukov 2005 2015) to Hindi experiential constructions in order to deepen our understanding of the semantic-syntactic interplay in this language.

Following recent language-specific studies on experiential constructions (Luraghi 2020, Verhoeven 2007), I adopt the approach of the Cognitive Construction Grammar (Goldberg 1995, 2006). According to this theoretical frame a construction is defined as a holistic unit consisting of a pairing of form and meaning, implying that the whole construction bears its own semantics. This approach perfectly fits the aim of this project, given the intention to show that the syntactic functions in the Hindi encoding of an experience are related to the semantic foundations of the expressed event.

The research is carried out through a qualitative and quantitative analysis of a specifically collected corpus consisting of literary texts of the 20th century. The corpus is interrogated through Sketch Engine (specific queries have been formulated through CQL) in order to collect samples of concordances for each experiential verb under examination (three classes of verbs have been chosen: body sensation verbs, perception verbs, and cognition verbs). Subsequently, each concordance is manually annotated. Case markings are annotated on the syntactic level;



on the semantic level not only thematic roles are annotated, but also argument's and participant's properties such as [\pm human], [\pm animacy], [\pm volitionality], and [\pm control]. The ultimate aim is to identify correlations between syntactic patterns and semantic properties.

References

Goldberg, A. (1995) *Constructions: A Construction Grammar Approach to Argument Structure*, Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press.

Goldberg, A. (2006) *Constructions at Work: The Nature of Generalization in Language*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

de Hoop, H. – Narasimhan, B. (2005) "Differential case marking in Hindi", in: Amberber M., de Hoop H. (eds.) *Competition and Variation in Natural Languages: The Case for Case*, pp. 321-342. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

Luraghi, S. (2020). *Experiential verbs in Homeric Greek, A constructional approach*. Leiden/Boston: Brill.

Malchukov, A. L. (2005) "Case Pattern Splits, Verb Types and Construction Competition", in: M. Amberber, H. De Hoop (eds.) *Competition and Variation in Natural Languages, The Case of Case*, pp. 73-117. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science.

Malchukov, A. L. (2015) "Valency classes and alternations: parameters of variation", in: Malchukov A. Comrie B. (eds.) *Valency Classes in World's Languages*, Vol. 1, pp 74-130. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.

Montaut, A. (2004a). *A Grammar of Hindi*. München: Lincom.

Montaut, A. (2004b) "Oblique main arguments as localizing predications in Hindi/Urdu", in: Bhaskararao P., Subbarao K.V. (eds) *Non nominative subjects*, Vol. 2, pp.178-210. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.



Verhoeven, E. (2007) *Experiential Constructions in Yucatec Maya. A typologically based analysis of a functional domain in a Mayan language*, John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsterdam / Philadelphia.



Group B - Wednesday June 8th, 9.30 -11.00

Transnational K-pop fandom in China: nationalism, activism, and identities

Liu Mia Xinrui, *University of Sheffield*

Fandom is more than a personal aesthetic preference, it is rather political and reflects real-world politics. When it comes to transnational fandom, especially transnational fandom across authoritarian regimes and non-authoritarian regimes with historical conflicts, fandom becomes a prism and reflection to explore how identities and nationalism struggle to shape the seemingly chaotic real life.

Living a life as a young Chinese female social researcher and K-pop fan, I experience my ‘Aha!’ moment from both the academic reading and off-campus daily life experience. Stigmatized as innocent, ignorant, patriotic female clusters ‘little pink’ (Fang and Repnikova, 2017), fandom studies in the Chinese context display a strong attribute to regard fans, their logic, and practice as a certain kind of social symptom to be cured (Yan and Hou, 2021; Hu and Liu, 2021). However, merely abstract grand theory criticism from top-down scholars without engaging and demonstrating the in-depth mundane daily rituals of real fans somehow exposed a problematic ‘dualism’, which imposes an ‘imagined subjectivity’ of scholars over the fans being written (Hills, 2002). Therefore I decided to take my role as both etic (outsider) and emic (insider) to write and interpret the fandom stories that matter.

The digital and online attributes of Chinese K-pop fandom (especially after the pandemic) determine my methodology as digital ethnography and put forward more computational requirements on how to identify, collect, and analyse fandom digital traces and text in the online fieldsites. In my research, I employ a combined research repertoire of multi-sited participant observation, in-depth interviews, and computational tools to gather and analyse the massive and constantly updating fandom text via different online platforms like Weibo, Bilibili, and so on.



As a result, I expect to conduct more well-informed research that brings the agency and subjectivity of fans into the existing fandom studies in both Chinese and comparative contexts.

Attending several computational social research summer schools in China before the pandemic and doing research in Sheffield, my research tools are now urgently needed to be updated. Therefore I appreciate and am eager to grasp this opportunity in your prestige institution. I really look forward to learning, enhancing, and sharing my research here.



Climate change and language variation from the EU to the US

Vanessa Marcella, *University of Calabria*.

Climate change is an environmental, social, cultural and political phenomenon and has become one of the most important challenges in the twenty-first century (Halliday 1990, Hulme 2009). The greatest divergence about climate change lies in the multitude and contrasting messages we receive and the different ways we interpret them (Hulme, 2009).

Previous research focused primarily on the discourse of environmental politics in general and climate change in particular, in order to identify underlying ideologies (Halliday, 1990; Hajer, 1995; Hajer and Versteeg, 2005; Harré, Brockmeier and Mühlhäusler, 1999). However, to the best of my knowledge, these studies have not studied linguistic variations in environmental discourses or its influence on the emergence of new words. Currently, some studies have analysed climate change in social-networking -based communications, investigating linguistic variations and lexical creativity in environmental discourses (Jang and Hart 2015; Kirilenko and Stepchenkova 2014; Kirilenko et al. 2015; Koteyko and Atanasova 2016; Veltri and Atanasova 2015). Nevertheless, most of them are synchronic or have a local focus. Therefore, since climate change is a global discussion which evolves through time, a comparative, long-term study, involving different types of stakeholders from the U.S.A. and Europe, would be of great interest for the field.

In light of this, the objective of this research is to examine how stakeholders directly act through their language, and how they interact with each other, using a specific social networking service, Twitter, from 2015 to 2020. Specifically, this study investigates language variation, focusing in particular on lexical innovations which reflect environmental, cultural, and political changes in English usage considered as a universal language for a global problem.

With the analysis of metadata which refer to time and space, through corpus tools and statistical analyses, this study investigates how language varies among the different users. In particular, this analysis will focus on collocations and lexical creativity, also considering whether the



number of climate- related messages evolves through time. Through critical discourse analysis, differences and similarities among the US and the EU will be examined, taking into account political and social factors.

References

Halliday, M. (1990). “New Ways of Meaning. The Challenge to Applied Linguistics”. *Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 6: 7–36. (Reprinted in Fill, A. & Mühlhäusler, P. (eds) *The Ecological Reader. Language, Ecology and Environment*. London: Continuum, 2001, pp. 175–202).

Hajer, M., & Versteeg, W. (2005). “A decade of discourse analysis of environmental politics: Achievements, challenges, perspectives”. *Journal of environmental policy & planning*, 7(3), 175-184.

Hajer, M. A. (1995). *The politics of environmental discourse: Ecological modernization and the policy process*. Clarendon Press.

Harré, R., Brockmeier, J. & Mühlhäusler, P. 1999. *Greenspeak. A Study of Environmental Discourse*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.

Hulme, M. (2009). *Why we disagree about climate change: Understanding controversy, inaction and opportunity*. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511841200>

Jang, S. M., & Hart, P. S. (2015). “Polarized frames on “climate change” and “global warming” across countries and states: Evidence from Twitter big data”. *Global Environmental Change*, 32, 11–17.

Kirilenko, A. P., Molodtsova, T., & Stepchenkova, S. O. (2015). “People as sensors: Mass media and local temperature influence climate change discussion on Twitter”. *Global Environmental Change*, 30, 92–100.



Kirilenko, A. P., & Stepchenkova, S. O. (2014). “Public microblogging on climate change: One year of Twitter worldwide”. *Global Environmental Change*, 26, 171–182.

Koteyko, N. & Atanasova, D. (2016) *Discourse analysis approaches for assessing climate change communication and media representations*. In: Oxford Encyclopedia of Climate Change Communication. Oxford University Press.
doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228620.013.489

Veltri, G. A., & Atanasova, D. (2015). “Climate change on Twitter: Content, media ecology and information sharing behaviour”. *Public Understanding of Science*, 26(6), 721–737.



Digital patriots: an analysis of the Spanish extreme right on Twitter

Nicola Riccardi, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*.

Understanding Politics nowadays is a hard work.

The hybrid system of political communication, the professionalization of communication due to the presence of spin doctors, professionals and advisors, the growth of the role of social networks, the still central role of television, the dialectic relationship between the square, TV and social media today requires a new interdisciplinary analytical and interpretative paradigm. For this reason, starting from an interpretative framework that takes methodological elements of the analysis of corpora, history and political philosophy, the research aims to highlight the communication strategies adopted by the extreme right of Vox, the political party founded in 2013 by Santiago Abascal following a split from the Spanish Popular Party.

