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Experiment and Innovation: Branching Forwards and Backwards
University of Catania, Department of Humanities, 16-18 September 2021

SEMINARS - BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

S1	*Variation is the spice of linguistic life: Comparative-contrastive analyses of the English language* **Convenors**: Viviana Gaballo (v.gaballo@live.com) Sara Gesuato (sara.gesuato@unipd.it)

Salient features of language use emerge when analysing large amounts of data – in which linguistic-discursive patterns can be identified – and when examining data from comparable sources so that their shared vs distinctive traits can be identified. We invite contributions in contrastive linguistic research, in which English is one of the languages/varieties examined. Proposals can be empirical works (e.g. based on corpus data, experimental data or case studies), theoretical works (e.g. grounded in a linguistic, cognitive, philosophical and/or pedagogical framework) and applied linguistics works (e.g. with a pedagogical slant). A broad range of topics can be addressed, covering the study of phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, text and discourse, pragmatics and sociolinguistics, cognitive linguistics, language learning/acquisition, and translation and interpretation. Comparative-contrastive analyses may be inter-linguistic, investigating English against other languages, or intra-linguistic, exploring historical, geographical, social and individual varieties of English. Especially welcome are contributions which address underexplored aspects of English semantics/grammar, employ both qualitative and quantitative methods, and combine a theoretical with an empirical approach.

S2	*"The government doesn't want you to see this video!". The discourse of conspiracy theories, misinformation and fake news* **Convenors**: Massimiliano Demata (massimialiano.demata@unito.it) Marianna Lya Zummo (mariannalya.zummo@unipa.it)

Conspiracy theories (CTs) are creating new articulations of discourse in the public sphere because of their innovative, and often subversive, language. A CT is "an effort to explain some event or practice by reference to the machinations of powerful people, who attempt to conceal their role" (Sunstein & Vermeule 2009, 275), and its ontological frame is sustained by fake news and misinformation (Risius et al. 2019). As the recent outbreak of COVID-19 has shown, the public sphere is increasingly affected by CTs, which support alternative views on official science, economy and the news, and construct certain (often radical) beliefs in periods of existential or social uncertainty (Douglas et al., 2019). Social media have provided the ideal output for CTs: without "gatekeepers", polarized communities create an "antagonistic sphere" (Krzyżanowski & Ledin 2017) and foster political engagement (especially against governments and the establishment), which can even lead to extremism and violence (Bergmann 2018; Wodak 2020).
Papers in this seminar will analyse the language of those who manufacture CTs (for example Infowars and QAnon), as well as that of their supporters, who often share their opinions on social media and contribute to (mis)information bubbles or echo chambers. We are interested in innovative discussions of the "anti-languages" (Halliday 1976) at the basis of the counter-discourses endorsing CTs in direct opposition to official discourses and challenging social and political hegemony (Terdiman 1985; Van Dijk 1997). Approaches may include, but are not limited to, Corpus Linguistics, Conversation Analysis, (Social Media) Critical Discourse Analysis,

Systemic Functional Linguistics, and Multimodality.

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S3	*"I have nothing against gay people, but a child needs a mother and a father!": The discursive construction of 'non-conventional' parenthood* **Convenors**: Giuseppe Balirano (gbalirano@unior.it) Angela Zottola (angela.zottola@unito.it)

The traditional heteronormative and binary idea of family made up of a cisgender mother and a cisgender father giving birth to a child through the fulfilment of marital duties has been at the core of the definition of 'parenthood' for centuries.

Alongside this outdated view of parenthood, the representation and discursive construction of the concept of family and parenting has drawn from *dominant* (Baxter 2003) or *normative* (Motschenbacher and Stegu 2013) discourses that define parenthood along the lines of heteronormative and binary reproductive conventions. In the past few decades, research has shown that parenthood goes beyond these conventions to include LGBT+ families, donor conception or surrogacy (Hogben & Coupland 2000), queer families or single-parents (Mackenzie in progress, 2019), co-parenting (Suter et al. 2015), and adoption (Sokalska-Bennett 2017). The lack of visibility or the negative/discriminatory depiction of alternative ways of creating a family has proven to be socially and discursively problematic: it does not allow for the creation of dialogic spaces in which non-normative families can exist and feel acknowledged.

In this seminar, we seek to discuss the discursive construction of parenthood moving away from its traditional and non-inclusive definition in order to include any other formulation of this concept that goes from single parent to same-sex couple parenting, from adoption to donor conception.

Submission are welcomed from a number of different approaches which include, but are not limited to, critical discourse analysis, corpus linguistics, multimodal (critical) discourse analysis, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, translation studies and queer linguistics among others.

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S4	*Scotland's branches: Language, literature and culture across time*
	Convenors: Gioia Angeletti (gioia.angeletti@unipr.it) Marina Dossena (marina.dossena@unibg.it)

There is something uncanny about Scotland's capacity to rely on its past in order to build its future, while being well-grounded in the present. It was in Scotland that the first historical novels reinvented the past at the onset of the nineteenth century, and even at the turn of the twenty-first century worldwide audiences are captivated by a book and TV series, *Outlander*, which centres on a story of time travel initiated in Scotland.

Nor does this capacity only apply to literature, as Scottish culture also features the same characteristics, and indeed Scotland's linguistic history has developed both independently and in close connection with the variation and changes observed south of the border. In addition, Scotland's role in a European context that is going to be affected by Brexit is likely to be viewed in light of at least two key factors: the country's historical relationship with the Continent, which dates from before the Union of the Crowns; and its ruling party's aim to regain independence so as to re-join the EU – an aim that also has its roots firmly planted in the past but which looks to the future.

Starting from these observations, in this interdisciplinary seminar we aim to shed light on the relevance of Scotland in the field of 'English' studies today, by drawing attention to genres and texts that bear witness to the various ways in which Scottish literature, language and culture have constantly branched out into the future, while constantly acknowledging the significance of the past. Contributions are invited on topics which may comprise, but are not limited to, drama, poetry, popular culture, corpora, lexicography and translation.

