
Notes on Contributors

Maria Cristina Aiezza is Associate Professor in English Language, Translation, and Linguistics at the University of Naples L'Orientale. She holds a PhD in English for Specific Purposes from the University of Naples Federico II, with a corpus-assisted study on the discourse of Corporate Social Responsibility reports. Her research interests include digital text genres, populism in political messages, environmental discourse, academic discourse, digital participation on issues of collective interest through social media and e-petitions, hate speech, online popularisation, institutional and corporate discourses in times of crisis. She is involved in the PRIN 2022 project admitted for national funding “ECHOES: English Studies to Contrast Hate Online and Enhance Solidarity”.

Giuseppe Balirano, PhD in English Linguistics, is Professor of English Language, Translation and Linguistics (ANGL-01/C) at the University of Naples L'Orientale, where he was also Director of the University Language Centre (CLAOR), and is Rector's Delegate for Lifelong Learning, E-learning and Multimedia Enhancement. He is the President of the Italian Association for the Study of English (AIA). He is also the Director of the monitoring group on hate speech online at the University of Naples L'Orientale and PI of the PRIN 2022 Project admitted for national funding titled “ECHOES. English studies to Contrast Hate Online and Enhance Solidarity”. He is the BeTwiXt series director, publishing original monographs in the field of linguistics and communication studies. His research interests and publications lie in the fields of multimodal critical discourse studies, humour, masculinity and queer studies, the discursive representation of organised crime, and audio-visual translation.

Fabio Cangero is a PhD student in English Language and Linguistics (ANGL-01/C) in the PhD programme in *Mind, Gender and Language* at the University of Naples Federico II, where he also works as an EFL Tutor at the University Language Centre (CLA). His research focuses on the discursive representation of Foreign Language Anxiety (FLA) and explores the variables determining FLA through Critical Discourse Studies and Corpus Linguistics methodologies. His interests also extend to media discourse analysis, with special attention to the reproduction of ideologies in texts. His recent publications include *Overcoming the Affective Filter in Computer-Assisted Language Learning: Using Padlet and Virtual Walls in EFL Teaching* (2024); and *Unspoken Stories Underlying Europe: The Multimodal and Multidiscursive (Mis)Construction of Eastern Europe* (2022).

Francesca D'Angelo is Junior assistant professor (RTD-a) in English Language, Translation and Linguistics (ANGL-01/C) at the *Alma Mater Studiorum*, University of Bologna (Department of Translation and Interpreting) and adjunct lecturer at the University of Naples L'Orientale. She conducted her Ph.D. study on Third Language Acquisition between the University of Salerno and the University of Edinburgh. She is specialised in bilingualism, ESPs, translanguaging, translation, and gender studies from a sociolinguistic perspective. She has been a consultant with expertise in gender-fair linguistic strategies and women's rights in academia at the “Observatory for the Dissemination of Gender Studies and the Culture of Equal Opportunities” (OGEPO), University of Salerno. Among her most recent works: *Teaching and Learning Third Languages* (2023); *Assessing Translation Quality: A Survey of Research into Human Translation, Post-editing and Machine Translation* (2023); *Integrating Multilingual Practices in Content and Language(s) Integrating Learning* (2024).

Maria De Santo is PhD candidate in English Language, Translation and Linguistics (ANGL-01/C) at the University of Naples L'Orientale. Her research project focuses on the integration of corpus-based research with English Language Teaching (ELT), English for Academic Purposes (EAP), and online

assessment. She has published extensively on learner autonomy and technology-enhanced language learning in English, ESP and CLIL. Her current research interests explore the construction of gender identity in online medical communication, digital discourses on mental health, and the multimodal representation of disability in film.

Roberto Esposito holds a PhD in Literary, Linguistic and Comparative Studies from the University of Naples L'Orientale, obtained with a thesis in English Language and Linguistics that investigates processes of meaning-making and representation in drag queens' identity construction and negotiation, with a focus on the TV show *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Currently, he is adjunct professor of English Language on courses in International Relations (L'Orientale) and Primary Education Sciences (University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli). His research interests mainly concern the interplay between social semiotics and intersectionality, observed through lenses of Stylistics, Multimodality, and Critical Discourse Analysis.