The sources under investigation are social media content shared on the official pages of the party and its leader on Twitter, the group's parliamentary interventions in the congress, election programs and interviews given to the press.

The analysis is accompanied by an adequate historical contextualisation of the rise of Vox with a particular focus on the political issues that animate Spanish democracy. The historical reconstruction aims to highlight how this political force has redefined the space of the right and considers the trajectory of the Spanish right from the end of Francoism until the emergence of Vox. The reconstruction then take in account some processes without which it is impossible to understand the scenario of Vox's discourse. These include "el Procès Catalan", the corruption scandals of the Popular Party, the effects of the 2018 economic crisis, etc...

The expected results will restore the ideological framework within which the party's communication moves by. Rebuilding the network of international alliances that make Vox one of the main parties of the European Conservatives and Reformists group is another aim of this research.



UNIMORE Summer School
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA Digital Humanities

The results of the investigation will be available in the last three episodes of a podcast, born as part of the project and aimed at spreading elements of Spanish political history to the Italian public. For further information visit the site: www.lastradaperlamoncloa.com



Social capital and online reputation role on platforms: a cross-platform analysis

Camilla Volpe, *Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II"*

Digitalization has revolutionised most aspects of social life, from personal interactions to public and political communication. The actors in the resulting digital society are "prosumers" (Toffler, 1980) who, in capitalism and industrious digital ethics, are led to produce content to accumulate reputational status. In this context, platforms play a crucial role and constitute different relationships in affordances-based environments: algorithms shape experiences on platforms, creating visible and figured affordances which outline technicalities and guide users' and users-platforms relationships.

My PhD research aims to understand if online social capital and reputation influence the narration of sustainable fashion in the platform economy – highlighting the differences between platforms. For this reason, this investigation could also allow the deployment of a technique not very much used, the cross-platform analysis. Rogers (2017) theorised that cross-platform analysis is a relatively new technique that did not have significant use among scholars. Still, it allows approaching each platform for its unique features and potentialities. In this research, I will consider social capital in its beneficial outcomes, as theorised by many scholars: the communities endowed with a diverse stock of social networks and civic associations are stronger to resolve disputes and take advantage of new opportunities. More specifically, I will refer to Chiesi (2003), for whom social capital is a process in which the actors use reputation and trust as instruments for actions in their agenda. Of course, the idea of a reputation as part of social capital is crucial for this research and will be taken from Gandini (2016): reputation is an intangible status that in online platforms becomes tangible thanks to metrics; the more the level of reputation is, the more the users will be trusted. Reputation is a performance metric holding a newly central role in digital environments: thanks to reputation, social capital could be more easily observable and calculable online through algorithms and the affordances of platforms.



Reputational capital will be analysed to understand its reproduction in the different platform economies, focusing on sustainable fashion.



Representations and self-representations of LGBTIQ+ identities in the British and Italian press - A corpus informed study from the broadsheet press and news releases from websites of LGBTIQ+ Organisations

Zaupa Federico, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*

In recent times there has been a growing interest in corpus-based approaches to the analysis of the discursive representation of LGBTIQ+ people in public discourse, especially in Governmental debates and in the press. As for the first area, scholars have shown implicit and indirect homophobia reproduced in parliamentary debates on the age of Consent for same-sex intercourse (Baker 2005; Love & Baker 2015), same-sex relationships (Bachmann 2011) and marriages (Findlay 2017). For the second, corpus-based critical discourse analysis has been applied mainly to the British press to analyse the discursive representation of same-sex marriages (Turner et al. 2018; Paterson & Coffey-Glover 2018), gay identities (Baker 2006, 2015), transgender people (Baker 2014b; Zottola 2018, 2021), bisexuality (Wilkinson 2019) and LGBT+ refugees and asylum seekers (Baker et al. 2008; Wilkinson 2020). Similar methodological approaches have also been adopted within the Italian scenario to address the representation of women and femicide in political discourse and in the press (Formato 2019).

Drawing on this background and aiming at critically exploring any possible changes in trends of the representation of the issues raised by LGBTQIA+ communities in the press, my Ph.D. project attempts at answering the following research questions: a) How do LGBTQIA+ people represent themselves in the websites of their Organisations? ; b) How are LGBTQIA+ people discursively represented in the broadsheet press?

Using the methods of diachronic corpus-based and critical discourse studies, this research analyses two large multilingual corpora including respectively news releases from websites of British and Italian LGBTQIA+ Organisations, as well as British and Italian broadsheet newspaper articles. Texts published between 2016 and 2021 were chosen to consider the latest social and political debates on issues involving LGBQIA+ communities, as well as the extent



to which Covid-19 has triggered different protest movements against already existing social inequalities sharpened by the effects of the pandemic.

Findings suggest that, although British and Italian newspapers still similarly reproduce implicit heteronormative discourses explored in the literature, in the British press minorities previously erased such as transgender and queer people have increasingly gained visibility. Furthermore, compared to the Italian corpus and similarly to the results emerging from the analysis of both British and Italian news releases of LGBTQIA+ Organisations, British journalists tend to report on LGBTQIA+ people adopting an increasingly inclusive and intersectional approach.

References

Bachmann, I. (2011). Civil partnership – “gay marriage in all but name”: A corpus-driven analysis of discourses of same-sex relationships in the UK parliament. *Corpora*, 6(1), 77-105.

Baker, P., & Levon, E. (2015). Picking the right cherries? A comparison of corpus-based and qualitative analyses of news articles about masculinity. *Discourse & Communication*, 9(2), 221-236.

Baker, P. (2014a). *Using corpora to analyze gender*. A&C Black.

Baker, P. (2014b). Bad wigs and screaming mimis: Using corpus-assisted techniques to carry out critical discourse analysis of the representation of trans people in the British press. *Contemporary critical discourse studies*, 211-235.

Baker, P., Gabrielatos, C., Khosravini, M., Krzyżanowski, M., McEnery, T., & Wodak, R. (2008). A useful methodological synergy? Combining critical discourse analysis and corpus linguistics to examine discourses of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK press. *Discourse & society*, 19(3), 273-306.

Baker, P. (2006). *Using corpora in discourse analysis*. A&C Black.

Baker, P. (2005). *Public discourses of gay men*. Abingdon: Routledge



Findlay, J. Y. (2017). Unnatural acts lead to unconsummated marriages: Discourses of homosexuality within the House of Lords debate on same-sex marriage. *Journal of Language and Sexuality*, 6(1), 30-60.

Formato, F. (2019). *Gender, discourse and ideology in Italian*. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

Love, R., & Baker, P. (2015). The hate that dare not speak its name?. *Journal of Language Aggression and Conflict*, 3(1), 57-86.

Paterson, L. L., & Coffey-Glover, L. (2018). Discourses of marriage in same-sex marriage debates in the UK press 2011–2014. *Journal of Language and Sexuality*, 7(2), 175-204.

Turner, G., Mills, S., Van der Bom, I., Coffey-Glover, L., Paterson, L. L., & Jones, L. (2018). Opposition as victimhood in newspaper debates about same-sex marriage. *Discourse & Society*, 29(2), 180-197.

Wilkinson, M. (2020). Discourse analysis of LGBT identities. In: Friginal, E., & Hardy, J. A. (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Corpus Approaches to Discourse Analysis*, (pp. 936-964), Routledge.

Wilkinson, M. (2019). 'Bisexual oysters': A diachronic corpus-based critical discourse analysis of bisexual representation in The Times between 1957 and 2017. *Discourse & Communication*, 13(2), 249-267.

Zottola, A. (2021). *Transgender identities in the press: A corpus-based discourse analysis*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Zottola, A. (2018). Transgender identity labels in the British press: A corpus-based discourse analysis. *Journal of Language and Sexuality*, 7(2), 237-262.



Communicating Safety in the Transport Sector during the Pandemic

Jessica Jane Nocella, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*.

The economic crisis triggered by the recent Covid-19 pandemic has led to a variety of significant social consequences in the public sector, and one area that has been severely affected by this crisis has been transport. Trust is one of the fundamental pillars in corporate and institutional settings. This presentation aims to explore how railway companies convey public trust and confidence online during the pandemic.

Through a synchronic analysis of the Health and Safety pages of different rail companies' websites, phraseological and multimodal characteristics will be analysed highlighting how issues of trust and reassurance are conveyed during the pandemic. More specifically, the corpus consists of Health and Safety pages belonging to both European rail companies whose websites have been translated into English, as well as those belonging to English-speaking countries (Australia, England, Ireland, New Zealand, UK, USA).

This study will identify new trends in safety communication, both from a linguistic and from a cross-cultural perspective, while in-depth analysis of verbal and non-verbal communication will allow us to explore how different modes of communication enhance trust in the area of rail transport.



Group C - Wednesday June 8th, 11.30 -13.00

Explainable AI for Data Integration

Andrea Baraldi, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*.