S5	*English for Academic Purposes (EAP): From past to present for the future*
	Convenors: Laura Pinnavaia (laura.pinnavaia@unimi.it) Annalisa Zanola (annalisa.zanola@unibs.it)

Research into EAP has expanded enormously in the last decades, owing to the burgeoning use of English for professional reasons as well as for the concerted interest it has attracted in higher and

further education courses for native speakers and non-native speakers of English worldwide (see among others Alexander, Argent & Spencer (2008); Basturkmen (2006); Dudley-Evans & St. John (1998); Hyland (2006); Jordan (1997); McDonough (2005); Richards & Farrell (2005)). Stemming principally from ESP, EAP in the last few years has obtained its own space as a highly skill-based area of language study that can be examined at different degrees of specificity, more generally as English for General Academic Purposes (EGAP) or more specifically as English for Specific Academic Purposes (ESAP). Emerging from a long-standing literary tradition of theoretical and empirical contributions in the area of English linguistics and applied linguistics, EAP still needs defining. The aim of this panel is to explore the state of the art of EAP: i.e. where it stands today in relation to where it came from and where it is destined to go. We welcome papers that will discuss theoretically and/or empirically either the genesis and history of EAP or its present state and/or future direction.

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S6	*Lost in Space. Re-Writing, re-reading, re-appropriating spatialities*
	Convenors: Bruna Mancini (bruna.mancini@unical.it) Eleonora Rao (erao@unisa.it)

We are looking for papers that would engage with literary geography, an emergent interdisciplinary field that is located at the interface between human geography and literary studies and is one of the most salient manifestation of the ongoing spatial turn in the arts and humanities.

Power relations are inscribed into space as structures and reproduced through spatial interaction. Different spaces present more or less great latitudes for reinterpretation, determination and conflict of all kinds of identity categories that can be interrelated or played out against each other.

We would welcome critical attention to the role of location in the texts at hand, and to the way that particular setting interacts with characters' development or stasis. Place can be understood socially and culturally for people who feel alienated, rejected, or "out of place". How do characters make sense of the place they are seeking or fleeing? What makes a place a "home"? Or a suffocating prison? Papers are invited to explore these subject areas: the intersections between memory and place, how the notion of "place" is reconstructed by memory, imagination, fantasy, desire, language and myth; the issue of "remembering" place as a process of recreation, the re-appropriation of the past and of collective myth; the absence of space or representations of fragmented space or of "non places" (Augé) which convey a sense of separatedness, social, political, ideological or mythical.

As convenors, then, we are keen to receive proposals on all literary historical periods and on all

literary genres.

S7	*Updating discourse/s on method/*
	Convenors: Lucia Abbamonte (lucia.abbamonte@unicampania.it) Flavia Cavaliere (fcavalie@unina.it)

This conference has foregrounded a basic need in the evolution of human cognition, explicitly recurring in our field of studies (see, e.g. the 1978 and 2001 AIA conferences): the need for shaping/fixing the method of *rightly conducting one's reason, and seeking truth in the sciences,* in Renee Descartes' superb 1637 formulation. In the contemporary poly-media environment, methodological options are multifaceted, ever emerging and technologically driven. It might be both useful and timely, then, to discuss a number of methods, approaches and topics that are situated within our many-folded disciplinary field. Contributions should include considerations on the functioning, applicability and political implications, for research purposes, of (not exclusively):

- The Appraisal Framework
- Corpus linguistics
- Critical discourse analysis
- Cross- and intercultural pragmatics
- Ecolinguistics
- Multimodal discourse analysis
- Multimedia and screen translation
- Translation studies
- Multimodal literacies
- Positive discourse analysis
- Racial literacies
- Research and teaching connectedness

The seminar also invites researchers from different research areas and domains, in order to promote the cross-fertilization of ideas and fully explore key concerns about different methodological paradigms.

S8	*Social stylistics: Language, styles and contemporary challenges*
	Convenors: Esterino Adami (esterino.adami@unito.it) Daniela Francesca Virdis (dfvirdis@unica.it)

The cultural, social and political complexity of today's many-sided world is mirrored by a proliferation of discourses and texts that keep growing in their effort to reproduce, construct and convey a range of topical issues across many domains. Narratives, in particular, seem to foreground, manipulate or give voice to questions as diverse as environmental and ecological challenges, social issues and postcolonial preoccupations, for example pertaining to aspects such as identity, discrimination and migration. To fully understand and critically unpack the themes and attitudes that authors and text-producers elaborate, it is vital to apply linguistic frameworks and theories that not only combine an empirical approach with considerable accuracy, but that can also trigger a reflection on social and ethical responsibility. Such linguistic frameworks and theories are provided by the discipline of stylistics which, in its innovative contemporary developments, can be used to tackle and investigate texts that belong to a wide variety of contexts and text-types, including hybrid and experimental ones. The exploitation of territories and peoples, the annihilation of marginalized subjects and the naturalization of destructive ideologies are just some of the implications that scholars and practitioners of stylistics unveil when they examine textual

materials. This seminar proposal is thus aimed at gathering contributions dealing with various social and cultural themes, and informed by stylistic methodologies, in the hope to critically engage with some of the stories and global problems that we need to bear in mind to understand the present and the future that looms ahead.

S9	*English as a contact language for minority and vulnerable groups*
	Convenors: Amalia Amato (amalia.amato@unibo.it) Letizia Cirillo (letizia.cirillo@unisi.it)

"The term 'vulnerability' stems from the Latin word *vulnus* (wound) or *vulnerare* (to be wounded) and describes the potential for someone to be harmed physically and/or psychologically" (Virág 2015: 77). This potential exposure to harm may depend on several factors – including language – which do not add up but act as multipliers of vulnerability. In a world characterised by mobility and migration, English is increasingly used as a lingua franca in interaction between speakers of the outer and expanding circles (Kachru 1997), often with language mediation/interpreting, which in turn may introduce an additional layer of vulnerability (Fontes 2008, Anderson 2012). The aim of this panel is investigating the use of English as lingua franca in communication involving vulnerable subjects. To this end, we welcome contributions that:

- analyse how multiple vulnerability emerges throughout interactions in ELF taking place in different institutional (and non-institutional) settings;
- examine if and how language mediation/interpreting in interactions involving ELF reduces or enhances vulnerability in different institutional (and non-institutional) settings;
- explore perceptions of vulnerability in ELF interactions by service providers, users, and language mediators/interpreters;
- illustrate how new speakers of English variously appropriate the language to perform daily routines and deal with socially-constructed hierarchies and boundaries.

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S10	*Transnational subjects and intercultural identities: Travel and the global South*
	Convenors: Silvia Antosa (silvia.antosa@unikore.it) Elisabetta Marino (marino@lettere.uniroma2.it)

For centuries, travel writing has opened up a spatial and temporal gap between different places, cultures and languages, often causing a sense of disorientation and destabilisation. As a narrative form, it has constantly challenged readers, and encouraged them to adopt new and different interpretative criteria. It cannot be easily subsumed under a single literary genre and cannot be ascribed to a univocal ideological or scientific classification. It changes form and language according to the cultural context and to the world(s) it describes.

