



UNIVERSITÀ
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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DELL'INSUBRIA



International conference

Ages2020

Age-Specific Issues. Language, Spaces, Technologies

2-3 April 2020 – University of Milan (Italy)

Invited keynote speakers

Paola Catenaccio
University of Milan, Italy

Barbara da Roit
Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

Virpi Yläanne
Cardiff University, UK

Call for Papers

Following our [Seniors2019 conference](#) on ageing issues, we invite abstracts for papers on 'Age-Specific Issues', as seen in terms of language, space and technology. This conference stems from the inter-university research project [Age.Vol.A. \(Ageing, Volunteers, Assistants\)](#), funded by the [Cariplo Foundation](#) for the years 2018-2021, aimed at easing or removing the linguistic and cultural barriers existing between home-assisted Italian seniors and their non-Italian caregivers – a widespread social phenomenon in Italy – through multilingual digital tools and applications. The Age.Vol.A. perspective is multi-disciplinary, and the project is run by a team of scholars in English linguistics, translation studies, social sciences like anthropology, and science communication.

This inter-university ([University of Insubria](#) and [University of Milan](#), Italy) initiative, with its multi-disciplinary approach and eclectic research team, focuses on seniors or 'older adults' and language and communication issues, but it would like to open this year's conference to inputs about **other age groups** and from any other perspectives that pay close attention to the **linguistic, social, economic and ethical aspects** of (weaker) social groups defined in terms of age. This would allow us to compare different age-related communication strategies and share knowledge about them. Indeed, while globalization phenomena and portable technology seem to be levelling out the world's population in a sort of democratising effect, we are concurrently witnessing trends of social re-grouping according to variously defined criteria, from nationalisms to localisms, from groups of interest supporting or protesting specific causes (e.g. ecology and vaccines), to even smaller groups based on common interests and objectives among the most disparate (Anderson-Levitt 2003, Appadurai 1996 and 2006, Flesher-Fominaya 2014).

Age groups are one such significant phenomenon, not only at the social level but also, for example, in terms of business, with specific products and services increasingly tailored to reach smaller and more specific ages (Yoon 1997, Yates / Patalano 1999, Lambert-Pandraud / Laurent 2010, Dobbs / Remes / Woetzel 2017, Vicentini 2017, Arensberg 2018). Linguistically, sociolinguists have been addressing this theme for decades now, with its approach drawing upon social constructivist tradition, which highlights the importance of language in understanding society and social categories, hence promoting the study of language attitudes, beliefs, and reactions about the use of language (on seniors, see, e.g., Coupland / Jaworski 1997: 70-72), which are related to the theme of identity (Fairclough 1995, Irwin 2010: 100) and migration (Beacco *et al.* 2017, Britain / Trudgill 1999, Extra / Verhoeven 2011). Proposals with a multidisciplinary focus will be especially welcome.

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Scientific committee

Michael Brannigan (Center for Biomedical Ethics Education and Research, Alden March Bioethics Institute, Albany Medical College, Albany, New York), Paola Catenaccio (University of Milan, Italy), Boyd Davis (University of North Carolina at Charlotte, US), Kim Grego (University of Milan, Italy), Federico Pasquaré Mariotto (University of Insubria, Italy), Alessandra Vicentini (University of Insubria, Italy)

Organising committee

Kim Grego, Giorgia Riboni (University of Milan, Italy)

Alessandra Vicentini, Daniel Russo, Moira Luraschi, Giulia Rovelli (University of Insubria, Italy)

We look forward to seeing you in Milan in 2020!

The event is organised by the University of Insubria and the University of Milan as part of the research project "Age.Vol.A. Ageing, Volunteers, Assistants. Multilingual Tools for Assisting the Ageing", funded by Fondazione Cariplo (2018-2021).

Detailed information

- Event **venue**: Università degli Studi di Milano (University of Milan), Milan, Italy.
- **Abstracts** (ca. 300 words plus max 6 references) should be sent as Word files to ages2020@unimi.it no later than 31 December 2019. Notifications of acceptance will be issued by 31 January 2020.
- **Presentations** will be 20 minutes, with 10 extra minutes for discussion.
- A selection of papers from the conference will be **published** following double-blind peer-review.
- The **registration fee** is € 120 and it includes the conference material, all coffee breaks and lunches. A reduced fee of € 100 is available for PhD students, junior and non-tenured scholars. The fee is payable by bank transfer to:

Università degli Studi di Milano. Dipartimento SMeLSI. Conference Ages2020.

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Identification: "Ages2020 YOUR NAME AND SURNAME"

- In case of **multiple authors**, all attending scholars need to register.
- A **social dinner** will be held in a typical restaurant in Milan on the evening of Thursday 2 April 2020. Please let us know if you wish to come in the registration form. The cost of the event will be around € 35 and it will be payable in cash only at the registration desk on arrival.
- You are welcome to send us your **registration form** as soon as you decide to participate, while **payment** is due no later than 29 February 2020. Please send a copy of your payment to ages2020@unimi.it. Your registration will only be final once the payment is received.
- More information will be provided in future circulars and on the conference **website** (<https://sites.unimi.it/Ages2020/>).

**Ages2020. Age-Specific Issues. Language, Spaces, Technologies**
2-3 April 2020 – University of Milan (Italy)**REGISTRATION FORM**

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Role	<input type="checkbox"/> Speaking <input type="checkbox"/> Attending only
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Social dinner 2 April 2020	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Extra guests? Number ____
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INVOICING DETAILS

Conference fee	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard fee: € 120,00 <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced fee: € 100,00 (Applies to PhD students, junior and non-tenured scholars)
Name (Person / Institution)	
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- Autorizzo il trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del GDPR e del Decreto Legislativo 30 giugno 2003, n. 196 "Codice in materia di protezione dei dati personali" ai fini di attività di Ricerca e Selezione del Personale e contatti lavorativi.
- I agree to my personal data to be processed according to the GDPR and the Italian Data Protection Law 196 of 30 June 2003 and used only for the purposes of participation to the Ages2020 conference.

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