

## Curriculum Vitae Paola Vernillo

### Personal information

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### Biosketch

I am a post-doctoral researcher (Department of Classical Philology and Italian Studies) and lecturer in General Linguistics (Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) at Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna. In my research, I adopt a cognitive approach to the study of language, with a specific focus on metaphors and their use for the representation of semantic contents and abstract concepts.

I participated in several national and international research projects, including MODELACT (MIUR - Futuro in Ricerca 2012), IMPAQTS "Implicit Manipulation in Politics: Quantitatively Assessing the Tendentiousness of Speeches" (PRIN 2017), and MetaphAN "Semantic Biomarkers of Anorexia Nervosa" [MUR (Ministerial Decree 737/2021) – AlmaIdea 2022]. Currently, I am the P.I. of the project "How about metaphors for dinner? A digest of metaphorical conceptualizations in pro-ana communities" (RaAM Research Grant 2022).

### Education

- 2020 Ph.D. in Philology, Italian Literature, Linguistics (curriculum in Linguistics), XXXII cycle, Università degli Studi di Firenze (Double degree in collaboration with Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam); Thesis: Metaphors and actions: an image-schematic approach to the analysis of Italian action verbs' semantics; Supervisors: prof. Alessandro Panunzi (Unifi), Prof. Alan Cienki (VU).
- 2015 Master Degree in Modern Philology (curriculum in Italian Linguistics and Digital Humanities), Università degli Studi di Firenze; Thesis: La variazione marcata di verbi di azione generali ad alta frequenza; Supervisor: prof. Alessandro Panunzi (Unifi); Co-supervisor: prof. Massimo Moneglia (Unifi).
- 2012 Bachelor Degree in Modern Literature, Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II", Thesis: La lingua italiana: norme, usi e abusi; Supervisor: prof. Francesco Montuori (Unina).

### Academic positions

- 2022/2024 Post-doctoral researcher at Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, MetaphAN Project (AlmaIdea 2022) "Biomarker semantici dell'Anoressia Nervosa" (Eng. Semantic Biomarkers of Anorexia Nervosa).
- 2023 Annotator (occasional collaboration contract) for the PRIN Project "Impliciti e strategie di persuasione nel discorso politico: annotazione e analisi del corpus multimediale IMPAQTS" (Eng. Implicit Manipulation in Politics – Quantitatively Assessing the Tendentiousness of Speeches).
- 2020/2022 Post-doctoral researcher at the Università degli Studi di Firenze, PRIN Project "Impliciti e strategie di persuasione nel discorso politico: annotazione e analisi del corpus multimediale IMPAQTS" (Eng. Implicit Manipulation in Politics – Quantitatively Assessing the Tendentiousness of Speeches); in collaboration with the Università RomaTre (prof. Edoardo Lombardi Vallauri).
- 2016 Junior researcher at the Università degli Studi di Firenze, Project "Usi metaforici e marcati dei verbi di azione italiani. Classificazione delle occorrenze del corpus IMAGACT e rapporti con la variazione primaria".

### Research projects

- 2022/2024 MetaphAN "Biomarker semantici dell'Anoressia Nervosa; [MUR (D.M. 737/2021) - Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, bando AlmaIdea 2022, linea di finanziamento A, EUR 24.000 euro; PI: G. Gagliardi; Role: post-doctoral researcher; Financial support to the project: 2022 – 2024.

2020/2023 IMPAQTS (Implicit Manipulation in Politics: Quantitatively Assessing the Tendentiousness of Speeches)”; Università RomaTre – PRIN 2017; P.I.: E. Lombardi Vallauri; role: post-doctoral researcher (2020-2022); annotator (2023); Financial support to the project: 2019 – 2022.

2016 MODEL-ACT "From Individuation to Modeling in Natural Language Ontology of Action. Grounding the Definition of Action Concepts on language infrastructures"; [MIUR - Futuro in Ricerca 2012]; P.I.: A. Panunzi; role: grant-holder; Financial support to the project: 2013 – 2017

### **Grants**

2023 Three months scholarship (Marco Polo program) fully funded by Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, March - June 2024 (3450 euro)

2022 Best research project (in collaboration with prof. Gloria Gagliardi), RaAM, Researching and Applying Metaphor; Project title: "How about metaphors for dinner? A digest of metaphorical conceptualizations in pro-ana communities" (about 2000 £).

