

Curriculum Vitae

Paola Vernillo

Personal information

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Biosketch

I am a post-doctoral researcher at CNR-Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale "Antonio Zampolli" and lecturer in General Linguistics at Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna (Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures). 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), I am part of the project EPICA "Empowering Public Interest Communication with Argumentation" (PRIN 2022), and I am an external collaborator of Kleine Weltentdecker (Dipartimento Developmental Psychology: Infancy and Childhood, Universität Zürich).

Education

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| 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

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| 2024/2025 | Postdoctoral researcher at CNR-ILC, Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale "Antonio Zampolli, PRIN Project "Epica - Empowering Public Interest Communication with Argumentation". |
| 2022/2024 | Postdoctoral 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 | Postdoctoral 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

- 2024 Epica - Empowering Public Interest Communication with Argumentation – finanziato dall’Unione europea – NextGenerationEU – CUP B53D23013230006; Scientific Director: Irene Russo; role: postdoctoral researcher (2024 – 2025).
- 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: postdoctoral 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: postdoctoral 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 (1st March – 31st May) at the University of Zurich (UZH), Department of Psychology: Infancy and Childhood; Supervisor: prof. Moritz Daum.
- 2019 Research period (26th June – 31st August) at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU), Department Language, Literature, and Communication; Supervisor: prof. Alan Cienki.
- 2018 Research period (1st February – 23rd July) at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU), Department Language, Literature, and Communication; Supervisor: prof. Alan Cienki.

Additional scientific training

- 2019 LOT Summer School 2019, 1st – 12nd July, Utrecht University, Utrecht.
- 2019 “Python” seminar, with prof. Lorenzo Seidenari, 6th – 27th February, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Firenze.
- 2018 Metaphor Lab Amsterdam Winter School 2018, 21st – 26th January, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam.
- 2018 CARLA Summer School 2018 (limited number), 6th – 10th August, Institute of Cognitive Science at Osnabrück University, Osnabrück.
- 2017 Metaphor Lab Amsterdam Winter School 2017, 22nd – 27th January, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam.
- 2017 SIT2017 – VII Edition (limited number), Espansioni del lessico. Nuove parole, nuovi formati, nuovi significati, 13rd – 17th 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. Leboni, 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 “Interdisciplinary 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”, 4th June, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna.
- 2023 Scientific committee: “The Seventh Image Schema Day”, 2nd – 4th September, “20th International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning” (KR 2023), Rhodes.
- 2023 Organizer and scientific committee: “IPAN - Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Anorexia Nervosa”, 26th May 2023, Unibo, Bologna.
- 2022 Organizer and scientific committee: CARLA 2022, “Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning, and Application”, HU Berlin (22nd – 24th August 2022).
- 2021 Scientific committee: “The sixth Image schema day”, 20th – 21st January (postponed to 24th – 25th March 2022), Jönköping University, Jönköping.
- 2021 Organizer, chairperson, and scientific committee: CARLA 2021, “Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning, and Application”, 16th – 17th September (virtual event).
- 2018 Invited chairperson for “Metaphors and religion” session, 30th August – 1st 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", 29th 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); 27th – 29th 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); 26th August – 1st 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, 13rd – 15th May, Università degli studi di Genova; Oral talk: "Metaphors in action".
- 2018 "12th Conference of RaAM – the Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor" conference, 27th – 30th June; Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Oral talk: "The action roots of abstract concepts".
- 2018 "Metaphor Festival '18" conference, 30th August – 1st 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, 13rd – 14th 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, 31st August – 2nd September, Metaphor Lab Amsterdam; Oral talk: "Grounding metaphorical concepts in action".
- 2016 "Metaphor Festival Amsterdam '16" conference, 31st August – 3rd 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, 13rd – 15th 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, 20th – 22nd 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, 8th – 10th 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, 26th 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), 16th – 17th 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, 11st – 12nd August, Institute of Cognitive Science at Osnabrück University; Poster: “Grounding abstract concepts in action”.
- 2016 “MODELACT Conference”, 6th – 7th June, Roma, CNR, June 2016; Poster: “Marked annotation of high-frequency general action verbs”.

Seminars

- 2024 Research colloquium, “Metaphors and Anorexia Nervosa: theory, methods, and applications”, 14th March 2024, Universität Zürich (UZH).
- 2023 MA Seminar “Metaphors, metonymies and other tropes in the visual mode”, 28th November and 1st December, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (online class).
- 2023 MA Seminar “Azioni, metafore e Image schema”, 13th October, Università degli Studi di Firenze.
- 2023 Educational event “AperiScienza”, Aspettando la Notte Europea dei Ricercatori, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, 6th September; Invited talk: “In-verso. Le metafore dell’anoressia nervosa”.
- 2022 MA Seminar “The Power of Metaphor”, 29th November, 2nd 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”, 30th 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), 9th – 17th June, Università degli Studi di Firenze.
- 2019 MA Seminar “The Power of Metaphor”, 27th – 29th November, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
- 2018 Language, use, and cognition research group meeting (VU), 5th March; Oral talk: “Metaphorization processes in Italian and English action verbs”.
- 2018 Research meeting, Metaphor Lab Amsterdam (UVA), 12nd June; Oral talk: “The action roots of abstract concepts”.
- 2017 Seminar “Metafore e multimodalità: le metafore visuali”, MA in Communication, 15th December, Università degli Studi di Firenze.
- 2016 LABLITA seminar; Oral talk: “Processi metaforici nei verbi di azione: dati dal corpus IMAGACT”, 25th 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

2022/2025	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: “Progetto E-COO: Caratteristiche acustiche dell’eloquio di bambini con disturbo dello sviluppo della coordinazione motoria (DCD)”.
2023	Co-supervising 1 MA student, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Faculty of Italian Studies and European Literary Cultures; Candidate: Federica Russo; Thesis: “Linguaggio, azione e cognizione: implicazioni delle prospettive Embodied Cognition nei processi cognitivi legati al linguaggio”.
2023	Co-supervising 1 MA student, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Faculty of Italian Studies and European Literary Cultures; Candidate: Alessia Veronesi; Thesis: “Speech Sound Disorders in età evolutiva e lingue d'Italia: l'influenza della variazione diatopica sulle manifestazioni dei disturbi”.
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 <i>Fame d’amore</i> ”.
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; Theis: 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), Python (basic);
Elan (basic), Sketch Engine (excellent), Webanno (excellent).

Pisa, 26th June 2024