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Department of Romance Languages, Classical Studies and Modern Greek



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Italianistica bucarestina
International Conference at the University of Bucharest
2nd Edition

Language, Literature and Politics
26-27 September 2025, Bucharest

Institutional partners:



CLCC

Centrul de Lingvistică Comparată și Cognitivism
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Call for Papers

Scholars in Italian studies are invited to reflect upon Italian literature and politics, as well as language and political discourse in its various dynamics and historical periods, from the origins of Italian literature to the present day.

Italian writers, poets and authors of treatises have always shown interest in the science and art of governing. They have analyzed politics in order to theorize it or, on a practical level, to support or denounce it. From literature emanating from certain centers of power, towards which it must fulfil a celebratory duty, to literature which embraces a role of denunciation and dissent in relation to regimes and ideologies, several types of ‘political literature’ can be distinguished. Points of reference within this complex topic are a literature that legitimizes politics, a disengaged literature written by intellectuals who isolate themselves from an unacceptable world, a polemical, protesting, subversive, or committed literature (Leonardo Sciascia, Pier Paolo Pasolini), a literature that theorizes politics (Niccolò Machiavelli, Francesco Guicciardini), memoirs and testimonies that reflect the dynamics of power (Silvio Pellico, Primo Levi, the literature of the Resistance) and their consequences on the fate of the individual.

Scholars are invited to submit wide-ranging essays questioning the relationship between literature and politics, the role of the former vis-à-vis the latter and vice versa; syntheses focusing on works reflecting the same ideology (e. g. Italian literature of socialist inspiration); reflections on the literary implications of the writer’s commitment or disengagement towards the problems of the State; essays on the dynamics and strategies of power reflected in literary texts, and punctual analyses on individual works or authors.

Possible, but not restricted, **topics** include:

- hypostasis of political power in literature from the 13th to the 16th century;
- political treatises in the 17th and 18th centuries;
- social, political, religious changes reflected in the works of the Enlightenment;
- political aspects in the early 19th century Italian novel;
- revolutions, wars and conflicts in literature; patriotic literature;
- theatre and politics: the political use of theatre;
- Italian literature during fascism, on fascism, during the “Anni di Piombo” (writers, essayists, magazines); literature of and about the Resistance;
- responsibility and political engagement of the writer; commitment and disengagement;
- ideologies and politics in Italian literature;
- praise literature and modes of praise;
- paratext and manipulation; politicization of literature;
- censorship and self-censorship;
- utopias and dystopias in Italian literature;
- politics and women’s literature; women of power in Italian literature;
- political and social aspects in current literature: the foreigner, migration, national identities, globalisation, *métissage*, political, cultural and social turmoil;
- editorial policies.

From a linguistic perspective, the conference will welcome original contributions of political discourse analysis from corpora of different historical periods, including contemporary ones. Any linguistic aspect, from political terminology to the pragmatics of media communication, in monologues or debates, may be subject to analysis.

The studies of Chilton (2003), Fairclough and Fairclough (2012), and the volume edited by Okulska and Cap (2010) are to be mentioned within the vast literature analyzing the multiple aspects of political communication. Clemenzi's recent study (2023), the volume edited by Librandi and Piro (2016), the perspective on the semantic vagueness of political discourse in Paternostro (2021), or McDonnell and Ondelli's (2020) approach to the terminology of populists are to be mentioned in the Italian context.

Possible **topics** include:

- critical analysis of political discourse;
- stylistics and pragmatics of political discourse;
- linguistic features of political discourse in the new media;
- terminology of political discourse;
- problems of translation and interpretation of politicians' speeches.

Prospective participants are kindly invited to submit their proposals in Italian or English by filling in the form available at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-4P9kbzXcDLfCNqoRH8EJH57o6D0PqEO1GwdHRIyWMk/edit> by **5 May 2025** (see further details on filling in the form below).