My research area includes big data analysis, natural language processing (NLP), data integration, information retrieval, artificial intelligence (AI) and eXplainable artificial intelligence(XAI).

Explaining the behaviour of ML and DL models is now a challenging research topic. Its application to Data Integration could facilitate the adoption of techniques in business scenarios. An improved ability to interpret the models would increase 1) user confidence in the adoption of ML and DL techniques, 2) the ability to debug erroneous behaviours and diagnose unexpected results, and 3) improve the functionality of the approaches. Moreover, it would decrease the need for domain experts to evaluate the effectiveness of Data Integration approaches, which is a task that is typically executed through manual, expensive, and time-consuming processes.

The goal of this research project is to study techniques based on ML, DL and NLP for addressing this task. The research activity aims to study and implement complete explainable systems in the field of Data Integration.

According to a preliminary study I did, I think that the main challenges to address are related to:

- Survey the latest and most effective NLP techniques, explanation techniques and problems in the data integration area. In particular, during the first year the main approaches of artificial intelligence applied to NLP will be studied. This includes BERT, XLNet, GPT-3, explanation techniques and models (e.g. LIME, SHAP, Trasformer architecture, new explainable pipelines for AI).



- Tailoring of the most promising artificial intelligence solutions to the data integration problem, searching for datasets and benchmarks where to experiment the approaches. The idea is to study, develop, implement and test new algorithms able to improve the actual state-of-the-art solutions.
- Application, and development of explanation technique in the domain of textual data. The final project is the development of a unified system to support the user interaction with implemented models.



Event Extraction from Web Data Streams

Giovanni Bonisoli, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*.

In the last years, the automatic extraction of useful information from big data has become crucial. Great importance is given to the extraction of the information coming from textual data (social networks, newspapers, etc.) which highlights events happening around the world (e.g. when and what something happened). AI Techniques, in particular machine learning and deep learning methods, have exhibited relatively high performance in achieving certain tasks for Natural Language Processing such as Question Answering, Text Classification, Machine Translation, Document Summarization, and more others.

My research focuses on information extraction from text data through AI techniques. I started working on it during my internship for the master's thesis about the use of NLP methods for crime analysis on newspaper articles [1]. I have tested the use of word embeddings (e.g. Word2Vec) to derive vector representations of news regarding crimes that occurred in the province of Modena (17.500 news). Then, I have leveraged these representations to automatically classify news according to the category of the crime they report (theft, murder, fraud, etc.) through machine learning algorithms. This work led to two publications [2,3].

Every news that describes an event usually contains a reference on WHAT happened, WHO is involved in the event, WHEN and WHERE the event happened, WHY and HOW the event took place, the detection of this information is called the 5W+1H extraction. One of my research activities was to translate the 5W+1H extraction into a question answering problem. The text of a news article and some questions in natural language (e.g. "What was stolen?" or "Who was robbed?") are submitted to a language model which is able to give an answer according to the content of the news text (e.g., BERT). I executed several tests by using three BERT models for the Italian language on thefts obtaining stimulating results. Currently, I am doing similar tests for other crime types.



In November 2021, I won a scholarship and began my Ph.D. with a research topic on “Deep learning for Event Extraction from Web Data Streams”. The project continues the work of my master’s thesis by studying and experimenting with other algorithms for text classification and event extraction and applying them to crime analysis. I will also explore various ways to get effective data visualization of events. A premise of all this work is also the possibility to test all these techniques on other types of events (e.g. sporting or cultural events).

Recently, I started a collaboration with the group UNIOR NLP from the Università degli studi di Napoli L’Orientale led by Professor Johanna Monti and Professor Maria Pia Di Buono. The purpose of this collaboration is the creation of an Italian open dataset enriched with annotations and suitable for the automatic techniques for the extraction of relevant information from text.

References

[1] Bonisoli G., *Crime analysis using word embeddings: the case of an Italian news dataset*, Master's thesis on Computer Engineering, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, available on MoReThesis, (2021).

[2] Bonisoli, G., Rollo, F., Po, L. (2021). “Using word embeddings for Italian crime news categorization”. In: Ganzha, M., Maciaszek, L.A., Paprzycki, M., Slezak, D. (eds.) *Proceedings of the 16th Conference on Computer Science and Intelligence Systems*, Online, September 2-5, 2021, pp. 461–470 <https://doi.org/10.15439/2021F118>

[3] Rollo, F., Bonisoli, G., Po, L. (2022). “Supervised and Unsupervised Categorization of an Imbalanced Italian Crime News Dataset”. In: Ziemba, E., Chmielarz, W. (eds) *Information Technology for Management: Business and Social Issues*. FedCSIS-AIST ISM 2021. Lecture Notes in Business Information Processing, vol 442. Springer, pp. 117–139, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-98997-2_6



Towards a Computational Geocriticism: the spaces of IRA and ETA in contemporary fiction

Simone Abbiati, *University of Bergamo*

The project I am currently working on is named “Towards a Computational Geocriticism” and draws mainly from Literary Theory and Computer Science. To tackle the (supposed) lack of both a solid literary- theoretical framework and a trustworthy ethical commitment within the field of Cultural Analytics, I am studying how the Basque Country and the English-Irish border have been represented in contemporary literary fiction during the last fifty years by extracting spatial data from extensive literary archives. In this way, the project will present two main results:

- It investigates how (part of the digitally available) fiction mirrored ETA/GAL and IRA/UDA terrorism, thus allowing the use of fiction to reflect on recent terrorism and European discrepancies.
- It reflects on the relationship between close and distant reading by studying how literary-spatial concepts could be transformed into Python algorithms.

From a technical point of view, the project consists of four parts. The first part entails the selection of a corpus to mine digitally. Mostly benefiting from HathiTrust archives, I plan to investigate two corpora from English and Spanish literature, where the former will include books from 1968 onwards (since such a year has been recognized as the conventional starting date for “The troubles”), and the latter will comprise literary works published after 1958 (the birthdate of ETA’s terroristic association).

The second step consists of collecting an appropriate number of IRA/UDA and ETA/GAL victims’ testimonies, to abstract cognitive mapping structures related to extra-fictional terroristic experiences (characters’ itineraries, descriptions of terroristic attacks, indications of places related to restorative processes, among others). Those will be the structures retrieved from the literary texts.



UNIMORE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

Summer School Digital Humanities

The third part consist of the coding process and aims to devise python scripts able to identify the cognitive structures I will have argued as relevant for the representation of terrorism-related spaces from the victims' perspective.

The fourth and final part entails the reflection on which literary-spatial data to present and how to visualize it onto digital cartography or other visualization tools.



Entextualization, Playing to Place and Other Neoteric Practices on Instagram

Erin McInerney, *Université de Strasbourg, University of Glasgow*

It is difficult to overstate the role digital media has played in blurring the lines between physical and digital space. For this reason alone, it is unsurprising that scholars have reached some consensus about the potential value that social media research can afford. Sociolinguistics have often commented on the relationship that exists between multilingualism and the places which play host to multilingual exchanges. From work in language policy, minority and regional languages to linguistic landscape and the multilingual city, the fraternal pillars of ‘place’ and ‘space’ resurface time and again as salient themes in contemporary research. My thesis intersects a new definition of ‘place’ with current studies in sociolinguistics, examining three permutations of multilingualism at one geo-localisation (‘geotag’) on the social media platform Instagram. Borrowing notions from ethnographic approaches to digital fieldwork (Maly and Blommaert, 2019) and Constructivist grounded theory (Charmaz, 2014) my methodology emphasises an iterative approach to data collection and analysis. Furthermore, through this approach I advocate for a conservative research design which centres the affordances offered by a specific platform. Instagram not only serves as the site of my fieldwork, but also the site where my data is stored, the means by which I contact my participants, and the tool through which I conduct analysis.

Three principal research questions guide my work, each of which sits at the head of one individual study conducted at the ‘Café de Flore’ Instagram geotag. The first of these studies examines the Online Linguistic Landscape of Café de Flore and argues for the existence of a boundary between ‘public’ and ‘private’ space within the confines of a single Instagram post. The second study seeks to characterise the multilingual practices at Café de Flore that contribute to its OLL, and finally, the third study investigates how ‘new speakers’ (O’Rourke and Walsh, 2020) may use Instagram as a means of negotiating their identity within a new linguistic community, offering a rebuttal to the notions of ‘performative multilingualism’ with which



Instagram has come to be associated. Finally, using in vivo codes, I suggest that the power of ‘ce lieu mythique’ has been commodified on Instagram through a new wave of online fame, and by these means it encourages users to make use of their linguistic repertoire through ‘Playing to place’.



The role of digital technology in facilitating communication between citizens, farmers and public administration to make hydrogeological risk management more effective in rural areas

Fabio Lepore, *University of Pisa*.