2016/2019 Three years scholarship (fully funded Ph.D.), November 2017 – November 2019, Università degli Studi di Firenze (36000 euros).

2016 Six months scholarship, February – July, Università degli Studi di Firenze (6000 euros).

### **Visiting**

2024 Research period (1<sup>st</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> June) at the University of Zurich (UZH), Department of Psychology: Infancy and Childhood; Supervisor: prof. Moritz Daum.

2019 Research period (26<sup>th</sup> June – 31<sup>st</sup> August) at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU), Department Language, Literature, and Communication; Supervisor: prof. Alan Cienki.

2018 Research period (1<sup>st</sup> February – 23<sup>rd</sup> July) at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU), Department Language, Literature, and Communication; Supervisor: prof. Alan Cienki.

### **Additional scientific training**

2019 LOT Summer School 2019, 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>nd</sup> July, Utrecht University, Utrecht.

2019 “Python” seminar, with prof. Lorenzo Seidenari, 6<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> February, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Firenze.

2018 Metaphor Lab Amsterdam Winter School 2018, 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam.

2018 CARLA Summer School 2018 (limited number), 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> August, Institute of Cognitive Science at Osnabrück University, Osnabrück.

2017 Metaphor Lab Amsterdam Winter School 2017, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam.

2017 SIT2017 – VII Edition (limited number), Espansioni del lessico. Nuove parole, nuovi formati, nuovi significati, 13<sup>rd</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February, RomaTre, Roma.

2017 Certificate of accomplishment in “Miracles of Human Language: An Introduction to Linguistics” Universiteit Leiden (Netherlands) on Coursera (online course).

2015/2016 Traineeship at Dr. Wolf s.r.l, Firenze (data gathering and annotation of action verbs), December 2015 – March 2016.

### **Publications**

#### ***International journals (peer-reviewed)***

- 2023 Vernillo, P. (2023). MIP-IT: Identificazione delle metafore linguistiche in italiano. Una proposta preliminare, tra questioni teoriche e problemi pratici. *AION-L* (“Annali del Dipartimento di Studi letterari, linguistici e comparati. Sezione linguistica”), 12, 345-382. ISSN 2281-6585, Rivista Classe A ANVUR AREA 10, indicizzata ERIH PLUS.
- 2023 Cacioli, C. & Vernillo, P. (2023). How did you break that? Semantic Boundaries of Italian and English action verbs encoding breaking events. *Languages in Contrast*, 23(1), 93-120. [ISSN: 1387-6759], (Rivista Classe A ANVUR – Area 10).
- 2019 Bolognesi, M. & Vernillo, P. (2019). How abstract concepts emerge from metaphorical images: The metonymic way. *Language & Communication*, 69, 26-41. [ISSN: 0271-5309], (Rivista Classe A ANVUR – Area 10).

#### ***Book chapters (peer-reviewed)***

- 2024 Vernillo, P. & Gagliardi, G. (in press). Parlare “pulito”. Analisi metaforica delle biografie linguistiche del corpus CHISONO. In Serenella Baggio & Fabio Ardolino (eds.). *Chi siamo, come ci raccontiamo*. Università degli Studi di Trento, Trento.
- 2021 Vernillo, P. (2021). Grounding abstract concepts in action. The semantic analysis of four Italian action verbs encoding force events. In: Mingya Liu, Lucas Bechberger (eds). *Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning, and Application*. Springer series "Language, Cognition, and Mind", 167-194. [ISBN: 978-3-030-69825-6].
- 2019 Panunzi, A. & Vernillo, P. (2019). Metaphor in action. Action verbs and abstract meaning. In: Marianna Bolognesi, Gerard J. Steen (eds). *Perspectives on Abstract Concepts. Cognition, language and communication*. John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsterdam. 215-237. [ISBN: 9789027203182].

#### ***Edited Books***

- 2023 Gagliardi, G. & Vernillo, P. (2023). *IPAN – Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Anorexia Nervosa: Book of Abstracts*. Bologna: University of Bologna – Department of Classical Philology and Italian Studies. URI: <https://amsacta.unibo.it/id/eprint/7248>.