Antonio Fruttaldo, PhD in English for Special Purposes (ESP), is Associate Professor of English Language, Translation and Linguistics (ANGL-01/C) at the University of Sannio. His research interests lie in the intersection between different methodological approaches, such as Corpus Linguistics, (Critical) Discourse Analysis, and Genre Analysis (among others). His research has mainly focused on media discourse – in particular, on digital media and news discourse. His most recent publications include *Identity Construction and Negotiation in Academic Discourse: Investigating Disciplinary Identities* (2024); *The Emotional Labour of Beauty Standards* (2022); *The Representation of Camorra Ladies in AVT: Gomorrah – The Series and the Negotiation of Interpersonal Meanings across Cultures* (2021); *News Discourse and Digital Currents* (2017).

Elena Guerra is a PhD student in Education at the Department of Human Sciences of University of Verona, where she investigates Intercultural Competences in the Workplace. She was a Visiting Scholar in Germe, Group for research on Ethnic Relations, Migration & Equality, at Université libre de Bruxelles (2025), and her research interests are focused on Intercultural communication and Diversity management. She is a journalist, media educator, didactic and internship tutor for the Master's in Intercultural Competence and Management. She is a member of the technical-scientific committee of the Master's Degree in European communication, Mass Media and Intercultural Journalism of the University of Verona. She is also a member of the Centre of Intercultural Studies of the University of Verona, and Neg2Med, the University of Verona Centre for Negotiation and Mediation.

Robert Lawson is Associate Professor in Sociolinguistics at Birmingham City University, England. He is a former Fulbright Scholar (University of Pittsburgh, 2012), a former Junior Visiting Professor (University of Jyväskylä, 2019), and a Fellow of the Institute for Research on Male Supremacism. His work focuses on language and masculinities, language in the public eye, and the role of language in radicalisation and extremism. He has published in a number of major international journals, including *Applied Corpus Linguistics*, *Discourse, Context & Media*, *English World-Wide*, *Gender & Language*, *Methods in Psychology*, *Annual Review of Linguistics*, *Social Media+Society*, and *Journal of Sociolinguistics*. He is also the editor of *Sociolinguistics in Scotland* (Palgrave, 2014), co-editor of *Sociolinguistic Research: Application and Impact* (Routledge, 2016), and the author of *Language and Mediated Masculinities* (Oxford University Press, 2023), winner of the 2024 ESSE Book Prize in Linguistics.

Francesco Meledandri holds a PhD in Translation Theory and Praxis: European Intercultural Studies awarded by the University of Bari (2011). After a Research fellowship (2013), he was a lecturer (English

language and translation, 2013-2021) at the University of Bari, Dept. of Humanities, along with ICT solutions for Translation (2016-2021), and IT (advanced course, 2018-2021) at the same University. In January 2022, he was appointed Research Fellow at University of Bari (Department of Humanities). His research interests focus on both language and translation issues covering different topics; furthermore, he has been analysing the growing interest towards communication via social networking platforms in order to retrieve real-time, aggregated bulk of data aimed at investigation of micro- and macro-features of language. Other research areas include Translation Studies, CAT Tools, Machine Translation, and Human-Machine forms of interaction, especially in communication- and language-based terms.

Stella Merlin is a post-doc researcher at the University of Naples Federico II. She holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Verona. Her research interests include historical and comparative linguistics, linguistic variation and change, language contact, metalanguage, and history of Linguistics. Recently, she has also worked on brand names in the communication of sustainable retailing. She teaches General Linguistics, Sociolinguistics and Intercultural Pragmatics at the University of Verona. Since 2020, she is responsible for L!nVersamente, a scientific research and dissemination group, which has published *Piccolo Manuale di Linguistica* (Gribaudo 2022).

Marta Milani is an Associate Professor at the University of Verona, where she is involved in research and educational consulting at the Centre for Intercultural Studies. She was a Visiting Scholar at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) of the University of Toronto, Canada (2011), and her research interests are focused on intercultural education, especially on the development of intercultural competence at school. She is also a member of the Cooperative learning Study-Training-Research Group, where she works as a vocational training expert both nationally and internationally.

Francesco Nacchia, Tenure-track Research Associate of English Language, Translation and Linguistics (ANGL-01/C) at the University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, holds a PhD in (Euro)languages and Specialised Terminology from the University of Naples ‘Parthenope’. He has published extensively on the role of metaphor and specialised terminology in promotional wine-tasting discourse, with a specific focus on personification. His main research interests include Social Media Studies, Corpus Linguistics, Critical Metaphor Analysis, and (Multimodal) Critical Discourse Analysis. Recent works include: *Verbalised Sensoriality or Amusing Embellishment? A Critical Metaphor Analysis of Personification in Promotional Wine Discourse* (2024); *Feminine and Masculine Wines: A Corpus-assisted Critical Specialised Discourse Analysis of Gender Framing in Promotional Tasting-Note* (2023); and *Get a Jab or Grab a Glass (of Wine): A Sentiment and Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis of Reader Comments on News Story in the Daily Mail* (2023).

