

## *Research Methodologies in English Linguistics: Foundations and New Directions*

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Università degli Studi di Messina

English linguistics is a discipline with several research domains that has not ceased to develop new directions since its early beginnings (Sindoni & Moschini, 2021). In Italy, such diversity is reflected in the wide range of research areas produced within a series of different epistemologies, as well as theories and methodologies apt to address research questions that span from the understanding of how the English language has been developed out of linguistic encounters over the centuries (Iamartino, 2001) to how this language has changed across varieties, forms of discourses in the private and public domains, situated discourse practices, multimodal performances and events (Garzone et al., 2016). The methodologies used to explore historical, pragmatic, rhetoric, sociolinguistic variation in English texts, discourse and events (Catenaccio, 2012) have been traditionally distinguished into the two broad categories of quantitative and qualitative, even though today many researchers favour mixed approaches to tackle the nuances and complexities of new (including, but not limited to) digital scenarios (Maci, 2020; Sindoni & Moschini, 2021). The former include corpus-based approaches (Sinclair & Carter, 2004), while the latter incorporate more fine-grained analyses that may be discourse-based, as well as with applications of models deriving from systemic-functional grammar, (critical) discourse-based analyses, cognitive approaches, translanguaging, sociosemiotic and multimodal perspectives to the semiosis of communication (Balirano & Hughes, 2020). The combination of quantitative and qualitative methods has been further gaining momentum quite recently, since newly developed AI-based models allow for multimodal observation of a wide range of phenomena (Vasta & Baldry, 2020) that used to be the exclusive field of analyses of computational linguistics.

With this seminar, we wish to increase understanding of how English linguistics, as situated in Italy, has developed its main research foci, from its early beginnings to current and most recent research scenarios. Such perspective combines insights gained from past research experiences and up-to-date tools and heuristics and will therefore help encourage current debates within and around the epistemological boundaries of the discipline.

We welcome proposals of around **350 words** (including references) that address the diversity and range of the methodologies used by presenting empirical case studies.

Our confirmed plenary speakers are:

**Giuseppe Balirano**, University l'Orientale Naples

**Paola Catenaccio**, University of Milan

**Giuliana Garzone**, IULM University

**Stefania Maci**, University of Bergamo

Abstracts should be sent by **June 26, 2023** to: Maria Grazia Sindoni ([mgsindoni@unime.it](mailto:mgsindoni@unime.it)) and Rosalba Rizzo ([rrizzo@unime.it](mailto:rrizzo@unime.it))

Notification of acceptance will be given by **July 27, 2023**.

### *Basic references*

- Balirano, G. and Hughes, B. (eds), 2020. *Homing in on Hate: Critical Discourse Studies of Hate Speech, Discrimination and Inequality in the Digital Age*, Loffredo Editore, Napoli.
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- Iamartino, G. 2001. La contrastività italiano-inglese in prospettiva storica. *Rassegna Italiana di Linguistica Applicata*, 33:2-3(2001), pp. 7-126.
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- Sindoni M. G., Moschini I. 2021. Discourses on discourse, shifting contexts and digital media. *Discourse, Context & Media*, 43, 1-8.
- Vasta, N., & Baldry, A. (eds) 2020. *Multiliteracy Advances and Multimodal Challenges in ELT Environments*. Udine: Forum.