My research project is part of the European H2020 project DESIRA (Digitisation: Economic and Social Impacts on Rural Areas). Its objective is to assess the impact of the digitization, digitalization and digital transformation process in agriculture, and its contribution to the development of rural areas. In particular, my research activity is oriented to answer the following research question: How better communication between citizens, farmers, public administration and other stakeholders can make more effective ordinary land management in marginal rural areas. And how digital technology can facilitate information flows between the actors involved in this process. The methodology and the conceptual framework are strongly based on the work done within the Living Lab "Toscana Nord", which is one of the 20 on which the project is based; an innovative research process that involves the direct involvement of the actors of the territory and that aims to offer solutions discussed in a partnership between research and society. This is a fundamental part of my work. The first step of my research was to contribute to the definition of a taxonomy related to digital technologies that can play a role as potential game-changers, the definition of application scenarios and the taxonomy of impacts that consider the three dimensions of sustainability (social, economic and environmental). The work was carried out through a survey and interviews with experts. The second step focused on the reality of the territory and was to assess the present and past impacts of digital technology in the context of reference.

Through a workshop and interviews with stakeholders, it was possible to define the needs and expectations of stakeholders. This helped lay the groundwork for the next step. The construction of four hypothetical future scenarios of how technology can help the management of hydrogeological risk considering a series of drivers of change (drawn from literature review and brainstorming among researchers) that were discussed with stakeholders in a second workshop. Also in this case the role of citizens and farmers as users was fundamental.



UNIMORE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

Summer School Digital Humanities

Particularly important is the study of the social relationships that connect actors to each other and their environment through digital technology. This is done using the socio-cyber-physical patterns that underlie the Fourth Industrial Revolution paradigm. The final goal is to study a digital technology based on instant messaging applications that can help the flow of information between all the actors involved, reducing the issues related to hydrogeological risk and helping to obtain positive externalities for the community. What I want to highlight is how the citizen, who lives the territory, can through his being part of a network, be the guardian of the territory.



Group D - Wednesday June 8th, 9.30 -11.00

Archivio degli Scrittori Veneti between digitalization and digital genetic criticism

Silvia Bettella, *Università degli studi di Padova*

The project aims at enhancing the Archive of the Venetian Writers, kept at the Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies of the University of Padua. Composed of different materials, from handwritten drafts to personal letters, the Archive offers a unique opportunity to enter the creative process of the authors and to explore new perspectives of textual analysis.

First of all, it is proposed to carry out a survey on the documents conserved in the Archive, to identify a sample of autographs to be digitized. The selection criteria will consider the interests of academics and the public, the need to collect a coherent set of materials, the possibility of making significant contributions to the scientific research, and the congruence with the theoretical framework.

The documents will be studied, and the metadata collected. Having reached an adequate knowledge of the material, the intention is to critically analyse the contents of the writings, from the perspective of genetic criticism and philology. The texts will also be put in relation with the context in which they were written and with the life of the writer.

Subsequently, the documents will be encoded in XML, according to the TEI guidelines. During the encoding of the texts, attention will be paid to the relevant phenomena, such as the authorial interventions that took place at different times, and the entities, such as the names of people and places, which will be linked to controlled vocabularies.

As for the visualization of the digital edition, it is planned to use EVT, that allows you to insert the digital reproductions of documents, to view the metadata and the information about the project, to highlight the encoded entities, and to do textual searches. The software will be optimized for the genetic edition.



The choices made during the selection and digitization of the documents and the creation of the digital edition will be explained in the dissertation. The results of the critical analysis on the texts and the most important information about the selected author will also be reported.



Dante's visual representation between Gustave Doré and Dino Buzzati

Gisella Governi, *Brown University*

I am a second-year Ph.D. student at Brown University, and I am still working on defining the specific topic for my future doctoral dissertation. My interests involve Medieval and Renaissance Studies (my current advisor is Professor Ronald Martinez). In particular, the Divine Comedy and female early-modern writers.

At this moment, I am studying the complex relationship between the text of the Divine Comedy and Dante's female representation. The aim is to investigate how the author has described male and female characters throughout the three *cantiche*, where the binary opposition of the two sexes is not as homogenous as we used to think in the past.

However, the main topic that I would like to investigate in my dissertation is the representation of singing and dancing in the Comedy. I started this project with Professor Giuseppe Ledda at the University of Bologna during my Master thesis ("Osservazioni sull'immaginario liturgico in «Inferno» e in «Purgatorio»). The main goal is to understand for which purposes Dante has described various types of performative medieval arts to represent the Afterlife, from Hell to Paradise. Indeed, we can find dances and songs in Hell (look at Inf. XVI), in Eden (Purg. XXIX-XXXII), and, finally, through all the Paradise, where the blessed souls are dancing and singing to praise God. In my future dissertation, I want to investigate different aspects of these performative arts:

1. First, I will study where medieval dances and songs come from. In a few words, the question that I want to answer is: Which kind of ancient dances and songs (from Latin and Greek traditions) influenced medieval performances? My purpose is to show how Plato's philosophy (the only work known in the Middle Ages, the *Timeo*) influenced the representation of cosmic dances in Paradise, through the fundamental commentary of Macrobius on Cicero's *Somnium Scipionis*.



2. Connecting the Platonist cosmic dances (through Cicero's work) to the representation of medieval dances (especially in the Comedy) is interesting for several factors. First, we can show that the relationship between Dante and Plato is closer than critics used to think. Second, it helps us understand why medieval people used performative arts, like singing and dancing, to celebrate God during paraliturgical rituals. I will also investigate the importance of biblical dances in the Middle Ages (the discussion about dances by medieval theologians was controversial and deserves the critic's attention).
3. In the last chapter, I will show how laypeople at the end of the 13th century started gathering in religious Confraternity (Laudesi and Flagellants) 2 in North Italy (Florence and Bologna), in which dances and songs were instruments to beg forgiveness to God. My main idea is to connect the most famous songs found in the Laudari (manuscripts used by the Laudesi confraternities) 4 and confront their texts to some passages of the Comedy to see if Dante could have also taken inspiration from these new devotional forms.
4. To sum up, I aim to show that the Platonist cosmic dances and music inspired Dante to represent his Afterlife in the Comedy. Moreover, I want to stress the connection between the Laudesi confraternities in Florence 5 and Bologna 6, and the dances and songs described in the Comedy by Dante.

During my proctorship in Digital Humanities at Brown University (January-May 2022), I have realized that my future thesis has the potential to be represented through new digital tools. Working with Massimo Riva and other Digital humanists on the new project for the DecameronWeb has been inspiring since I understood the values of this Digital project for both scholars and non-professional researchers. The idea of creating a 3D platform to guide the reader of the Decameron or a map to follow the protagonists of the Novelle has helped me to think about new possibilities for the Digital representation of the Comedy.

With that in mind, it would be interesting to delineate a side-digital project to my written dissertation in which I can show images, pieces of music, and dances of Medieval performances linked to the text. I know that this idea may be appeared too big at this moment, but I believe



that Medieval texts need to be represented through Digital tools if we want to share them with a broader audience. During this Summer School, I would like to acquire more competencies in Digital Humanities to improve my knowledge of new technologies and their practical application.

References

LEDDA G., *La danza e il canto dell'«umile salmista»: David nella «Commedia» di Dante*, in *Les figures de David à la renaissance*, a cura di E. BOILLET, S. CAVICCHIOLI, P. MELLET, Genève, Librairie Droz, 2014, pp. 225-246.

MEERSSEMAN G.G., *Ordo fraternitatis. Confraternite e pietà dei laici nel Medioevo*, vol. 1, Roma, Herder editrice e libreria, 1977. 2 G. M. MONTI, *Le Confraternite medievali dell'alta e media Italia*, Venezia, La Nuova Italia, 1927, vol. II, pp. 144-158. THOMPSON A., *Cities of God: The Religion of the Italian Communes (1125-1325)*, University Park, Pennsylvania State University Press, 2005. - MALDINA N., *Dante e la cultura teologica delle confraternite*, in «Giornale storico della letteratura italiana», CXCIV (2018), pp. 370-399.

CIABATTONI F., *Coreografie dantesche*, in «Dante e l'arte», IV (2017), pp. 11-30. CIERI VIA C., *La danza come movimento ed espressione nelle immagini poetiche*, in «Dante e l'arte», IV (2017), pp. 31-66. DAMILANO DON P., *Musica religiosa popolare agli albori della letteratura italiana*, in «Musica Sacra», LXXXI (1957), pp. 99-111.

F. LIUZZI, *La lauda e i primordi della melodia italiana*, Roma, La Libreria dello Stato, 1935; B. WILSON e N. BARBIERI, *Indagine sul laudario fiorentino*, (Firenze, Biblioteca Nazionale, ms Banco Rari 18), in «Rivista Italiana di Musicologia», XXXI (1996), pp. 243-280; L. LUCCHI (a cura di), *Il Laudario di Cortona*, Vicenza, L.I.E.F. 1987. *Il Laudario Cortonese* (cod. 91 della Biblioteca comunale di Cortona) e il *Laudario Fiorentino* (BNCF, B.R. 18). BLAKE W., *The Florence Laudario: an edition of Florence*, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Banco Rari 18, Middleton, A-R Editions, 1995.