Travel writing adopts multiple languages and forms of representation and develops new

perspectives on the world; readers are compelled to re-orient themselves in order to understand and imaginatively re-create the narrated world, or multiple worlds, to which they can – albeit temporarily – belong.

By focusing on texts written between the beginning of the nineteenth century and the present day, this panel sets out to explore the way travel narratives and travelogues, delving into the writers' experience of the Global South (in the widest acceptation of the term), have grappled with issues of identity, difference, and belonging. Special emphasis will be placed on the experimental strategies authors have employed to challenge ingrained ideas about the superiority of Western civilization, gender roles and prerogatives, and religion. A comparative approach and a diachronic analysis (highlighting elements of rupture and continuity with tradition) are welcome.

S11	*Popularising tradition and innovation for children*
	Convenors: Gloria Cappelli (gloria.cappelli@unipi.it) Elena Manca (elena.manca@unisalento.it)

This seminar aims at discussing the strategies and the characterising features of popularisation (Myers, 2003; Calsamiglia & Van Dijk, 2004) in spoken and written materials for children. Previous research (Cappelli, 2016; Diani, 2018; Cappelli & Masi, 2019; Bruti & Manca, 2019) has described popularisation as a form of "reconceptualisation and recontextualisation of expert discourse that meets the needs, tastes and background encyclopaedia of lay readers" (Cappelli & Masi, 2019, p. 3), which varies considerably depending on the profile of the intended audience, on the degree of specialisation needed (which in turn depends on the genre and its aims) and also across cultures. Besides all these aspects, popularisation for children needs to take into account the cognitive profile of this group of "lay readers" (or listeners), which differs significantly from that of the (usually) adult producers of texts for a young audience.

Starting from these premises, it is the aim of the seminar to create a forum for the discussion of the variation of verbal and non-verbal strategies aimed at making specialised, unfamiliar or simply variously "difficult" concepts accessible to children in oral or written texts focusing on traditions and ancient knowledge or, conversely, on novel and innovative ideas.

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S12	*Analysing digital discourse and online social interactions in texts, contexts and practices: Gains and losses of theories and methodologies*
	Convenors: Ilaria Moschini (ilaria.moschini@unifi.it) Maria Grazia Sindoni (mgsindoni@unime.it)

This seminar sets out to analyse theories and methods for the analysis of digital discourse and online social interactions by focusing on the gains and losses of some disciplinary approaches. The study of digital discourse and online social interactions has been mainly grounded on 1) language-based methodologies and 2) social-ethno-anthropological methodologies.

The former includes linguistics (Georgakopoulou, 2011), sociolinguistics (Androutsopoulos, 2006; Thurlow & Mroczek, 2011), pragmatics (Herring et al., 2013; Yus, 2011), discourse analysis (Herring, 2004), whereas the latter have been informed, among others, by interactional sociology (Goffman, 1981) and micro-ethnography (Erickson, 2004). Other disciplines take a broader approach in the study of digital discourse, for example by drawing on interactional sociolinguistics (Gumpertz, 1999), linguistic anthropology (Duranti, 1997), and linguistic ethnography (Creese, 2008). Current developments have been designed within multimodal theories of semiosis of communication (Kress and van Leeuwen 2006) and consistent approaches, such as those coming from systemic-functional linguistics (Halliday 1978), multimodal critical discourse analysis and socio-semiotics (van Leeuwen 2005).

In this seminar we welcome both theoretical and empirical studies that address online social interactions and digital discourse in texts, contexts and practices by addressing the following research questions:

- Which theories and methodologies are most apt to analyse which digital texts?
- Which are the gains and losses of the disciplinary domain in question?

The possible digital texts include, but are not limited, to:

- Webpages (e.g. landing page, homepage, about us page, etc..);
- Fanvids;
- Video calls;
- Blogs;
- Social media;
- Media sharing platforms.

Our ultimate goal is to explore epistemologies that specifically address gains and losses in the adoption of theories and methodologies in the analysis of digital discourse.

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S13	*Integrating content and language in education: Experimenting with integrative practices*
	Convenors: Francesca Costa (francesca.costa@unicatt.it) Lynn Mastellotto (lynn.mastellotto@unibz.it)

A continuum of approaches that integrate language teaching and subject learning has grown internationally in a wide range of educational settings since the 1990s. In Europe, CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) and ICL(HE) (Integrating Content and Language in Higher Education) (Wilkinson, 2004) programmes have been widely adopted from primary to tertiary education, offering a dual-focused form of instruction in which the acquisition of subject-matter concepts and the acquisition of additional language competences are entwined processes by means of a counterbalanced approach (Lyster, 2007).

Although integrating content and language (ICL) approaches have been around for a while, the issue of what exactly integration consists of has not been sufficiently addressed and remains an open question. Seeking to explore *how* content and language can be integrated from ontological, epistemological and teaching/learning perspectives at all educational levels through curricular and materials design, instructional delivery, and assessment practices, this seminar invites contributions which address any one of these strands from theoretical to practice-informed and classroom-based approaches from both researchers and practitioners.

Issues that emerge as central to the integration of content and language in education (Nikula, Dafouz, Moore, Smit, 2016) include: constructive alignment of content aims and language learning aims in course/materials design and curricular planning, different models and strategies for embedding target language study within subject matter through language rich activities that provide heightened exposure to the additional language and opportunities for its use in purposeful communication, linguistic benefits of integrating content and language approaches (receptive skills, writing, oral fluency, pronunciation, lexico-grammatical development, etc.), focus on form episodes, cognitive and academic discourse functions episodes, disciplinary literacies and performance criteria to measure achievement in linguistic and disciplinary terms.

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S14	*Literary digi-spheres: For a new ecology of English Studies*
	Convenors: Francesca Saggini (fsaggini@unitus.it) Diego Saglia (diego.saglia@unipr.it)

In post-corona times, now that 'distant', 'virtual' and 'remote' have become something other than vague and somewhat off-putting adjectives, we are solicited by a pedagogic imperative to reconsider and rethink English Studies in light of the potentialities of Digital Humanities (DH). Starting from these premises and their pressure on the discipline as a whole, we aim to encourage a lively discussion about the theory and practice of DH and, in particular, the opportunities and challenges of the "Literary Digi-Sphere", including such questions as:

- distant and beyond-the-margins readings
- networks of visualization
- platforms, media and new forms of engagement and interaction
- augmentation and integration of texts and archives/collections
- dialogues between data and texts
- the digital and the materiality of texts
- the digi-sphere and the classics
- virtual exhibitions and the texual
- digital texts / disembodied objects
- DH and creativity (including online digital artwork)

In inviting papers that address these and other related issues, we intend to stimulate reflections that look constructively yet also critically at the potential implicit in the application of DH to English (literary) Studies: how and to what extent do they represent a way forward? Can the "Literary Digi-Sphere" really instigate new paradigms for learning and teaching the subject? Is this no more than a transient phenomenon that will not materially alter or redirect well-established practices?

