

I-LanD Journal – Identity, Language and Diversity

International Peer-Reviewed Journal

Call for Papers for Special Issue (1/2025)

**Workplace discourses in the (post) Covid era.
Linguistic and discursive reflections on well-being**

This Special Issue of the *I-LanD Journal* aims at advancing linguistic research on workplace discourse by exploring the profound transformations in worker dynamics and organizational communication after the Covid pandemic. The issue will be edited by **Laura Di Ferrante**, (University of Milan), **Eric Friginal** (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University), and **Kim Grego** (University of Milan).

Submission of abstracts

Authors wishing to contribute to this issue are invited to send a 300-word abstract (excluding references) of their proposed article in English in MS Word format with keywords (max. 6) and a short biosketch of the author(s) to the Editors of the special issue by **28 February 2025**. Proposals should not contain the authors' name and academic/professional affiliation and should be accompanied by an email including such personal information and sent to workplace.wellbeing@unimi.it. Please use as subject line **“I-LanD Special Issue 1/2025 – abstract submission”** and Cc the I-LanD Journal Editors at giuditta.caliendo@univ-lille.fr and mcristina.nisco@uniparthenope.it. Notification of acceptance/rejection will be sent to authors via email by **15 March 2025**. When an abstract is accepted, the full article should be submitted before **30 July 2025**. The final article length should be between 7,000 and 8,000 words (references excluded from the word count).

Important dates:

- Submission of abstracts: **28 February 2025**
- Notification of acceptance: **15 March 2025**
- Submission of chapters: **30 July 2025**
- Expected publication: **December 2025**.

Description

The Covid-19 pandemic of the early 2020s has unexpectedly, suddenly and dramatically impacted workplace settings as diverse as corporations, public sector entities, and academic institutions. Socially impactful phenomena– such as the so-called ‘quiet quitting’ (reducing one’s effort in the workplace to a minimum) and ‘great resignation’ (an unusually high number of workers voluntarily leaving their jobs, which saw a peak in 2021 following the pandemic) –

emerged or expanded that signalled, at least, a growing uneasiness with one's workplace; at most, a painful discomfort, and that, with possibly no exceptions, required modifications of work routines. A number of contingencies and emergency practices were implemented to facilitate work flexibility, such as telework, distancing and online meetings, some of which were maintained after the end of the emergency, while others were discarded. Whenever those changes became permanent, they had to be regulated by the introduction of new workplace policies. The adjustment to the new conditions, during the emergency, was forced and quick; after the emergency, restrictions were gradually relaxed, allowing employers to potentially dedicate more time and effort to the definition of the post-Covid-19 work conditions. This special issue intends to investigate how the workplace discourse of the early 2020s has evolved and adapted against this backdrop. In particular, it invites contributions that explore the evolving linguistic, rhetorical, and narrative dimensions of workplace discourse during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Issue Editors would thus like to invite contributions on the discourse(s) of, but not limited to, the following topics.

- Corpus-based analysis of pandemic-related workplace narratives
- Evolution of organizational rhetoric before and after COVID-19
- Health and well-being discourse in the workplace
- Linguistic strategies in remote and/or on-site work policies
- Narrative construction of workplace identity in the (post-)COVID-19 era
- Quantitative and qualitative linguistic analyses of new vs. old workplace policies
- Quiet quitting and/or the great resignation
- The impact of the pandemic on different work settings (e.g. corporations, the public sector, the academia)

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The *I-LanD Journal* (<https://archivio.unior.it/ateneo/15279/1/i-land-journal.html>) reflects a commitment to publishing original and high-quality research papers addressing issues of

identity, language and diversity from new critical and theoretical perspectives. All submissions are double-blind peer-reviewed. In fulfillment of its mission, the *I-LanD Journal* provides an outlet for publication to international practitioners, with a view to disseminating and enhancing scholarly studies on the relation between language and ethnic/cultural identity, language and sexual identity/gender, as well as on forms of language variation derived from instances of contamination/hybridization of different genres, discursive practices and text types.