HENDERSON J., *Pietà e carità nella Firenze del basso Medioevo*, Firenze, Le Lettere, 1998.

WILSON B., *Music and Merchants: The Laudesi Companies of Republican Florence*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1992.

GAZZINI M., I Disciplinati, la milizia dei frati Gaudenti, il comune di Bologna e la pace cittadina: statuti a confronto (1261-1265), in «Bollettino di Storia Patria per l'Umbria», CI (2004), pp. 419-437.



What is the use of an automatic transcription of printed Latin texts in classical philology?

Lara Piva, *Università degli studi di Padova*

The doctoral project aims to develop a public model for the text recognition and automatic transcription of printed editions of Latin texts. The selected corpus is the 16th-century editions of Livy's *Ab urbe condita libri* (from here on AUC). The study will focus primarily on the 3rd decade (books 21-30) and on the editions printed in Italy. This choice is in context with the Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World's (DiSSGeA) specialisation within the Livian study.

For the *recensio*, the work will start by exploring the OPAC SBN's database (Catalogo collettivo delle biblioteche del Servizio Bibliotecario Nazionale). All the editions containing the AUC will be recorded: only the edition (or volumes) with the 3rd decade will be selected. The goal is the digitalization of the 30% of all the known copies of each selected edition (at minimum one exemplar per edition).

For the transcription, the project will be supported by Read-Coop SCE's "Transkribus", an AI-powered text recognition and automatic transcription software. The work will create and train transcription models. The resulting models will be made public, so they can be applied to other corpora.

Finally, the study will highlight possible textual variants between all the selected editions. These variants will contribute to the realisation of a digital repository of the lections of the AUC's printed tradition. The results of this study and the methodology will be new tools for Padua's Interdepartmental Research Centre "Studi Liviani" (CIRSL), to develop and expand textual bibliography of Classical works.



Leopardi's usus punctandi: a linguistic reading of his works

Morena Rosato, *Università degli Studi di Palermo/Università di Basilea*

The aim of this research project is to verify the correspondence between Leopardi's metalinguistic reflections on punctuation and the author's actual use of it in his prose and verse texts, examining on the one hand the *Canti* and on the other hand the *Operette Morali* in the following punctuation variants. Starting from the studies dedicated to this theme (see mainly linguistic study of Magro, 2012; the critical apparatus of *Operette Morali* edited by Besomi, 1979; and the study by Borrelli, 1996, on Leopardi's punctuation of *Canti*), I intend to dwell precisely on the analysis of Leopardi's texts as we have the opportunity to study, together with punctuation uses of texts in the subsequent choices emerging from the variants, his metalinguistic reflections on punctuation present in the *Zibaldone* and in the *Epistolario*.

The innovative element of the research is to re-propose Leopardi's punctuation choices with a linguistic perspective, differentiating itself from the previous quoted studies, and placing the author in the context of the works that, starting from the early 2000s, were dedicated to the functions of the various punctuation marks, also in a diachronic perspective, such as Mortara Garavelli (2003), Antonelli (2008) and all the works of the Basel group (see Ferrari 2003; Lala 2011; Ferrari 2018; Ferrari, Lala, Longo, Pecorari, Rosi, Stojmenova Weber 2018; Ferrari, Stojmenova Weber 2018; Ferrari, Lala, Pecorari, Stojmenova Weber 2020; Ferrari, Lala 2021).

For the analysis of the punctuation marks, we use the theoretical framework elaborated by the Basel group (Ferrari 2003, Lala 2011, Ferrari 2017, Ferrari- Lala-Longo-Pecorari-Rosi-Stojmenova 2018), which in the analysis of punctuation has shifted the attention from a grammatical perspective – generally carried out by grammars – to a communicative-textual perspective, in which is observed the contribution given by each punctuation marks to the construction of the sense of the text. In particular, it will be interesting to see if the punctuation



UNIMORE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

Summer School Digital Humanities

variants observed, together with the metalinguistic reflections proposed by Leopardi, go in the direction of a communicative exploitation of punctuation in spite of a merely grammatical use.

I believe, in fact, that only a careful analysis on the linguistic meaning of the punctuation in Leopardi, as well as on the functions assumed by the individual punctuation marks can contribute to reconstruct the *usus punctandi* of Leopardi and put a piece in the mosaic of the punctuation topic in the history of the Italian language.



Encomiastic poems in the age of Borso d'Este: editing Leonardo Montagna's *Laudacio* and Ludovico Sandeo's *Odosophia*.

Francesco Sanchini

While many studies on the great protagonists of Italian Humanism continue to be carried out with great interest, the investigations on the minor humanists, who animated many peripheral centers of Italian culture in the fifteenth century, are still too often confined to local research mainly of archival and historical interest.

For this reason, having now completed my master's degree thesis on Leonardo Montagna and his works, I intend to study in-depth the allegorical poems in *terza rima* written for Borso d'Este and, hence, to work on the scholarly editions of *Laudacio illustrissimi principi Borsii Estensis* by Leonardo Montagna and Ludovico Sandeo's *Odosophia*.

In the edition of these unedited texts, I would like to adopt the approach applied in the most current digital editions, which I am currently studying only from a theoretical point of view, and gain a better perspective of the digital humanities. Not only by putting into practice the knowledge I am getting from various recent experiences and publications (E. Pierazzo, T. Mancinelli, *Che cos'è un'edizione scientifica digitale*; M. Zaccarello, *Teoria e forme del testo digitale*; E. Pierazzo, M. J. Driscoll, *Digital Scholarly Editing. Theories and practices*; etc.), but by questioning its use in specific situations, such as the survival of only one witness with authorial interventions and the partition of the stemma codicum into two branches, each one with a rather different linguistic body). Therefore, this current research intends to reap the benefits of a collation and an edition operated in a technically fully digital environment and then employ digital resources to study the intertextuality of these poems and their relationship with the poetry of Dante and Petrarch, to better define their legacy in a cultural environment deeply influenced by the classics, both in Latin and in vernacular language, but still very much impacted by popular poetry.



Against misinformation: fake news detection on social network

Vincenzo Miracula, *University of Catania*

Society is made up of individuals who influence each other, acting 'for each other, with each other and against each other'. Social networks constitute highly complex systems because of their size, the representation of interactions between their components (human beings), and the interdependence between individual behaviour and the evolving network structure. The Internet is one of the most important inventions and a large number of people are its users. These people use it for different purposes. There are several social media platforms that are accessible to these users. Any user can make a post or spread the news through these online platforms. These platforms do not verify the users or their posts.

So, some users try to spread fake news through these platforms. This fake news can be a propaganda against an individual, a company, an organisation, or a political party. The digital world seems to provide fertile ground for the growth of misinformation; many studies show that fake news spreads faster, farther, and deeper than real news in social networks making fact-checking increasingly difficult. Therefore, there is a need for machine learning models that can detect this fake news automatically. Machine learning is the part of artificial intelligence that helps make systems that can learn and perform different actions. A variety of machine learning algorithms are available including supervised, unsupervised, reinforcement machine learning algorithms. The algorithms must first be trained with a data set called the train data set. After training, these algorithms can be used to perform different tasks. Detecting fake news is one of the most difficult tasks for a human being. Fake news can be easily detected using machine learning. There are several machine learning classifiers that can help detect real or fake news. The most used machine learning methods are Naïve Bayes, neural network and SupportVectorMachine (SVM). Most fact-checking concerns what is published in English. Our project aims at building a ML model, based on what is expected in the literature, that allows fact-checking for the Italian language.



Group E - Wednesday June 8th, 11.30 -13.00

“Ban Doping”: Prevent doping by playing and educating: the development of a gaming anti-doping app for teenagers

Tony Urbani, *University of Tuscia Viterbo*

The project "Ban Doping" is funded by the Italian Ministry of Health in the framework of the "Research and Training/ Information 2020 Program on drugs, substances and medical practices usable for doping and has as its leader the University of Tuscia.

Tony Urbani as Deputy Scientific Coordinator, following the first meetings has developed an extensive definition of the doping phenomenon such as: "the implementation or the intake of substances, repeated actions or attitudes harmful to health, to improve sports, intellectual and aesthetic performances.

The project actions were designed and implemented in the principle of sustainability, subsidiarity and reproducibility. Students and Higher Institutes involved in the project were invited and encouraged to work on different representations of the doping phenomenon following the definition of the Board and in the three salient dimensions: sports, aesthetic and intellectual.

Step 1. The project was presented to the High Schools participating in the activities in assemble moment online. The doping phenomenon was presented in various dimensions: social, psychological, sanitary, hygienic, legal.

Step 2. Identification of peer leaders in schools. It was decided to adopt the peer strategy education as considered the most effective and efficient at achieving the objectives students.

Step 3. Educational and formative workshops were carried out, in the first place dedicated to peers, but given the availability and enthusiasm shown by the Institutes project implementation through PCTO.