S15	*"Three Quarters of a Nation once again": Discourses on/of "Irishness" from the Anglo-Irish Treaty to the Post-Brexit deadlock*
	Convenors: Antonio Bibbò (antonio.bibbo@unitn.it) Mariavita Cambria (mcambria@unime.it)

The year 2021 marks the centenary of the "Anglo-Irish" treaty. This anniversary gives an opportunity to consider the evolution/development of flipping narratives and discourses in Irish Studies and to assess the role of partition in the construction of a complex Irish "identity". The 2021 AIA conference theme, '*Experiment and innovation: branching forwards and backwards*', is an invitation to reflect on the process of image-building as a key to the development of Irish identity opposed to the colonial identity that the country had been subjected to in centuries of British rule. This process became even more central after the 1921 Anglo-Irish treaty, and in the ensuing debates concerning the two separate states developing North and South of the Irish border. The complexity of image-building in the Irish context is now in the foreground during the post-Brexit negotiations and inevitable political deadlock. This seminar invites junior and senior scholars to join in with contributions that explore the various discourses, languages, rhetorical strategies and semiotic resources used in different text types and genres to either articulate or disarticulate the construction of a presupposed Irish identity. Possible topics and areas may include:

- Qualitative and quantitative analysis of media discourse;
- The Irish decade of centenaries;
- "Translating" the partition;
- Multimodal discourse analysis;

	- Rhetoric of nationhood.

S16	*Ecolinguistics and Ecoliteracies: Interpreting our present and acting for our future* **Convenors**: Maria Bortoluzzi (maria.bortoluzzi@uniud.it) Elisabetta Zurru (elisabetta.zurru@unige.it)

At a time when social movements such as #FridaysForFuture gain influence and call for effective action, this seminar focuses our attention on represented value systems related to the greatest impending global issue our humanity is facing: the environmental crisis and the way in which we meet the challenge of change or face the inescapable.

Ecolinguistics and ecoliteracies (Steffensen and Fill, 2014; Stibbe, 2014, 2015, 2018; Fill and Penz, 2018) contribute to raising awareness and taking positive action on how we humans represent ourselves and our behaviour in relation with the ecosystem. Within the framework of ecolinguistics studies, the contributions will discuss how framing and re-framing the way we construe ourselves as humans vis-à-vis the environment can help deconstruct narratives, reveal neglect, identify possible communicative solutions, and raise awareness about this major self-inflicted calamity we are experiencing.

More specifically, the seminar intends to reflect on how language becomes the means, in a variety of media and texts types (news outlets, social media, cinema, websites, to name but a few), through which human participants position themselves in the ecosystem we all belong to; how effective action and change can be catalysed and brought about thanks to communicative strategies challenging anti-ecological discourse; what linguistic and communicative choices are made to represent, imagine, or construe the future of our ecosystems on the premises of the past and the present.

Abstracts exploring these issues through qualitative and/or quantitative approaches are invited. Contributions should include research question(s), methodological choices and discussion of emerging results.

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S17	*Climate change discourses and beyond: Re-mediation and re-contextualisation in news and social media* **Convenors**: Cinzia Bevitori (cinzia.bevitori@unibo.it) Katherine E. Russo **(**kerusso@unior.it**)**

Numerous scholars have pointed out that citizens' awareness, attitudes and actions towards climate change are shaped by mediated information (Bevitori, 2014; Boycoff and Boycoff, 2004, 2007; Carvalho and Burgess, 2005; Russo 2018). News media play an important role in the

popularization of climate science and scientific evaluations of climate-related risk. In order to make risk decisions, citizens seek information, which is increasingly circulated through online news media, and later re-mediated in social media, such as facebook and twitter, or face-to-face conversations. Yet, when climate-change discourse is re-mediated, its recontextualisation redefines the meaning assigned to climate change terminology and discourse due to the influence of news values such as negativity, personalization, impact, superlativeness, novelty, and expectation (Bednarek 2006). For instance, certain events, such as environmental disasters or announcements by prominent scientists or politicians, fulfil news values more than others (Bell, 1991; Fowler, 1991; van Dijk, 1988). Yet, as Bednarek and Caple note (2012, p. 44; 2017, p. 79), news values and newsworthiness should be conceptualized in terms of how events or propositions are construed through discourse. In their opinion, "newsworthiness is not inherent in events but established through language and image" (Bednarek and Caple, 2012, pp. 41). Based on these premises, we invite critical, theoretical and discourse-analytical papers investigating different genres operating in the context of "old and new" media.

Possible areas of inquiry may include, but are not limited to:

- Critical Discourse Analysis Studies
- Integrated Corpus Linguistics and Critical Discourse Studies Approaches
- Integrated Corpus Linguistics and Appraisal Linguistics Approaches
- Media and Communication Studies
- Comparative Studies
- Rhetorics
- Stylistics and Critical Stylistics Studies

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S18	*Audiovisual tools in the translation classroom: Branching forwards and backwards*
	Convenors: Irene Ranzato (irene.ranzato@uniroma1.it) Annalisa Sandrelli (annalisa.sandrelli@unint.eu)

Over the past 10-15 years, the range of audiovisual products has grown exponentially, as a result of the proliferation of TV channels and streaming platforms such as *Netflix*, *Amazon Prime*, and so on. The audiovisual translation market has expanded and diversified, with subtitling gaining ground in dubbing countries (including Italy), and dubbing beginning to attract the viewers' interest in subtitling countries; furthermore, the popularity of new TV genres, such as documentary-style reality shows, has produced an increase in the use of voiceover translation. As turnaround times are lower than in the past, audiovisual translators have begun to experiment with Computer Assisted Translation tools and speech recognition software to speed up the process; the latest trend is a shift to cloud-based tools, to optimise the workflow in large translation projects.