#### ***Conference proceedings (peer-reviewed)***

- 2024 Donati M. & Vernillo P. (in press). Corpus Linguistics nell’era dei Social Media: le nuove sfide poste da TikTok. In Maya Miličević Petrović & Simone Mattiola S. (eds.). *CLUB Working Papers in Linguistics*, vol. 8.
- 2023 Donati, M., Polidori, L., Vernillo, P. & Gagliardi, G. (2023). Building a corpus on Eating Disorders from TikTok: challenges and opportunities. In: Federico Boschetti, Gianluca E. Lebani, Bernardo Magnini & Nicole Novielli (eds.). *CLiC-it 2023 Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics, CEUR WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS*, vol. 3596. <https://ceur-ws.org/Vol-3596/short10.pdf>
- 2023 Vernillo, P., Donati, M. & Gagliardi, G. (2023). Metaphors and anorexia nervosa: a research study on TikTok recovery accounts. In: Gloria Gagliardi, Paola Vernillo (eds). *IPAN “Intersiplinary Perspectives on Anorexia Nervosa*, pp. 47-48. URI: <https://amsacta.unibo.it/id/eprint/7248>.
- 2019 Vernillo, P. (2019). The role of the image schemas in the analysis of the semantic variation of action verbs. Data from IMAGACT. In: Oliver Kutz, Maria Hedblom (eds). *Tricolore 2018. Creativity-Cognition-Computation*. Bozen-Bolzano, 13 – 15 December, 2018. [ISSN: 1613-0073].
- 2017 Vernillo, P. & Panunzi, A. (2017). Analisi della variazione marcata di verbi di azione generali ad alta frequenza nell’italiano parlato. In: Anna De Meo, Francesca Dovetto (eds). *La comunicazione parlata. Spoken Communication*. Napoli 2016. Aracne Editrice, Roma, 469-489. [ISBN: 978-88-255-2064-4].

#### ***Linguistic resources***

2023 Donati, M., Vernillo, P., Polidori, L., Gagliardi G., 2023, RAC - Recovery from Ana/Anorexia Corpus, ILC-CNR for CLARIN-IT repository hosted at Institute for Computational Linguistics "A. Zampolli", National Research Council, Pisa".

2023 Donati, M., Vernillo, P., Polidori, L., Gagliardi G., 2023, PAC - ProAna/Anorexia Corpus, ILC-CNR for CLARIN-IT repository hosted at Institute for Computational Linguistics "A. Zampolli", National Research Council, Pisa".

### **Editorial service**

2023 Reviewer for "Folia Linguistica", De Gruyter Mouton. [ISSN: 0165-4004].

2022/2023 Reviewer for "Language Resources and Evaluation", SpringerNature. [ISSN: 1574020X].

2020/2022 Editorial Assistant for "CHIMERA, Revista de Corpus de Lenguas Romances y Estudios Lingüísticos" [ISSN: 2386-2629].

2020/2022 Reviewer for "CHIMERA" [ISSN: 2386-2629].

2021 Reviewer for "Italiano LinguaDue" [ISSN: 2037-3597].

2020 Reviewer for "Review of Cognitive Linguistics" [ISSN 1877-9751 | E-ISSN 1877-976X].

2019 Reviewer for "Lingua" [ISSN: 0024-3841].

### **Organization of conferences and involvement in scientific committees**

2024 Scientific committee: "PhD CLUB", 4<sup>th</sup> June, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna.

2023 Scientific committee: "The Seventh Image Schema Day", 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> September, "20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning" (KR 2023), Rhodes.

2023 Organizer and scientific committee: "IPAN - Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Anorexia Nervosa", 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Unibo, Bologna.

2022 Organizer and scientific committee: CARLA 2022, "Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning, and Application", HU Berlin (22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022).

2021 Scientific committee: "The sixth Image schema day", 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> January (postponed to 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022), Jönköping University, Jönköping.

2021 Organizer, chairperson, and scientific committee: CARLA 2021, "Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning, and Application", 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September (virtual event).

2018 Invited chairperson for "Metaphors and religion" session, 30<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September, Metaphor Festival 2018.

### **Seminars and conference presentations**

#### ***Oral talks***

2023 Circolo linguistico dell'Università di Bologna, Club day 2023, "Il metodo nella ricerca linguistica: sfide e soluzioni", 29<sup>th</sup> June; Oral talk (with Melissa Donati and Prof. Gloria Gagliardi): "Corpus linguistics nell'era dei social media: le nuove sfide poste da TikTok".