Step 4. Currently underway. Peers together with the class group are working on design of the game app "Band Doping". The students after being trained and trained to gaming storytelling, students have written stories, which will be from time to time refined and enriched with interactive game elements. The pedagogical teaching mode used is: "the journey of the Hero". Specifically, the stories will follow four fundamental directions. The first is the awareness of the doping problem. The second is the work to get out from the problem. The third is the change in psychosocial attitudes and lifestyles. The fourth is rebirth characters. Students at this stage are supported and facilitated in expressing their full narrative potential creative, so be channeled into gaming apps with the ability to make you think positively.



The ReTo learner corpus: Spoken language in the oral production of foreign language learners (German and Italian)

Anna-Lena Wagner, *University of Turin*.

The PhD project “Spoken language in the oral production of DaF and IaF learners”¹ examines spoken and interactional language in the context of foreign language acquisition. Conversation Analysis (Deppermann 2008) and Interactional Linguistics (Couper-Kuhlen/Selting 2017) deal with any kind of interactional use of language that is based on a sequential and collaborative structure in specific situations. Although communication skills are today considered to be key competences in foreign language education, even decades after the “Communicative Turn” (kommunikative Wende) in the 1980s, spoken language often still has a subordinate role in teaching practice (Imo/Moraldo 2015). The research focuses on answering the following questions: Which characteristics of interactional, spoken language can be found in the oral productions of DaF and IaF learners? What oral skills do foreign language learners and teachers have? And how have DaF and IaF didactics developed over the last few decades?

As part of the project, the qualitative ReTo Learner Corpus, which primarily consists of task-oriented dialogues between advanced language students, is being set up at the Universities of Regensburg and Turin. This setting allows both spontaneous, interactional language and a thematically-controlled context. Under this view, the Corpus aims to represent the language use of foreign language learners, systematize teaching and learning strategies, and provide didactic implications from the linguistic outcomes. So far, about six hours of DaF data have been recorded, while the IaF data will be collected from October 2022. The project is currently limited to only verbal conversation data, but is to be complemented by video recordings in order to also take into account multimodality in interaction. The speech data will be transcribed using the “Conversation Analysis Transcription System GAT 2” (Selting et al. 2009) and will be annotated using the tool EXMARaLDA oder Sketch Engine.



References

Couper-Kuhlen, Elizabeth/Selting, Margret (2017): *Interactional Linguistics. Studying Language in Social Interaction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Deppermann, Arnulf (2008): *Gespräche analysieren. Eine Einführung*. 4. Auflage. Wiesbaden: Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.

Imo, Wolfgang/Moraldo, Sandro M. (Hrsg.) (2015): *Interaktionale Sprache und ihre Didaktisierung im DaF-Unterricht*. Tübingen: Stauffenburg.

Selting, Margret/Auer, Peter/Barth-Weingarten, Dagmar et al. (2009): „Gesprächsanalytisches Transkriptionssystem (GAT 2)“, in: *Gesprächsforschung – Online-Zeitschrift zur verbalen Interaktion* 10, 353-402, available at: <http://www.gespraechsforschung-ozs.de/> (letzter Zugriff: 08.02.2022).



Analysing the verbal and non-verbal mode of audiovisual materials: compiling and exploiting a corpus in the EFL classroom

Paula Wood, *Universidad de Zaragoza*.

The main objective of my thesis is to design, compile and analyse a corpus of films and series in English, and offer exploitation proposals of specific fragments from them to be used in the English as a Foreign Language classroom in Secondary Education (four compulsory academic years for students aged 12-16 in Spain). It is expected that the activities and tasks based on the linguistic, discursive, pragmatic and multimodal analysis of the fragments selected from specific films and series will contribute to developing students' communicative competence (Brandl, 2008) in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations 2017), their 21st century skills (Binkley et al., 2012) and their visual and media literacies (Serafini 2014; Herrero & Vanderschelden, 2019). Specific titles and fragments in the corpus will be chosen for each one of the four academic years of Secondary Education, each year focusing on certain genres and themes appropriate for the age and English level of the students, and according to the general guidelines of the English subject curriculum.

The corpus has been named CAMELLS (Corpus of Audiovisual Materials for English Language Learning in Secondary) and it is envisaged to contain 10 films and 10 series for each of the four years, and 5 fragments from each of the titles, amounting to 400 fragments in total. Specific criteria for the selection of titles and fragments have been developed, and it is expected that it could be used by other language teachers to compile their own corpus.

The fragments chosen from the different films and series will be analysed from linguistic, pragmatic, discursive, social, cinematographic and semiotic points of view, to suggest different ways of exploiting them in the classroom. For this analysis, software tools like the program NVivo will be used, so that the analysis of the scripts and of the combination of modes turns into a semi-automated process. The corpus, analytical tools and exploitation proposal will be



UNIMORE Summer School
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA Digital Humanities

made available to the educational community, so that they can be integrated and applied or adapted to different contexts and needs.



Accessible platform for multimodal and certified storytelling: a didactic tool for cultural education

Maria Pirrone, *University of Messina*.

The COVID 19 pandemic has changed the relationship between people and culture: it was possible to visit cultural places through Information and Communication Technologies. However, we have been witnesses also to the difficulties that people with disabilities have always encountered over the years. Cultural Heritage represents a vehicle for social cohesion if it is exploited by strategic and inclusive approaches in compliance with the 2021-2030 cohesion policy.

The research project proposes an accessible platform for multimodal and certified storytelling as a didactic tool for cultural education.

The platform allows the creation of an emotional narration for the metacognitive learning of students with Special Educational Needs.

The project aims at attesting the authority of the Sicilian tradition of Moors through the study and analysis of historical and literary sources. Therefore, it considers historical events that happened during the Arabic domination; why nowadays it still represents an important period, how the medieval epic was received by legends locally, and their international fortune.

The research program is divided as follows:

- research, collection, analysis of literary and historical sources in the Sicilian archives;
- study and analysis of specific learning needs;
- development of the accessible platform;
- interoperability of data and experimentation together with students with impairments.

The basic idea is to certify the Sicilian legends through historical sources without reducing the spectacularization of the content. The platform gathers data from different sources (including



textual and images). It allows to compare similarities and differences of legends, sort them chronologically and find the common root. The results are shown using concept maps, videos, and images directly on the users' devices. The contents must be accessible: front end high readability, sentimental speech synthesis, colours, images, and soundtracks. For emotional learning, virtual and/or augmented reality headsets can be used. These technologies give the feeling of holding a book from which the protagonists will come out and tell the legends to the student.

Students are supported in the metacognitive learning understanding the needs of others making diversity a strong point for social cohesion. Moreover, the users can express their level of appreciation of storytelling and provide impressions to improve the user experience.



The digital communication of international research projects: a data-driven analysis of pragmatic strategies in websites and Twitter

Daniel Pascual, *Universidad de Zaragoza*

International projects need to report their ongoing progress and findings in exchange for the public expenditure received for their research. Thus, researchers aim to disseminate new knowledge and reach diversified audiences, for which they are embracing innovative digital practices. Various digital genres are used as effective assets with a great potential for ubiquity, immediacy and interactivity. They also help boost researchers' credibility and reputation, and the project's visibility and impact. Research project websites and social media epitomise this paradigm shift in scholarly and professional contexts. The former function as repositories where to update research information, whereas the latter help bridge the gap between researchers and specialised and lay audiences, circulating the project output globally and fostering networking and interaction.

For my dissertation, I have compiled, coded and analysed the EUROPRO Digital Corpus, consisting of 30 Horizon2020 project websites and 20 Twitter accounts associated to them. From a pragmatic analytical perspective, I have designed and refined a data-driven taxonomy of 27 strategies featuring the scientific digital communication of research projects, divided into 3 pragmatic macro-categories: informative, promotional and interactional. The frequency and usage of the strategies is studied quantitatively and qualitatively to identify (dis)similarities within and across the two objects of enquiry. The role of multimodality is acknowledged in the audiovisual elements permeating project webpages and tweets, to comprehend how they contribute to researchers' pragmatic strategies. Research members of the projects have also been interviewed to retrieve contextual data that informs the conceptualization of their digital practices and the pragmatic findings.

Overall, my PhD project aims to gain insights into how the digital medium is maximized for research purposes, specifically regarding knowledge communication and scientific dissemination. The systematic analysis of pragmatic strategies and their recurrent instantiations



at a discursive and semiotic level unveils current trends and practices endorsed by international researchers when communicating in English through well-established, yet ever-changing, digital genres and media like websites and Twitter.



Posters

Tuesday June 7th, 11.00-11.30

Nigerian Transnational Literature: Tracing the Figure of the Womanista in Third Generation Nigerian Female Writers Fiction

Emma Badmus Aminat, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*

This project aims at investigating through the critical lens of transnationalism and African womanist theory the literary production by transmigrant Nigerian female novelists. More specifically, the research will explore the diverse modalities through which third-generation Nigerian female authors narrate about cultural aspects of multiple identities generated by contemporary fluid translocalities. In this regard, it will be brought to light how Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Helen Oyeyemi and Taiye Selasi's portrayals – from a gendered perspective – of the struggles to negotiate hybrid identities and the sense of alterity confronted by their characters, mirror the different challenges post-independent transmigrant Nigerian female face in a constantly evolving and changing globalized world.