Over the same period, intersections with other research fields (such as gender studies, genealogy of translation, amateur translation, crisis studies, to name just a few) have enriched audiovisual translation studies and widened their scope. The aim of this panel is to focus on the impact that innovative investigations coupled with more traditional approaches have had on translation teaching and to explore how they have helped reshape the teacher-student relationship in the translation classroom. On the one hand, diachronic and archival studies on the translation of audiovisual classics can be beneficial to trainee translators; on the other hand, research on the impact of the above-mentioned new practices and tools is still limited. In addition, while audiovisual products have played an important role in L2 teaching for decades, the current situation seems to hold great potential, thanks to the ready availability of extremely diverse materials. Thus, the convenors welcome contributions exploring audiovisual translation and its use in L2 and translation teaching, both branching forwards and backwards

S19	*Early Modern Theatre and book culture and the digital turn*
	Convenors: Silvia Bigliazzi (silvia.bigliazzi@univr.it) Bianca Del Villano (bdelvillano@unior.it)

In what ways may digital humanities enhance our understanding of early modern theatre and book culture? Moving from this question, this seminar will discuss how the digital turn has affected our knowledge of theatre performances in the early modern period as well as our interpretation of early modern books and their processes of production and consumption. This is a two-fold question which, while ideally identifying two separate lines of enquiry, brings them together through a common rethinking of how digital encoding may offer new perceptions of both early modern performances and books.

The seminar's main questions include the following:

- Digital tools for visualization: what we know about early modern performances mainly derives from written documents, occasional drawings as well as scripts. How can digital tools for visualisation help us to reconstruct different forms of spectacle?
- Digital scholarly editions: in what ways do online editions and devices for textual

comparison offer new possibilities of analysis and how have editorial practices changed in relation to hypertextual navigation?
- Digital archives: how do online archives favour interaction between written and visual texts as well as videos and acoustic recordings?
- The seminar will reflect on the different opportunities, as well as the limits, of the digital turn in the exploration of early modern English culture by offering theoretical and/or practical discussions of individual DH projects.

S20	*Medical innovation, experimentation and knowledge paradigm shifts: Past and present discursive perspectives and popularizing strategies* **Convenors**: Elisabetta Lonati (elisabetta.lonati@uniupo.it) Alessandra Vicentini (alessandra.vicentini@uninsubria.it)

This seminar aims to provide new insights into the evolution of linguistic and discursive practices employed to popularize medical knowledge and the understanding of medicine in the period between the 1650s and the 2000s. The perspective may be either diachronic or synchronic and scholars are encouraged to submit papers approaching medical discourse popularization from different methodological viewpoints.

Scientific and technological advances in medicine, which engender new healing procedures and medical cures, are characterized and triggered by innovation and experimentation, and have always been accompanied by important societal, (sociotechnical) and cultural changes. New knowledge paradigms are spawned by such transformations and become reflected not only in the discursive and language practices of the medical community but also of society at large. Ideological messages and ethical standpoints may also be transferred as a consequence of novel practices, as knowledge can be manipulated intentionally and thus transfer possible bias. This applies especially in the process of popularization, whereby specialist knowledge undergoes changes in order to become accessible to non-specialists through diverse communicative channels. The changing roles of experts, non-experts, semi-experts, educated or non-educated participants add to the issue's complexity and multidimensionality.

All this is to be examined in its linguistic and discursive aspects and implications. Analytical approaches based on synchronic, diachronic and/or contrastive, intralinguistic, interlinguistic and intercultural perspectives are equally welcome. Seminar themes include:

- changes undergone by specialized medical knowledge in the popularization process, in different texts, genres and/or media
- ethical and ideological implications in medical discourse popularization, especially with regard to sensitive issues and advanced technological developments
- criticality of information transmission for collective or individual decision-making processes, e.g. medical/health emergencies and subsequent institutional actions (political, legal, medical/healthcare decisions, intervention measures, informed consent to clinical treatment, etc.)
- the social construction and representation of medicine through language
- labelling disease(s) between 'the normal' and 'the pathological'
- medical issues and the social understanding of diseases through language
- the secularization of medical language and discourse
- the language of pain and suffering over time
- the framing of disease(s) and the sick role
- the discourse of innovative medical procedures and practices
- the language/discourse of pandemics and epidemics over time

S21	*New translation practices in amateur and professional environments: Challenges and opportunities*
	Convenors: Stefania Biscetti (stefania.biscetti@cc.univaq.it) Anna Romagnuolo (romagnuolo@unitus.it)

The amateurish fansubbers' translation of comics and TV series, the playful professional translation of groups such as Outranspo, the activist translation and community translation made by NGOs, charities, social network groups and private volunteers, all demonstrate that translation is increasingly becoming a collaborative activity which requires, besides teamwork, cross-cultural mediation and trans-editing skills, often neglected by translation training programs. Moreover, these translations made by "amorphous groups of professional and non-professional translators" (Baker, 2010: 24) are progressively challenging the traditional claim (Newmark, 1988:3) that translators should only translate into their mother tongue.

These translation activities, which have often become a mass social phenomenon, as in the case of funsubbing, and have involved huge virtual communities when performed through social media, as in the case of several "Trump in Translation" Twitter groups, play a significant role in circulating transborder information and creating communities of practice.

The purpose of the Seminar is to examine these forms of translation, generally produced outside the mainstream social institutions, discuss their contribution to the dissemination of political ideas, cultural notions, and information, especially among speakers of minority languages, and explore their effects on translation practices also in terms of professional skills they can develop or help identify as necessary for the appropriate training of future translators. Potential risks will also be considered.

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S22	*Drawing literary texts, filming literary images: Graphic novels/comics and adaptation*
	Convenors: Chiara Battisti (chiara.battisti@univr.it) Enrichetta Soccio (enrichetta.soccio@unich.it)

A new trend in studies on adaptation was marked by Lanier's assertion that "the energy" once associated with film adaptations "has migrated elsewhere" (See Lanier, 2010). The purpose of the proposed seminar is to investigate one of the most intriguing fields of analysis opened by this "migration", namely the graphic novels/comics inspired by literary works and the films inspired in their turn by graphic novels.

The "shift of gravity from text to image" (Lanier, 2010) promotes the popular appropriation of literary works and allows a debate about and a revision of presupposed ideas about canonical authors' cultural authority. Graphic novels/Comics uncover previously unattainable meanings within the original texts; and, by opening up a form of intercultural dialogue, they promote a permeability of the borders of cultural communication and enable a re-textualization of literary works.

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

- Novels into Graphic Novels/Comics;
- Adaptations of Graphic novels to Films;
- Teaching Graphic Novels/Comics;
- Graphic novels and poetry, fiction, historical fiction, autobiography, biography, science fiction, and fantasy;
- Theoretical reflection on the intersemiotic translation from texts to graphic novels/comics and from graphic novels/comics to films.