2020 UkCLC conference (virtual event); 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July; Oral talk (with dr. Rossella Varvara): "Semantic similarities and action events. An image-schematic approach to the linguistic categorization of action space".

2020 "SLE" conference (virtual event); 26<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September; Oral talk (with dr. Rossella Varvara): "The linguistic categorization of actions: an image-schematic approach".

- 2019 “Nuove prospettive nella ricerca sulle metafore - researching metaphor – cognitive and other - autour de la métaphore – au-delà de l’approche cognitive” conference, 13<sup>rd</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May, Università degli studi di Genova; Oral talk: “Metaphors in action”.
- 2018 “12th Conference of RaAM – the Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor” conference, 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June; Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Oral talk: “The action roots of abstract concepts”.
- 2018 “Metaphor Festival ’18” conference, 30<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September, Metaphor Lab Amsterdam (UVA); Oral talk (with dr. Marianna Bolognesi): “How are abstract concepts represented in visual metaphors? Towards a metonymy-based account”.
- 2018 “TriCoLore 2018 - C3GI - ISD – SCORE” conference, 13<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December, Libera Università di Bolzano; Oral talk: “The role of the image schemas in the analysis of the semantic variation of action verbs. Data from IMAGACT”.
- 2017 “Metaphor Festival 2017” conference, 31<sup>st</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Metaphor Lab Amsterdam; Oral talk: “Grounding metaphorical concepts in action”.
- 2016 “Metaphor Festival Amsterdam ‘16” conference, 31<sup>st</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September, University of Amsterdam, August-September 2016; Oral talk (with prof. Alessandro Panunzi): “Action verbs and metaphor processes: data from the IMAGACT ontology of actions”.
- 2016 “GSCP 2016” conference, 13<sup>rd</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June, Università degli studi di Napoli Federico II; Oral talk: “La variazione marcata dei verbi di azione nella lingua parlata: usi metaforici e fraseologici”.
- 2016 “Advances in Metaphor studies” conference, 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Università degli Studi di Genova, May 2016; Oral talk (with prof. Alessandro Panunzi): “Metaphor in Action: How Action Verbs Encode Abstract Meanings”.

### ***Posters***

- 2023 “GSCP” Conference, 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June, Università di Roma “La Sapienza”; Poster (with Prof. Gloria Gagliardi and Melissa Donati): “Metafore e Anoressia Nervosa: uno studio su comunità italofone pro-ana”.
- 2023 “IPAN - Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Anorexia Nervosa” Conference, 26<sup>th</sup> May 202, Università di Bologna; Poster (con Gloria Gagliardi e Melissa Donati): “Metaphors and anorexia nervosa: a research study on TikTok recovery accounts”.
- 2021 “Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning, and Application” workshop (virtual event), 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September; Poster (with Caterina Cacioli): “Breaking events: semantic categorization of action concepts in English and Italian. Focus on the metaphorical potential of action verbs”.
- 2018 “Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning, and Application” workshop, 11<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>nd</sup> August, Institute of Cognitive Science at Osnabrück University; Poster: “Grounding abstract concepts in action”.
- 2016 “MODELACT Conference”, 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June, Roma, CNR, June 2016; Poster: “Marked annotation of high-frequency general action verbs”.

### ***Seminars***

- 2023 MA Seminar “Metaphors, metonymies and other tropes in the visual mode”, 28<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (online class).
- 2023 MA Seminar “Azioni, metafore e Image schema”, 13<sup>th</sup> October, Università degli Studi di Firenze.