Literature

- Anghelescu, Mircea (ed.), 2010, *Literatura și politicul*, Editura Universității din București, București.
- Chilton, Paul, 2003, *Analysing Political Discourse. Theory and Practice*, London / New York: Routledge.
- Contarini, Silvia, Quaquarelli, Lucia (a cura di), 2007, *Letteratura e politica nell'Italia degli anni 2000*, in "Narrativa", NS, n. 29, (<https://journals.openedition.org/narrativa/>, ultima consultazione: 30.07.2024).
- Fairclough, Isabella / Fairclough, Norman, 2012, *Political Discourse Analysis: A Method for Advanced Students*, London / New York: Routledge.
- Hermans, Theo (ed.), *The Manipulation of Literature. Studies in Literary Translation*, London & Sydney: Croom Helm, 1985.
- Librandi, Rita / Piro, Rosa (a cura di), 2016, *L'italiano della politica e la politica per l'italiano*, Firenze: Cesati.
- Luperini, Romano, *Gli intellettuali e la critica, l'identità e l'umanesimo nell'età della globalizzazione*, in "Narrativa", n. 28, 2006, pp. 25-38 (<https://journals.openedition.org/narrativa/2438>, ultima consultazione: 20.09.2024).
- McDonnell, Duncan / Ondelli, Stefano, 2020, "The Language of Right-Wing Populist Leaders: Not So Simple", *Perspectives on Politics*, doi.org/10.1017/S1537592720002418, published online by Cambridge University Press.
- Okulska, Urszula / Cap, Piotr (eds), 2010, *Perspectives in Politics and Discourse*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Paternostro, Giuseppe 2021, “Il discorso politico fra variazione linguistica e variazione testuale – Argomentare attraverso la vaghezza semantica”, in: Stephan Lücke / Noemi Piredda / Sebastian Postlep / Elissa Pustka (a cura di), *Linguistik grenzenlos: Berge, Meer, Käse und Salamander 2.0 – Linguistica senza confini: montagna, mare, formaggio e salamandra 2.0 (Korpus im Text 14)*, url: <https://www.kit.gwi.uni-muenchen.de/?p=75070&v=1>.

Tortorella, Aldo, “Appunti per una storia dell’impegno politico degli intellettuali”, in *Italian Culture*, XXIV-XXV, 2006-2007, pp. 183-193. Vargas Llosa, Mario, *Letteratura e politica*, traduzione e note di Roberta Bovaia, Passigli, Firenze, 2005.

Keynote Speakers

Maurizio Trifone, Università degli Studi di Cagliari

Smaranda Elian, University of Bucharest

Andrea Cortellessa, Università degli Studi Roma Tre

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Participation form to be filled by 5 May 2025:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-4P9kbzXcDLfCNqoRH8EJH57o6D0PqEQ1GwdHR1yWMk/edit>

Required information:

- Name and surname
- Email address
- University or organization
- Title
- Abstract (300-500 words)
- Keywords (3-5 words)
- Bibliography (3-5 titles)
- Presentation of the speaker (100-150 words)

Please note: It is not necessary to sign in to one's Google Account to fill in the form, unless one wants to save the progress.

The conference will take place in presence at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures of the University of Bucharest (Edgar Quinet Street 5-7, 010017, Bucharest).

Conference languages: Italian; English.

Participation fee: 90 euro / 450 lei to be paid by July 31st 2025.

Bank account: IBAN RO69BTRLRONCRT0661813701; SWIFT: BTRLRO22

To be mentioned: "conference Italian studies".

The payment can be made in RON or in EURO.

The participation fee includes:

- conference folder;
- coffee breaks;
- lunches;
- publication of the proceedings after evaluation by the scientific committee.

The publication of the proceedings is scheduled by 2027. Further details will be available after the conference.

Dates:

5 May 2025: submission of the proposals

3 June 2025: communication of the evaluation from the Scientific Committee

31 July 2025: registration fee payment deadline

26-27 September 2025: conference

For further information please contact convegno.italianistica.bucarest@lls.unibuc.ro.