S23	*Shake the Lit. Re-viewing book reviews in the digital era*
	Convenors: Paola Carbone (paola.carbone@iulm.it) Laura Santini (laura.santini@unige.it)

The book review as a textual form has received little attention within the English Studies field, possibly due to the polysemy of the term "review(ing)", which refers to different discursive practices, ranging from peer-to-peer academic evaluation to the periodicals that host them along with other journalistic contents. Yet it is an extremely interesting text-type from a literary, linguistic and cultural point of view. In literature, because the review influences the reception of authors and texts, negotiating aesthetic values and aesthetic experience in individual and social contexts, representing a testing ground for cultural production, classifying existing genres and creating new ones. Linguistically, as it displays all the features of the language of evaluation: affect (attitude to meaning as emotional content), judgment (attitude to meaning as behavior) and appraisal (attitude towards meaning as natural or semiotic text). Culturally, as the review since its appearance in the eighteenth century has profoundly changed in its form and function, following both cultural and technological transformations. Traditionally based on the written word, book reviews have actually witnessed a shift towards multimodal formats that combine verbal, visual and audiovisual codes, contents and discursive practices. In the digital ecosystem websites, blogs, apps and social networks have transformed book reviews from public peritexts into all-pervasive communicative events. The panel aims at discussing how digital online culture has changed the praxis of the book review, highlighting its role in the development and definition of new literary genres, and the permeable borders between reviewing as playful, creative, interactive experience and the book itself.

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S24	*Language strategies in the dissemination and popularisation of information and knowledge (1500-1750*
	Convenors: Nicholas Brownlees (nicholas.brownlees@unifi.it) Donatella Montini (donatella.montini@uniroma.it)

The seminar will provide a forum for research relating to the language and forms of discourse employed in the dissemination and popularisation of information and knowledge (1500-1750). Abstracts are invited in which linguistic and rhetorical features are discussed in relation to non-literary texts falling within the early modern period broadly interpreted as between 1500-1750. Genres of particular interest include: news pamphlets and newspapers; letters; didactic works; political and diplomatic papers; travel writing.

Objects for study include, but are not confined to:

- theoretical aspects, methodological challenges and results of empirical research in non-literary discourse
- multi-feature analysis or research on individual features (including lexical, structural and textual characteristics as well as pragmatic and sociolinguistic aspects)
- triggers, agents and mechanisms of change in genre conventions
- stylistic and multimodal strategies of dissemination
- metalinguistic awareness and its development through time
- contact and change: linguistic and cultural mediation
- dissemination to specific groups and networks

S25	*Towards a history of translation collaborative practices and cooperation*
	Convenors: Mirella Agorni (mirella.agorni@unive.it) Giovanni Iamartino (giovanni.iamartino@unimi.it)

In the course of the centuries, most Western translation theories have focused on the translator as a solitary individual. As a consequence, the process of translating has been envisioned as an activity to be carried out by a single actor, with no external aid. The lack of attention to cooperation, teamwork or collaborative strategies as key constituents of the translation process has meant that historical studies of translation tend to neglect this aspect even today.

As early as in the 1960s, when Translation Studies as a discipline was launched, Eugene Nida divided translation into a decoding and encoding phase, with a translator in between, who was

responsible for the transfer of the message from the source to the target language. In spite of the attention to the complexity of the process, split into two distinct activities, a single agent appeared to be responsible for the whole procedure. Teamwork did not appear in this model, although Nida himself was a key figure in Bible translation into a number of languages, actively participating in collaborative work of groups such as the Wycliffe Bible Translators and the American Bible Association. The impact of Nida's theory went well beyond Bible translation, and has been acknowledged as a driving force for the development and multifarious specialization of contemporary Translation Studies. At the same time, this model does not represent an isolated statement of translators' "solitary agency", but comes at the end of a specific Western historical development of translation thinking.

No wonder a seminal text in translation history, published under the title "Translators Through History" (Delisle and Woodsworth, 1995, 2012), focuses on single translator figures "in terms of their position in a cultural and temporal space" (1995:2). A history of translators'/interpreters'/language mediators' cooperative strategies and collaborative work has yet to be written, in spite of the fact that a few steps in this direction have already been produced by scholars working in translation and cultural exchange in early modern periods, or interested in specific topics, such as feminist collaborative practices, audiovisual translation, or distinctive concepts such as loyalty or trust.

In the wake of the current pandemic, probably as never before after the second world war, cooperation and collaborative work has become a rallying cry in many aspects of our society, and Translation Studies is no exception. Hence, starting from contemporary practices and looking backwards in history for the traces of collaborative work in translation/interpreting/ and language mediation is not merely an archaeological endeavour, but a moral imperative.

This panel aims to generate debate by exploring the effects of collaborative work, cooperation - or lack of cooperation - in the history of translation, interpreting and intercultural contacts, from and into English. In the course of history, from the Early Modern Period up to the Modern and Post-Modern age, the type of cooperation expected of translators, interpreters and other intermediaries has varied, producing a number of different effective - or in some cases ineffective - strategies.

We would like to receive proposals which explore how translators/ interpreters/ and language mediators have (or have not) facilitated the exchange, transfer, or appropriation of ideas and texts (both oral and written) by employing inter-personal and intra-textual strategies, so as to ensure cooperation and produce effective communication.

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

- theoretical and methodological aspects of collaborative practices throughout translation/interpreting/language mediation history;
- -case studies focusing on the relations between translators, interpreters and other agents or intermediaries, such as printers, publishers, editors, patrons, magazine directors and collaborators, etc;
- case studies analysing teamwork experiences over history, targeting diverse translation and publishing settings (including literary, religious, scientific as well as other text genres);
- issues pertaining to the impact of technology on collaborative practices in translation in the course of history, starting from the invention of printing, the early periodicals and magazines, the advent of the internet and including new trends in audiovisual translation, crowdsourcing or phenomena like fansubbing and fandubbing;
- the diachronic evolution of activist and volunteer interpreting in conflict and emergency situations;
- the development of collaborative solutions in public service and community interpreting;
- feminist and queer translation over history;
- cooperative practices enhanced by machine and computer assisted translation.
- The outcomes of this panel will hopefully enable us to write a new chapter in translation history.

S26	*Revealing soundscapes in old and new media*
	Convenors: Valentina Castagna (valentina.castagna@unipa.it) Lucia Esposito (lesposito@unite.it)

At a time when literature and new media are more connected than ever, the lockdown due to the Covid-19 emergency has emphasized and increased the relationship between the internet and the production and reception of poetic and narrative works. The balance between 'visual' and 'aural' that, in the second half of the twentieth century, had seen television and cinema playing a major role in the materialization of voice and sound has been modified. If the visual aspect remains uncontested in terms of fruition in the everyday life, the original or adapted works for theatre, radio, television, cinema and, today, also for the web add a denser and more articulated soundscape (composed of 'real' voices, music, noises, silences) than the 'imaginary' one of the reading experience, in which the book stays 'silent'. In addition, one can see how the use of smartphones and tablets has led to an increasing emphasis on voice and sound. Literature is more mobile than ever, portable, and, by landing on these media, it is certainly experiencing formal changes in the wake of phenomena that, at the end of the twentieth century, seemed limited to Black British culture, in particular to social protest movements, as in the case of dub poets.

