



**PHD IN PHILOLOGICAL AND LITERARY, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

PhD Students (R1 – First stage Reserchers)

XL cycle

Carmen Ammendola

Research project:

The Intellectual's writing desk: the studies of Vincenzo Borghini in the Florence of Cosimo I.

Supervisor:

Prof. Roberto Puggioni (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof. Francesco Cotticelli (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II).

Abstract:

The research project aims to provide a critical analysis of the intellectual experience of Vincenzo Borghini (1515–1580). The prior of the Innocenti was a cultural advisor in the service of Cosimo I de' Medici, as well as an important collaborator of Giorgio Vasari, and he was renowned for his vast production, which ranged from the philology of vernacular texts and the history of language to historical, artistic, and antiquarian research, including the design of equipment for Florentine celebrations. The research will focus on the analysis of the corpus of Borghini's autograph manuscripts in order to assess his most significant studies, with particular attention to philological and historical-literary aspects. The use of archive material will also be central to the focus on the relationship between Borghini and Cosimo I, and to the examination of his contribution to the definition of the Medici cultural identity and the valorization of the Florentine cultural heritage.

Pier Luigi Di Cunzolo

Research project:

Questions and Answers of Eusebius within Nicetas of Heraclea's Chain on the Gospel of Luke. Contextual Analysis of the Literary Genre.

Supervisor:

Prof. Jurgen Hammerstaedt (Università di Colonia), Co-supervisor: Prof. Donato De Gianni (Università degli Studi di Cagliari).

Abstract:

This project aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of Eusebius' Questions and Answers within Nicetas of Heraclea's Chain on the Gospel of Luke, along with an exploration of the



literary genre of question-and-answer. It delves into two primary objectives: firstly, to translate and comment the text as transmitted in Nicetas' Chain; and secondly, to deepen the understanding of the questions-and-answers literary genre. Through this project, a more complete version of Eusebius' work is anticipated, shedding light on historical-social dynamics, and offering new perspectives on the genre itself contributing to a better understanding of early Christian literature. The interdisciplinary approach of this project, combining textual analysis with historical and cultural contextualization, promises to enrich the general understanding of Eusebius' contribution to textual exegesis and the development of early Christian literature.

Krystian Kosowski

Research project:

Mitrá/Miθra in Vedic Indic and Avestan Old Iranian, between Männerbund and establishment: An Indo-Iranian deity between inheritance and innovation, in comparison with other warrior gods (Vṛtrahán/Vərəθrayna, Vāyú/Vaiiu, Sauruua/Śarva/Rudra, Tištriia and other).

Supervisor:

Prof.sa Tiziana Pontillo (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof. Velizar Sadovski (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Institut für Iranistik).

Abstract:

The dissertation focuses on the warrior deities of the ancient Indo-Iranian tradition – primarily Mitrá/Miθra – on the basis of the Vedic, Avestan and Old Persian texts. The various functions of Mitrá/Miθra will be examined in a diachronic perspective, especially his role as the guardian of social order and patron of the sacred kingship and establishment army (institutions related to the social group of adult warriors). His character will be compared and contrasted with the other warrior gods (e.g. Vṛtrahán/Vərəθrayna, Vāyú/Vaiiu, Sauruua/Śarva/Rudra, Tištriia), who are associated with the common Indo-European institution of the Männerbund – the transgressive male warrior sodality (particularly associated with the age set of youths), existing parallel and in opposition to the social establishment. A better understanding of the Indo-Iranian Männerbund is expected to be achieved, providing an improved theoretical framework for the study of ancient Indo-Iranian society.

Luca Melis

Research project:

Himerius, Orations: a new critical edition with introduction, Italian translation and commentary notes.

Supervisor:

Prof. Donato De Gianni (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof. Antonio Piras (Università degli Studi di Cagliari).



Abstract:

The research project is dedicated to producing a new critical edition of the complete corpus of orations by the Greek orator Himerius (4th century AD). This edition will feature an Italian translation, a comprehensive introduction and commentary notes. Himerius' work comprises roughly seventy speeches, many of which have survived only in a fragmentary state.

A heuristic investigation will be undertaken to identify additional manuscript witnesses that could supplement those discovered in recent decades, which were not included in the seminal edition by A. Colonna (Rome, 1951).

Special emphasis will be placed on analyzing the relationship between the orator and his literary sources, particularly epic and lyric poetry. Himerius' frequent use of quotations renders his orations a potentially invaluable resource for reconstructing archaic poetic texts. Furthermore, a comparative analysis between Himerius' works and contemporary Latin panegyric literature will be conducted. These issues will be thoroughly examined in the commentary.

XXXIX cycle

Simone Meli

Research project:

Sideralis ratio: Pliny the Elder and the Astronomical Paragraphs of the *Naturalis historia* (2,1-101). Introduction and commentary.

Supervisor:

Prof. Antonio Piras (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof. Donato De Gianni (Università degli Studi di Cagliari).

Abstract:

Thanks to its encyclopedic nature, Pliny the Elder's *Natural History* is a precious source of knowledge of several branches of ancient science. This is also true for astronomy, the topic of §§ 1-101 of book II. The purpose of this research is the production of a detailed commentary to these paragraphs, in order to offer an all-around critical interpretation of both the technical content and the Latin text. The analysis provides an explanation of the astronomical matter, but also focuses on lemmata, iuncturae and notable phrases to emphasize the stylistic peculiarities of Pliny's technical prose. In fact, particular emphasis is given to the study of the vocabulary, as it reveals important features of the author's lexical usage, especially in relation to Greek. The comparison with parallel passages is a key instrument for this research, highlighting links between Pliny's text and that of other authors. This also contributes to the investigation of the sources.