- 2023 Educational event “AperiScienza”, Aspettando la Notte Europea dei Ricercatori, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, 6<sup>th</sup> September; Invited talk: “In-verso. Le metafore dell’anoressia nervosa”.
- 2022 MA Seminar “The Power of Metaphor”, 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (online class).
- 2022 Crash course in Semantics (2 hours), Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, First Level Master in Clinical Linguistics.
- 2022 Crash course in Pragmatics (2 hours), Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, First Level Master in Clinical Linguistics.
- 2021 MA Seminar “The Power of Metaphor”, 30<sup>th</sup> November, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (virtual lesson), November 2021; Oral talk: “Visual Metaphors”.
- 2021 Ph.D. Seminar “Il significato linguistico tra cognizione e corporeità: modelli sperimentali e statistico-computazionali (in collaboration with prof. Alessandro Panunzi), 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June, Università degli Studi di Firenze.
- 2019 MA Seminar “The Power of Metaphor”, 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
- 2018 Language, use, and cognition research group meeting (VU), 5<sup>th</sup> March; Oral talk: “Metaphorization processes in Italian and English action verbs”.
- 2018 Research meeting, Metaphor Lab Amsterdam (UVA), 12<sup>nd</sup> June; Oral talk: “The action roots of abstract concepts”.
- 2017 Seminar “Metafore e multimodalità: le metafore visuali”, MA in Communication, 15<sup>th</sup> December, Università degli Studi di Firenze.
- 2016 LABLITA seminar; Oral talk: “Processi metaforici nei verbi di azione: dati dal corpus IMAGACT”, 25<sup>th</sup> May, Università degli Studi di Firenze.
- 2015 LABLITA seminar; Oral talk: “Studio sulla variazione marcata di 15 verbi generali ad alta frequenza”, May, Università degli Studi di Firenze.

### **Didactic Activity**

#### ***Roles***

- 2022/2024 Lecturer in General Linguistics (9 cfu, 60 hours), Group C, BA course, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna.
- 2021/2022 Honorary Fellow in General Linguistics (Member of the examination committee; It., Cultrice della materia), Università degli Studi di Firenze.
- 2020/2022 Tutor in General Linguistics (L/LIN 01), BA course, in collaboration with prof. Marianna Bolognesi, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna.

#### ***Thesis supervision***

- 2023 Co-supervising 1 MA student, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Faculty of Italian Studies and European Literary Cultures; Candidate: Ludovica Polidori; Thesis: “in preparation”.
- 2023 Co-supervising 1 MA student, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Faculty of Italian Studies and European Literary Cultures; Candidate: Federica Russo; Thesis: “in preparation”.

- 2023 Co-supervising 1 MA student, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Faculty of Italian Studies and European Literary Cultures; Candidate: Alessia Veronesi; Thesis: “in preparation”.
- 2023 Co-supervising 1 MA student, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Faculty of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Culture; Candidate: Alice Braschi; Thesis: “Prospettive della comunicazione non-verbale: dal gesto alla lingua dei segni”.
- 2023 Supervising 1 Student, First Level Master in Clinical Linguistics, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna; Candidate: Maria Pia D’Angelo; Final Paper: “Applicazione MIP a produzioni verbali di pazienti affetti da anoressia nervosa. Il caso della docuserie RAI *Fame d’amore*”.
- 2023 Co-supervising 1 MA student, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Faculty of Italian Studies, European Literary Cultures, Linguistics (Curriculum in Linguistics); Candidate: Marianna Ceravolo; Thesis: “Una proposta metodologica: speaker profiling”.
- 2022 Co-supervising 1 BA student, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Faculty of Language, Literature and Intercultural Studies; Candidate: Gaia Bianchi; Thesis: “Il ruolo del gesto nell’acquisizione del linguaggio”.
- 2021 Co-supervising 1 BA students, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Faculty of Language, Literature and Intercultural Studies; Candidate: Gianna Marchi; Thesis: Analisi del messaggio pubblicitario: storia, semiotica e strategie.
- 2021 Co-supervising 1 BA student, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Faculty of Humanities for Communication; Candidate: Ilaria Brandolini; Thesis: La comunicazione nel mondo animale.

#### **Scientific associations**

- 2023 SLI, Società di Linguistica Italiana.
- 2022 RAam, Researching and Applying Metaphor.
- 2020 SLE, Societas Linguistica Europaea.
- 2018 RAam, Researching and Applying Metaphor.
- 2016 SLI, Società di Linguistica Italiana.

#### **Linguistic competence**

Italian (native)  
 English (proficient)  
 French (beginner)

#### **Informatic skills**

Windows (excellent), Mac Os (excellent), Office and OpenOffice (excellent); LateX (good), R (basic); Elan (basic), Sketch Engine (excellent), Webanno (excellent).

#### **Place and Date**

Pisa, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024