Our panel intends to question what it means to write the sound dimension into poetic works, in fiction, theatre, radioplays, films and TV series, both as original works and as literary adaptations, in English-speaking cultures. It also aims to explore the way voice and sound are developed and articulated in the new modes of expression generated by the web in online performances, live or recorded, or in webseries and drama podcasts, inspired by literary works or not. Speakers and lecturers are invited to pay particular attention to issues such as multimodality, cross-cultural and cross-genre hybridism, the multiplicity of voices, the ability of the media to recover and revive voices lost in paper archives.

S27	*"Engrafted anew": The survival of Romanticism in English Modernist literature*
	Convenors: Serena Baiesi (serena.baiesi@unibo.it) Paolo Bugliani (paolo.bugliani@fileli.unipi.it)

Against the backdrop of the general assumption of Modernist literature as the most un-Romantic literary period in the English tradition, we wish to investigate the ways in which the literary heritage of the Romantic age actually survived and developed into the first half of the 20th century. Countering T. S. Eliot's notorious discarding of the Romantic poetical tradition in favour of the more controversial 17th-century Metaphysical canon, the intention is to explore how Modernist authors – from the most evident case of W. B. Yeats to the less perspicuous ones of Virginia Woolf, James Joyce and E. M. Forster – were not only influenced, but even straightforwardly engaged in a process of active reworking of the legacy of early 19th-century aesthetics and poetics, both in prose and in verse.

We therefore invite proposals on the echoes, remediations, rewritings of romantic masterpieces and Romantic authors by Modernist writers. We are seeking single-author investigations dedicated to Modernist authors and their Romantic 'debts', but we are also open to general studies on the various aspects of the complex process of preservation, negotiation, and elaboration of the Romantic heritage. Proposals could also focus on re-workings of 'Romantic' genres such as autobiography, the periodical essay, the *Künstlerroman,* as well as on the parody of distinctive poses including contemplative introspection and heroic fervour. What we wish to bring up is a challenging, hopefully fruitful, dialogue between tradition and innovation, with a positive intent of renewal replacing Eliot's rupture.

S28	*Teaching and researching Romantic-era Literature: Articulating the 'right to have rights'*
	Convenors: Franca Dellarosa (franca.dellarosa@uniba.it) Carlotta Farese (carlotta.farese@unibo.it)

As scholars and students of Romanticism, we know what we continue to witness today is not new, but part of a longer history of violence and exploitation with which it is entwined. The Romantic era was a time when modern ideas of freedom were first thought and poetized systematically; it was also a time of empire and the Middle Passage, of the enslavement and colonization of non-European peoples across the globe. (Youngquist and Wang: 2020) The Romantic Circles statement of solidarity with the Black Lives Matters movement highlights some of the crucial connections backwards and forwards that define the Romantic era as a phase quintessentially at the crossroads of modernity, and therefore as an ideal locus for the elaboration of research and teaching practices that are ready to respond to the challenges of present-day academic, cultural and political circumstances. The current, profound reshaping of Romantic studies as a discipline has entailed a redefinition of both objects and methods, bringing previously marginalized areas and silenced subjects to the fore, and has thus challenged the way in which canonical texts are studied, as well as the notion itself of canon. This Seminar invites proposals discussing both research and teaching experiences engaging in this conversation. Papers focusing on Romantic-era and including long-eighteenth-century literary responses to coterminous discourses of human rights and disability, where early figurations of the 'right to have rights' (Arendt 1951) take literary shape, are especially welcome.

S29	*Early Modern English representations of mental illness and their afterlife*
	Convenors: Alice Equestri (ali.equestri@gmail.com) Emanuel Stelzer (emanuel.stelzer@univr.it)

The portrayal of mental illness and intellectual disability in early modern drama and literature has attracted many strands of scholarship (new historicism, psychoanalytic literary criticism, affect theory, disability studies, etc.). Such representations were informed by the medical discourses of their time, and followed (and sometimes questioned) conventions of various kinds. The canonical status of Shakespeare and, to a lesser degree, the depiction of intellectual disability by other early modern English authors have been exploited multiple times for the validation and enforcement of pathologising and criminalising practices. The links between fictional representations of such disabilities and the history of science are ideologically fraught, and their interpretation can have serious political and social consequences. This panel aims at exploring some examples of such nexuses.

S30	*Merging voices: Classical and biblical intersections in Early Modern English literature*
	Convenors: Camilla Caporicci (camilla.caporicci@gmail.com) Cristiano Ragni (cristianoragni@yahoo.it)

The classical and biblical traditions can be defined as the two pillars of Renaissance European culture. Their respective role in the development of early modern thought, art, and literature has been vastly explored, and early modern England makes no exception. Yet, these two traditions, and their impact on Renaissance culture, are usually conceived and studied separately, subject to some sort of disciplinary segregation (at least partially deriving from Burkhardt's conceptualization of the Renaissance as a moment of secularization) which tends to consider the classical heritage as somewhat antithetical to the biblical, and more generally religious one.
Starting from the assumption that the classical and biblical traditions did not, in fact, represent two opposite and impermeable sources for Renaissance intellectuals, but rather established a deep and complex dialogue with each other, this seminar aims to explore the intersections between the two

traditions in the literary output of early modern England.

Among the great variety of possible topics, participants may like to consider:

- the intersection of scriptural and classical languages, references and imagery in the literary production of early modern English authors
- the influence of biblical narratives and religious theatre on the early modern reception, rewriting, and performance of classical drama
- the interaction of classical and scriptural models in the tradition of love lyric and epic poetry
- the role of Ovid: Ovid moralized through the Scripture; the Scripture eroticized through Ovid
- the role of religious and classical models in philosophical, political, and didactic literature
- the intersection of religious and classical models in the dictionaries, grammars, and school textbooks used by early modern intellectuals
- the classification and discussion of biblical and classical texts in Renaissance Artes Poeticae
- theological approaches to literary texts and/or literary approaches to religious texts
- the mediation offered by classical literature to tackle issues of religious diversity
- the use of classical rhetorical strategies – such as, fictionalization or persuasion – in the literary output and/or paratexts (introductions, dedicatory epistles, etc.) produced by religious authors to present and/or defend their faith/conversion