Maria Cristina Nisco, PhD in English for Special Purposes, is Associate Professor of English Language and Translation Studies at the University of Naples ‘Parthenope’, where she is also a Board member of the international PhD programme in ‘Linguistic, Terminological, and Intercultural Studies’. Her research areas include identity and diversity in news, legal and social media discourse, through the lens offered by CDA and corpus linguistics. She has published extensively on the linguistic and discursive construal of ethnic and gender diversity, migration, and disability. Among her recent publications, “Disability in EU’s Institutional Discourse: An Analysis of Terminology” (2024), “Framing Disability and Sexuality: An Analysis of Instagram Users’ Comments” (2023), the International Journal of Language Studies special issue on “Disability, Shame and Discrimination” (co-edited with Hughes, 2022, 16/4), “Online Abuse and Disability Hate Speech” (2020), “Disability in the Populist Press: An Investigation of British Tabloids” (2019). She is also the co-editor in chief of the international peer-reviewed I-LanD Journal (with Caliendo), and a founding member of the I-LanD Research Centre.

Annalisa Raffone (PhD) is Tenure-track Research Associate (RTT) in English Language and Linguistics (ANGL-01/C) at “Pegaso” Digital University. Her research focuses on the discursive construction of identity and diversity in the media, with particular attention to social media sites, through the integrated approach of various methodologies, including Social Media Critical Discourse Studies and Corpus Linguistics. She has presented her work at national and international conferences and published in edited volumes and leading journals. She is currently examining the discursive construction and representation of disability, online hate speech against minorities, and the portrayal of eating disorders in the media. She also explores innovative digital learning environments, focusing on digital storytelling and its connection to discourse studies and digital game-based learning in EFL school and university settings. Her recent publications include: “Tired of being treated like broken glass to tip-toe around”: Uncovering ableism through PWDs’ voices on social media” (2025), “I didn’t lose any weight this week and it’s a devastating feeling”: Corpus-Assisted Critical Analytical Insights into Anorexia Nervosa Discourses on Social Media Posts” (2024), and “Chi Sono Io? Chi Sei Tu? Costruzione e Rappresentazione Cinematografica della Disabilità in Wonder di Stephen Chbosky” (2024).

Margaret Rasulo, PhD in English Linguistics and MA in Education, is Associate Professor of English Language and Translation (L-LIN/12) at the ‘Luigi Vanvitelli’ University. Her research interests are grounded in a twofold line of research. As a school practitioner, she has conducted intensive research in language education and teacher professional development; as a discourse analyst she has investigated diverse social practices dealing with conspiracy theories, hate speech, political discourse, and discourses of terrorism analyzed from the multidisciplinary approaches of Critical Discourse Studies.

Giuseppina Scotto di Carlo, PhD in English for Special Purposes (ESP), is Tenure-track Research Associate of English Language, Translation and Linguistics (ANGL-01/C) at the University of Naples L’Orientale (Italy). Her research focuses on institutional discourse and gender studies, particularly on discrimination, violence, and misinformation. Some of her most recent works include: “‘Pushing Back Against the Pushback’: WAR and JOURNEY Metaphors in UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ Commission on the Status of Women speeches (*Lingue e Linguaggi* 2023), “Deconstructing Men’s Rights Activism: A Discourse Analysis of D.A.R.V.O. in MRA Discourse on Rape Culture” (*Journal of Language and Discrimination* 2024), and *Violence against Women, D.A.R.V.O., and the UN’s Institutional Courage: A Critical Discourse Analysis* (Palgrave Macmillan, in press).

Beatrice Spallaccia is Junior Assistant Professor (RTD/a) in English Language, Translation and Linguistics (ANGL-01/C) at the University of Bologna (UNIBO), Department of Interpreting and Translation. In 2020, after completing her PhD between UNIBO and Monash University (Melbourne), she published the monograph *It’s a Man’s World (Wide Web)*, which investigates online misogynistic discourse across Italy, Australia, and the USA. She has published contributions on gender representations in American and Italian media discourse, the translation of queer themed literature (EN>IT), and the contemporary anti-gender discourse. She has held courses on gender, language, media, and communication, as well as seminars on translation, diversity, and inclusion.