



Chiara Fedriani

Fixed-term assistant professor

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Education and training

2012

PhD in Linguistics

Experiential constructions in Latin A synchronic and diachronic study
University of Pavia - Pavia - IT

2008

MA in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics

The reanalysis of the reflexive pronoun between Latin and Old Italian -
110/110 cum laude (with honors)
University of Pavia - Pavia - IT

2006

BA in Classical and Oriental Studies

The development of reciprocal expressions between Latin and Old Italian -
110/110 cum laude (with honors)
University of Pavia - Pavia - IT

Academic experience

2015 - 2017

Post-doctoral fellow

University of Eastern Piedmont - Vercelli - IT
Textual Bilingualism in Latin language contact with Greek in Latin literary
texts from the Classical Period to Late Antiquity

2013 - 2015

Post-doctoral fellow

University of Bergamo - Bergamo - IT
Worked in a project on Linguistic representations of identity. Sociolinguistic
models and historical linguistics

2011 - 2012

Post-doctoral fellow

University of Bergamo - Bergamo - IT
Worked in a project on Language change and language contact in the
Mediterranean A diachronic perspective

Language skills

English

Independent

Latin

Proficient

Ancient Greek German

(to 1453)

Proficient

Basic

Spanish

Basic

Teaching activity

2018/2019

Glottologia e linguistica (56 hours), Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Genoa

Glottologia e linguistica per studenti non madrelingua (25 hours), Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Genoa

2017/2018

Glottologia e linguistica (56 hours), Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Genoa

Glottologia e linguistica per studenti non madrelingua (25 hours), Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Genoa

2016/2017

Glottologia e linguistica (56 hours), Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Genoa

2015/2016

Glottologia e linguistica (56 hours), Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Genoa [as Adjunct instructor]

2014/2015

Glottologia e linguistica (56 hours), Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Genoa [as Adjunct instructor]

2012/2013

Linguistica generale (60 hours), Department of Foreign Languages, University of Bologna [as Adjunct instructor]

2010

Teaching Assistant for the undergraduate advanced course 'Relativism and Uniformitarianism in Linguistics' (Prof. Paolo Ramat), IUSS (Institute for Advanced Studies), Pavia.

2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Teaching assistant for the undergraduate course in Historical Linguistics (coordinator: Silvia Luraghi) at the University of Pavia.

2008/2009, 2009/2010, and 2010/2011

Teaching assistant for the undergraduate course in General Linguistics (coordinator: Anna Giacalone Ramat) at the University of Pavia.

****Thesis supervision****

BA theses (as supervisor): 16 + 14 in progress

MA theses (as co-supervisor): 1 + 1 in progress

Research interests

Historical linguistics (case and argument structure in diachronic perspective, with a focus on argument realization and change in experiential and impersonal verbs; grammaticalization processes; metaphor in Latin and Greek, with special reference to the domain of feelings and emotions; semantic-pragmatic cyclicity in language change)

Historical pragmatics (pragmaticalization, with special reference to the diachronic development of Discourse and Pragmatic markers in Latin, Ancient Greek, and Italian; politeness and impoliteness research; linguistic representations of identity and strategies to position the self and others in ancient texts)

Historical sociolinguistics (with a focus on language contact phenomena between Latin and Ancient Greek: loanwords, pragmatic calques, code-switching; the role played by Greek in Latin drama)

Cognitive historical linguistics (I am interested in the application of cognitivist approaches to Latin, with regard to argument alternation between prepositions and cases, ontological and orientational metaphors in the functional domain of experience, and in Embodiment theory, with reference to metaphors, pragmaticalization processes, and politeness expressions)

Grants

2013 - 2015

Linguistic representations of identity. Sociolinguistic models and historical linguistics

MIUR Research Unit at the University of Bergamo - IT

Participant

The main purpose of this project was to investigate the dynamics of the relationship between identity and otherness by focusing on ancient languages ranging from the Mediterranean area to India, and on the main linguistic and socio-cultural traits of the communities where the same languages were used. These research topics have been addressed by combining historical linguistics, sociolinguistic and ethnolinguistic methodological and theoretical approaches. The aim was to demonstrate that, irrespective of the geolinguistic area and of the diachronic stage taken into account, the linguistic behavior of a given speaker/writer enables to gain information about the speaker's (or the writer's) social status, his/her desire to distance himself from social groups other than his/her own, or to display his/her membership to a given community.

These observations are valid both in a micro-sociolinguistic perspective, focusing on the speaker's and on the addressee's strategies of identity construction, and in a macro-sociolinguistic perspective, privileging the investigation of those communities and social groups involved in processes of linguistic and socio-historical change which entail a reassessment of their collective identity. In this perspective, multilingual societies represent a privileged object of investigation, as they are characterized by multifaceted processes of identity negotiation.

The analysis of the strategies involved in the construction and the projection of linguistic identity in different historical and socio-cultural settings took into account a number of ancient languages considered at significant historical moments. The languages involved belong to the Indo-European family (Greek, Latin, Anatolian and Indo-Iranic groups), also including peripheral areas (Celtic, Slavic, Greek outside the Balkans), with a special focus on the transition towards Romance languages and the Semitic group. The dynamics of language contact between the varieties of each language repertoire and their reflexes on the speakers' attitudes and perceptions have been explored from different micro- and macro-sociolinguistic perspectives. Evidence about patterns of linguistic variation have been provided both by graphical, morpho-phonological and lexical markers and by indications of societal bilingualism, diglossia and language mixing, and their implications for language change. The analysis of empirical data revealed some shortcomings and the potentialities of a set of basic

2011 - 2012

Contact and Change in the History of Mediterranean Languages

MIUR Research Unit at the University of Bergamo - IT

Participant

The project studied the effects of contact and interferences within a macro-geographic area: the Mediterranean. This area helped gain further evidence on analytical models to study current linguistic situations.

The project did not only apply recent models of interpretation such as grammaticalization (Heine & Kuteva 2005) or embedded structure in the matrix language in code switching phenomenology (Meyers - Scotton 2002); the study also verified Thomason's hypothesis concerning the correlation between extra-linguistic factors such as intensity of the contact between bilingual speakers (Thomason 2007) as well as the presence of interferences along the genealogical axis of linguistic systems through a complex work in different Mediterranean areas.

The specific nature of the Mediterranean linguistic area, characterized by a dense and homogeneous written documentation, already monitored from the synchronic point of view by the EURO-TYP and MED-TYP projects, allowed to assess the different linguistic histories genealogically dissimilar but strictly interrelated. Consequently various lines of research identified individual elements within a well-blended zone on the level of the 'external' history.

This is true for the genealogical phyla level (Afro-Asiatic on one hand and Indo-European on the other), such as on the level of groups and families. Ultimately the Mediterranean zone is the most complex geo-linguistic area useful to verify contact strategies and change models occurred during the sufficiently long time-frame which allows the origin of important 'diagnostic' discontinuities split out among levels of grammatical analysis as well as structural processes.