S31	*Writing Rights: dignity, human rights and literature*
	Convenors: Roberto Baronti Marchiò (r.baronti@unicas.it) Andrea Peghinelli (andrea.peghinelli@uniroma1.it)

Over the course of the past couple of decades, the response to the rise of human rights consciousness has been significantly interdisciplinary. Scholars with different backgrounds such as literary studies, social sciences, history, law, and philosophy have all diversely focused their research through the lens of human rights issues. Literature and human rights, nonetheless, have proved to be an emerging field of research through which investigate how human rights circulate in the social imaginary, and question what is – and has been – at the basis of our world's moral (but also political and social) framework, that is, what it means to be human or to be denied humanity. As a matter of fact, of the many transcultural storytelling forms, Literature is by far the most pervasive and has the longest tradition. This peculiar role of literary texts to resonate with voices, to reinforce and amplify them, has been interpreted in a great and rich variety of inflections. Indeed, if the use of (personal) narratives to represent various form of inhumane treatment is important in sharpening our sensitivity to the idea of right, and in supporting our understanding of the complexity and contrasts among cultural representations of rights, it could also lead to usurping the other's voice. For instance, how and why do fictional representation of minorities, (religious, ethnic, gender, etc.) reverse, defy, or conform to moral principles over the time?

Moving through a range of issues central to the development of contemporary rights thinking – slavery, empire, women's rights, refugees, labour rights, disabilities, torture, censorship – we ask for contributions in literature and human rights that will explore the relationship between ethics and aesthetic, narrative and representational strategies.

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S32	*Crossing Borders and Redefining Contexts. Current trends and performative languages in contemporary British theatre*
	Convenors: Cristina Cavecchi (cristina.cavecchi@unimi.it) Adele D'Arcangelo (adele.darcangelo@unibo.it)

The seminar aims to investigate current trends in contemporary British theatre and the variety of performative languages and transpositions it undergoes. We invite papers that might illuminate on how different performative practices can redefine the landscape of contemporary British theatre and that examine performative and theatrical events from different angles of vision with specific attention given to how plays or theatrical events change and develop through translation both from a linguistic and semiotic perspective. Papers investigating the concept of Crossing Borders considering aspects such as language/s, time, space and memory are welcome.

S33	*Posthuman imaginaries in contemporary literature*
	Convenors: Silvana Colella (silvana.colella@unimc.it) Laura Colombino (laura.colombino@lingue.unige.it)

In the age of advanced technological mediation, who or what is 'human', as Rosi Braidotti has argued, has become debatable. How does contemporary literature interrogate the posthuman condition? We seek paper proposals that address any aspect of the literary engagement with the cultural and social imaginaries affected by and, in turn, affecting scientific and technological developments. How do literary texts imagine what lies beyond the human? What role do ethical concerns play? How is agency, human or otherwise, represented in relation to the performance of technoscience? Cyborgs, robots, androids populate the pages of science fiction texts, but they are also increasingly present in what is marketed as 'literary fiction', as in Ian McEwan's and Jeanette Winterson's latest novels. Is the increasingly pervasive reality of 'artificial life' inspiring new and hybrid genres of writing? We also welcome submissions that consider the posthuman condition in relation to the environmental crisis, disaster narratives, post-apocalyptic visions of the future.

The focus will be on literature but gesturing towards larger cultural imaginaries influenced by scientific and technological developments. Proposals should address one or more of the following topics:

- 'cognitive capitalism' or 'research capitalism' based on the knowledge of the informational codes of matter (biogenetic and/or algorithmic);
- agency and ethics: the replacement of the human by algorithmic forms of decision making; data harvesting; the transformation from human consumer into inhuman data;
- literature suggesting ways in which ethics might be reconfigured and expanded for a posthuman age;
- transhumanism; the speculative nature of scientific paradigms;
- representations of human-robot interaction;
- new brain sciences and the problem of (post)human consciousness;
- the posthuman convergence: the Golden Age of sciences coupled with the environmental crisis;
- neuroscience, AI and the humanities: revisitations of the two cultures debate;
- the boundary between science fiction and fact in contemporary debates over the posthuman;
- evolution in the literary genres of the posthuman: from science fiction and dystopia to speculative/alternative history?

S34	*The poetics and politics of experimentation on the early modern stage*
	Convenors: Fernando Cioni (fernando.cioni@unifi.it) Keir Elam (elam@lingue.unibo.it; keirdouglas.elam@unibo.it)

The early modern English stage has long been recognized as a historical and cultural crossroads of innovative artistic practices. It drew at once upon new methods of architectonic construction, new modes of multimedia performance, a new mixed-genre conception of dramatic writing, not to mention new forms of audience behaviour.

The seminar will explore how an overall approach towards experimentation - architectural, scenic, performative and dramaturgic, as well as social - was at the basis of the intermedial encounters of Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre. It will also enquire into the ways in which 'experimental' theatre frequently took on political implications, sometimes with serious consequences for the artists concerned.

The convenors of this seminar invite papers exploring how Shakespeare and his contemporaries – dramatists and other artists - contributed to a new poetics and politics of experimentation on the stage. Possible topics are:

- Experimenting new performative practices on the early modern stage
- The poetics of experimentation in Shakespeare's late plays
- New ways of staging history
- Blood on the stage: the shock of the new
- The poetics and politics of emerging genres
- The political fallout of early modern stage experimentation
- How to play for Queen and King
- New audience roles

S35	*In Shakespeare's words: domesticating the Bard through the centuries*
	Convenors: Paolo Caponi (p.caponi@unimi.it) Roberta Grandi (r.grandi@univda.it)

In the dedication to the First Folio, Ben Jonson affirmed that Shakespeare "was not for an age but for all time," and no prediction has ever proved more accurate. The forms of appropriation of the Bard's words are countless, ranging from adaptations to rewritings, from parodies to melodramas, from forgeries to plagiarism. Shakespeare's plays and poems have moved from the wooden stage and the paper, to the radio, the film and other media.

Bur every age has had its own Shakespeare, bending his words – and meanings – to cater for different audiences, fashions and purposes. The Bard has been domesticated, softened and "cleaned up" for propriety's sake or toughened and sharpened for the activist. His tragedies have become burlesques, his romances, cartoons and Shakespeare himself has been turned into a character. Actors, directors and playwrights have hidden under his shadow, become great by his name, or even stolen his words.

Thus, every Shakespearian appropriation tells us a lot about how Shakespeare has been read and (mis)understood in a certain age and place but it also acts as a powerful mirror of that culture and society. We invite papers that will explore any forms of Shakespeare afterlife studying them as cultural artefacts and analysing the strategies, aims and effects of the domestication of the Bard's words.

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