Furthermore, the research attempts to analyse the ways in which the written language becomes an important vehicle to challenge the idea of a common and cohesive cultural identity and instead display a multifaceted and polyvocal self. By addressing the importance of language attitude on the process of writing, it is hoped to highlight how the convergence of English, Pidgin English and indigenous languages does not only represent a reflection of a historical moment in which the traditional notion of nation states confine is shattered, but most importantly how contemporary Nigerian writers employ language to (re)construct and reclaim, on their own terms, a fluid and hybrid identity.



The online dimension of theatrical communication: an analysis of websites

Noemi Eleonora Maria Grasso, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*

My PhD research project aims at analysing the main features of theatrical online communication, focusing on how multimodality and hypertextuality are employed in theatres' website. The starting point will be the creation of two corpora: the main one will include websites of theatres located in Anglophone countries, whilst the other will consist of theatres whose first language is not English that, however, present a translated version of their websites.

In addition to some references to the development of theatrical arts and their key fields of expression, and after a presentation of the data and the methods, this study will carry out a set of lexical, pragmatical, and multimodal analyses. The applied approach will be a synchronic one, and the data will be discussed under a both a quantitative and qualitative perspective. Furthermore, emphasis will be put on the offline and online audience, the latter being a very relevant matter in the present times.

Another benchmark of this work will be the study of the genres that can be found on theatres' websites, as it will shed a light on the different discourses and values that interest these cultural – and business – organisations. Results will show how theatres do not only aim at artistic excellence but are also committed to the creation of effective means of communications, such as their websites, in order to engage their ever growing audience.



Women's and men's voices in right-wing populist speeches: Germany and Italy in comparison

Marcella Palladino, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*

My doctoral project “Women’s and men’s voices in right-wing populist speeches: Germany and Italy in comparison” is an investigation of voices of male and female representatives of German and Italian right-wing populism. My aim is to find out whether there is a connection between gender, political (and cultural) beliefs and vocal and prosodic characteristics in emotional speech contexts.

The first research question is whether or how the manner of speaking of female and male representatives of right-wing populism differs. Apart from gender-specific characteristics of female and male voices, I will analyse whether differences in voice and manner of speaking can be found in speeches of right-wing populists. Political speeches are written and delivered according to certain rhetorical and phonetic rules. This also applies to right-wing populism, which emphasizes themes such as the division between the “simple” people and the elite, both in Italy and in Germany. Thus, the next question is: when collecting political speeches of male and female representatives, are there certain gender differences that can be attributed to political speeches of right-wing populists? The final question that will be asked and delved into in the paper is whether there is also a difference between Italy and Germany, as far as these features are concerned.

The focus of the project is the empirical investigation that I will conduct based on different phonetic categories and data collected through web tools. Different corpora of speeches will be created, and a comparative perspective will be adopted. The time period I chose for the speeches is the last twenty years (from 2005 to 2022). Right-wing populist speeches and political speeches of other movements and parties will be collected and compared.



Since speeches of female and male representatives are collected, I can compare whether phonetic characteristics related to gender in right-wing populism differ from other political movements, and I can accordingly assume whether this might have something to do with right-wing populist attitudes towards women (female role model). Finally, I will focus on country differences. This empirical study should be a starting point for further research in this field and to investigate male and female voices of (right-wing) populists not only in Italy and Germany, but also in Europe and worldwide.



Digital Maktaba: for an innovative system of preservation and management of multi-alphabetic cultural heritages

Riccardo Amerigo Vigliermo, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose (fscire)*

Digital Maktaba project aims at the creation of a system able to manage and catalogue books and archival heritage in the in the field of texts and documents written in non-Latin alphabets (Arabic, Persian etc.). It proposes the enhancement and facilitation of access to texts, data, information and sources concerning the study of the historical and cultural influence of religious and plural heritage in a global context. One of the most effective tool for this purpose is represented by specialized libraries that function as centers of collection, preservation and protection that guarantee access to diversified users. Hence, the importance of the involvement of FSCIRE and its vast archive stored at the “Giorgio La Pira” of Palermo as a case study. The project stems from the need to create multialphabet catalogues and digital libraries, to develop fields for the management of works in non-Latin alphabets and aims to become a tool that can be exported to other realities with respect to the religious sciences. The theoretical aspect to this proposal, in the broader context of the Digital Humanities (DH), is providing scholars and researchers with the ability to find the required information within large archives in an almost instantaneous way. In this perspective, these types of archives or digital catalogues have become elements of primary importance for the development of their research activities.

In its first part the research will present an innovative workflow and tool for the automatic extraction of knowledge from documents written in Arabic, Persian and Azerbaijani languages. The tool smartly combines the output of several existing OCR libraries, and leverages different linguistic corpora and text processing techniques, in order to automatically extract text information in a more accurate and uniform way and enrich its output with useful metadata. With the implementation of Incremental Machine Learning and Deep Learning techniques, the Digital Maktaba system is then trained to recognize and classify a given dataset of works with a fine-tuning step that stabilizes the results and increases the average of classification while helping the system to increase the learning curve overtime. The final step consists in extending



its application on the entire FSCIRE library supporting the cataloguing process there while being a reusable tool in many other specialized, large heritages, non-latin alphabets archives.



Metaphors in Science: Popularizing and Translating Astrophysics

Gloria Zanella, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*

In the previous cognitive studies, metaphor is considered as a conceptual interaction, which shows a conflict that comes from two different conceptual domains. Starting from a transfer of a concept to a foreign domain, it is possible to identify the discursive dynamics linked to the continuum between conflict and coherence that creates two main groups of metaphors: consistent metaphors and conflictual metaphors. This project aims to contribute to the diachronic study of metaphors and to the description of metaphorical behaviour in the astrophysical lexicon in French and Italian. The methodology chosen for this study is composed by a terminological analysis and a terminographical investigation. The terminological analysis is based on a bilingual comparable corpus in French and Italian about popular science magazines in the domain of astrophysics, published from 1990 to 2020. This part consists of a diachronic analysis of terms whose derivation is metaphorical. The metaphors detected in the corpus will be analysed according to some criteria of classification and evolution, such as the semantico-referential conflict and the evolution towards the coherence. The terminographical investigation involves the creation of some terminological records about the metaphorical terms emerged from the corpus.

This terminographical investigation will consider the validation process of the term from its conceptual conflict to the coherent analogies shared with the scientific community. In a translational perspective, the equivalent terms in French and in Italian will be gathered, it will be possible to compare the consistent metaphors and the conflictual metaphors detected in this diachronic research to analyse the correspondence between the two languages in the corpus. The findings of the metaphorical analysis will reveal the evolution and the stratification of metaphors, and they will offer a detailed mapping about the astrophysical lexicon. Some terminological trees will be built to elaborate an evolutive mapping of metaphors detected during the study. The final product will contribute to the linguistic and terminological reflexion on metaphors in science, and to a glossary in French and Italian about contemporary astrophysics. The results will be discussed on the basis of the terminological records about



conceptual and linguistic aspects in order to elaborate the process of the metaphorical denomination, and also to justify and validate the translational equivalence.



Wednesday June 8th, 11.00 -11.30

Social Pathologies of rational agency

Francesco Emanuelli, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*

Questo progetto si propone di mettere alla prova alcune teorie dell'autogoverno alla luce di particolari forme di agency difettiva che dipendono da condizioni sociali e non-ideali. Penso ad esempio ad una donna che decide di licenziarsi perché tra lei ed il suo compagno, a parità d'orario di lavoro e di carica, il suo stipendio è minore e quindi sacrificabile al fine di allevare la piccola figlia; ad un ragazzo di colore di periferia che deve imparare a difendersi e sopravvivere in un ambiente dominato dalle gang; ad un giovane tirocinante che è costretto ad accettare qualsiasi condizione professionale per via dell'enorme massa ultra-competitiva di neolaureati. Chiamo questi fenomeni "difettività agenziali patologico-sociali", riadattando allo studio analitico dell'agency il concetto utilizzato dalla teoria critica per individuare difetti della configurazione sociale e le sue ricadute sugli individui che vi partecipano. Alcuni esempi sono l'alienazione, la reificazione, l'ideologia ed il mancato riconoscimento. Questi casi possono essere descritti come (diverse) forme difettive dell'autogoverno: l'agente fa esperienza di una perdita dell'autorità che ha su di sé e dell'efficacia che le sue azioni potrebbero avere, mentre assume auto-comprensioni che distorcono il rispetto o la fiducia in sé stesso. Tuttavia, questi casi si distinguono per il carattere e la radice sociale e non-ideale invece che biologica, neurologica o esclusivamente psicologica della difettività che presentano. Questo mette in discussione il paradigma standard della teoria dell'azione e dell'autogoverno, per cui la possibilità di esercitare autorità su sé stessi è da rintracciarsi in un funzionamento psicologico naturalistico interno alla mente dell'agente. Sembra anche importante enfatizzare la dimensione passiva, ricettiva dell'esperienza soggettiva di una forma di vita, la dimensione della socializzazione, acculturazione ed abitudine a pratiche e tradizioni storicamente e geograficamente situate. Questo aspetto mette in discussione l'ontologia e la teoria sociale analitica contemporanea, dato la centralità che queste teorie riconoscono all'intenzionalità collettiva nella forma dell'accettazione collettiva di funzioni di status ha assunto nella spiegazione e giustificazione dell'emersione, mantenimento e scomparsa delle pratiche e



istituzioni sociali. Per inquadrare queste difettività quindi è necessario ripensare la cornice metodologica e sostantiva entro cui rendere conto dell'autogoverno alla luce della socialità dell'agente e delle condizioni non ideali entro cui si trova ad esercitare e formare la sua agency.



Modelling the comics reader: what comics studies can teach about how we make sense of both fiction and reality

Antonio Mirizzi, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*

The human brain organizes individual and collective experiences in a narrative frame. The self-narratives are based on the general coherence of the events and the filling of the gaps through inferences. Fiction has always been a training ground for the narrative mind. This training has become increasingly challenging over the last 50 years. On one side, we find the narrative complexity of postmodern and post-postmodern literature, destructured and non-linear, and on the other side, the formal complexity of transmedial and interactive narratives, where sequence gives way to the network form. My research focuses mainly on the Anglo-American comics series of the 80s and the 90s, an ideal link between the experience of the postmodern novel and the most recent Digital Turn. First of all, comics are an analogic medium that anticipates some of the key features of narration in the digital environment: multimodality and hypertextuality (similar, in a way, to Thierry Groensteen's "arthrology", that is the systemic structure in which the panels relate to each other within the same page but also at a distance, both linearly and non-linearly).

Precisely because of these intrinsic qualities, starting from its revival in the 80s, comics developed extremely complex narratives, mindful of postmodern literature: multistrand, achronological, fragmentary. Seriality served to bring both this narrative approach to a further level and to push the limits of arthrology. The dialectics at work in the comic series by authors such as Alan Moore, Dave Sim, Neil Gaiman and Chris Ware - word/image, sequence/network, ellipsis/inference, linearity/ non-linearity, individual/global, serial/simultaneous - offer several keys to better understanding how we use and produce narratives in the contemporary world, especially the human mind's struggle for coherence and the fruition of stories in digital and multiplatform contexts.



Exploring metadiscourse and rhetorical structure in Italian EFL learners' Master's Theses. Genre-analysis across learner versus professional writing, L1 versus L2 discourse

Fabiola Notari, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*

Despite the crucial role acquired by English as the global lingua franca in the world of academia, writing a master's thesis still represents a stumbling block for many students, especially non-native ones who need to show their supervisors and examining committee that they are sufficiently qualified in applying the rhetorical conventions of the discourse community they belong to.

This research explores the use of rhetorical structure and metadiscourse markers in English L2 MA theses written by Italian university students, with a focus on abstracts, introductions and discussion sections across Law (L), Economics (E) and Applied Linguistics (AL). This study adopts a novel approach with respect to the growing number of cross-disciplinary and cross linguistic studies on MA theses, as it aims to encompass multiple dimensions, i.e., English L1 versus L2 discourse, learner writing versus professional writing, as well as disciplinary variation.

The corpus consists of 270 Master's theses chosen from the fields of Law (L), Economics (E) and Applied Linguistics (AL) (disciplinary layer), with each area of study further subdivided among Italian Speakers of English (ISE), International Students Speakers of English (INSE) and Native English speakers (NSE) (linguistic layer), for a total of 9 sub-corpora. Students' academic writing style and MA theses peculiarities as a genre in each discipline were initially analysed by cross-referencing the findings obtained from each sub-corpus against all the others, then subsequently contrasted with 3 reference corpora containing research articles from the fields of Law (L), Economics (E) and Applied Linguistics (AL).

In the first phase, moves and steps were recognized, categorized, and coded according to their communicative purposes. Frequencies, variants and also missing and repetitive moves were



identified according to Hyland's Five-Move Analysis (2000), Swale's CARS Model (1990) and Yang and Allison's Framework (2003). A chi-square analysis identified the most frequent moves and steps that make up the genre across learner versus professional writing, and L1 versus L2 discourse. In the second phase, a functional analysis of metadiscourse markers in the MA thesis genre was carried out in order to identify patterns of distribution of interactive and interactional markers (Hyland 2005). Corpus-based discourse analysis results were then confronted with

- i. semi-structured interviews conducted with Italian professors from each discipline and
- ii. anonymized digital surveys collecting information from 300 Italian students.

This research provides some implication for genre theory and EAP pedagogy, as suggested by the web-based platform available on the *Unimore* website, developed on the basis of the results obtained. In particular, this novel digital platform provides students with:

- i. an English corpus of MA theses and research articles annotated according to steps and moves,
- ii. a concordancer, searchable for rhetorical functions and
- iii. an error analysis of Italian students' MA theses written in English.

Overall, these learning materials can be utilized to teach Italian students how to draft well-crafted MA theses in their own field of research by providing them with recurrent patterns of usage taken from L1 and L2 theses, which this study considers as equally valid representatives of the genre.



Battista Guarini's letters: analysis, scholar edition and digital archive

Lucia Ruggieri, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*

My research project goes on the letters of Battista Guarini, politician, intellectual and poet, who lived between 1538 and 1612 and worked in several cities in the north of Italy and in Rome. The aims of the work are updating the census of manuscripts (especially autographs) of Guarini's letters; deepening through the letters the relationship between Guarini and the intellectuals of his time; framing Guarini in its historical literary context and re-evaluating its relevance; building a digital archive of Guarini's autographs preserved in States Archive of Modena (digitization, metadata, and digital scholar edition). The project has an interdisciplinary point of view and exploits the methodologies of archival sciences, philology, literary criticism and combines them with new digital tools.

The choice to create the digital archive is dictated by some practical problems related to scholar editions of letters. In fact, the letters are scattered in different conservation bodies and any census must be considered as provisional. So, the printed editions are more difficult to update than the digital ones in the case of new discoveries, which in the case of letters are likely.

Deepening the aspect related to digital humanities, the goal is to create a digital archive of Battista Guarini's letters within Lodovico the DHMoRe digital library. This archive will contain the digitization of the autographs kept in the States Archive of Modena, the metadata, the regesto, and the transcription of letters. Moreover, thanks to the IIIF protocol it will be possible to create thematic paths through documents, and to organize digital exhibitions. To summarize the archive could be useful not only for scholars but also for non-expert. The site will be totally open source, like all resources of Lodovico.

In conclusion my project combines different media and uses digital tools with the aim of providing useful resources for future academic research but also a basis for the dissemination of knowledge among non-experts.



Argumentation strategies in students' Master Theses: analysis and teaching applicability in the context of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Matteo Socciarelli, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia*

MA theses are an interesting topic of study in EAP. They count as the final step in many learners' academic path and, as such, they either represent the springboard to their career or a necessary step in pursuing further academic endeavours. In this regard, they have a unique communicative style, due to the fact that they have a limited readership (sometimes, reduced to a couple of readers only) and, although counting as academic discourse, they do not necessarily aim at engaging in academic debate. Comparing them to other forms of more standardized academic genres (such as research articles), while disclosing important parallelisms, can thus hardly provide an all-round portrait of the many facets that make up MA theses, such as argumentation strategies and the establishing of an authorial voice.

This study seeks to investigate argumentation strategies employed by students enrolled at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (*Unimore*) in the writing of their final MA thesis, and how their presence (or lack thereof) collaborates in creating an authorial voice that is appropriate for the communicative goal of the theses. The final objective of the research is the identification of possibly challenging areas and the implementation of tailored, up-to-date digital and educational tools for the improvement of thesis writing at *Unimore*. In addition, the study aims at raising a discussion concerning the standards that students must uphold to when they write their MA theses, considering their special and unique nature and place in the academic world.

To that end, a sub-corpus of English-written theses will be extracted from the MoreThesis repository and divided into further subsets according to subject. The corpora will be analysed with specific attention to the more argumentative sections of the theses, namely the Literature Review, the Discussion and the Conclusion chapters. These parts will be selected on the account that they may prompt the author to make claims where their stance, voice, and argumentation strategies emerge more vividly.



The hope is that the analysis will provide a detailed picture of the current status of English academic writing at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, the challenges students experience in conveying authoritative and backed-up claims and argumentations, and to what extent that is a requirement. Finally, the results of the analysis will be use as a framework for the creation of relevant digital learning tools, specifically a website with guided activities. The study thus aims at shedding light on never-before-analysed writing practices at *Unimore*, paving the way for further research and more attuned and informed teaching activities.