Francesco Testa

Research project ITA/ENG:

Fontes Sardiniae Christianae antiquae .

Supervisor:

Prof. Antonio Piras (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof. Donato De Gianni (Università degli Studi di Cagliari).

Abstract:

This project aims to provide a repertoire of texts concerning early Christianity and its spread in Sardinia through the investigation of the literary testimonies produced by Latin and Greek authors up to and including Pope Gregory the Great.

Each entry will be supplied with a specific bibliographical section, some contextual information and some commentary notes. The focus will evidently be literary: through philological tools our sources will present a critically revised text, some contextual details and an Italian translation.

Furthermore, through such a repertoire it could be possible to create a research hub, so to speak, suitable to stimulate further studies in other fields, such as Sardinian history, Roman history of Sardinia, ancient Christian history, anthropology; moreover, information can emerge not only on local thoughts, events and people, but also on the one hand on local customs and habits, on the other hand on small Christian communities in and from this Island in the first seven centuries. At any case, this kind of dossier will be made available first and foremost to scholars of ancient Christian literature and, more generally, of classical literature: this work thus reveals its aforementioned literary focus.

Alessandra Tonella

Research project:

Mario Tobino's writings on psychiatric hospitals: a proposal for a critical and philological analysis through the study of library and hospital papers.

Supervisor:

Prof.sa Stefania Lucamante (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof.sa Marina Guglielmi (Università degli Studi di Cagliari).

Domenico Vincenzo Tufano

Research project:

The English line of the comedians' journey: influences and echoes of the Commedia dell'Arte on English theatre between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. An historical and Italian perspective.

Supervisor:

Prof. Francesco Cotticelli (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II), Co-supervisor: Prof. Mauro Pala (Università degli Studi di Cagliari).



Abstract:

The aim of the research is to investigate the influences that the experience of the Commedia dell'Arte had on the flourishing coeval era of English theatre at the turn of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and in particular on some plays by those who are considered the major protagonists of elizabethan-jacobean dramaturgy: William Shakespeare, Ben Jonson and Christopher Marlowe.

The preferred perspectives are historical and comparative, including the inevitable analysis of some plays taken as exempla.

The study will start from the comedians' journeys to London as well as their interpretative skills and the characteristics of their dramatic repertoire.

A fundamental role in investigating these influences is also that of the word, not only as an expression of the scenic action, but also as a support to a scenic apparatus that can be considered "essential", rather than "poor", as much with regard to the theatre of the comici dell'arte as to that of the great elizabethan-jacobean theatricalists.

XXXVIII cycle

Mauro Aresu

Research project:

Luxurius' liber epigrammaton: critical edition, translation and commentary.

Supervisor:

Prof. Antonio Piras (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof.sa Francesca Piccioni (Università degli Studi di Cagliari).

Alessandro Giudice

Research project:

The Smṛti of Pitāmaha in the Medieval Indian Jurisprudence. A Critical Reconstruction of the Pitāmahasmṛti and a Critical Edition of the Divyaśuddhi.

Supervisor:

Prof.sa Maria Piera Candotti (University of Pisa), Co-supervisor: Prof. David Brick (University of Michigan), Co-supervisor: Prof. Tiziana Pontillo (University of Cagliari).

Abstract:

My PhD project aims to produce a critical reconstruction of the Pitāmahasmṛti ('Treatise of Pitāmaha'), a Dharmaśāstra text primarily concerned with ordeals. This reconstruction is accompanied by the first-ever English translation and commentary of this text. The original text of the Pitāmahasmṛti, likely composed in the later centuries of the first millennium CE, has not survived in manuscript form. Instead, it must be reconstructed from quotations attributed to Pitāmaha found in Dharmaśāstric commentaries and digests written in later centuries.



This project also includes a critical edition of a text composed in medieval Nepal, titled Divyaśuddhi ('Purification Through Ordeals'), preserved through several manuscripts and containing a significant portion of the verses attributed to Pitāmaha.

Finally, the research culminates in a comprehensive study of Indian ordeals, studied from historical, legal, and religious perspectives.

Lucy McCabe

Research project:

Poetry as oxygen: Eco-perception in the poetry of Antonella Anedda and Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin.

Supervisor:

Prof.sa Stefania Lucamante (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof.sa Giuliana Adamo.

Rita Porqueddu

Research project:

Arthurian romance between verse and prose. The Chevalier aux deux épées and its sources.

Supervisor:

Prof.sa Giulia Murgia (Università di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof.sa Giuseppina Brunetti (Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna), Co-supervisor: Prof. Damien de Carné (Université de Lorraine).

Abstract:

My research project is focused on analysing the Chevalier aux deux épées, a thirteenth-century Arthurian verse romance that has been handed down from a unique manuscript (Paris, BnF, fr. 12603), and studying its sources. The Chevalier aux deux épées has not yet received the critical attention it deserves, nor have its connections with prose romances been adequately explored, starting from the Suite du Roman de Merlin, the Queste del Saint Graal, and the Arthurian compilation known as Yvain en prose or Livre d'Yvain. By studying this group of texts, it is possible to delve into the debate between verse and prose, one of the most relevant issues of contemporary reflection on the development of the forms and genres of the literary history of medieval France. The research aims to conduct a thorough, philological examination of the textual tradition, with particular emphasis on intertextuality, hallmark of medieval literary works. The investigation of the sources of the romance will be complemented by a new interpretative and comprehensive study of the Chevalier aux deux épées, aiming to highlight the richness of the numerous Arthurian motifs and topoi embedded within the text.



XXXVII cycle

Sara Aggazio

Research project:

Thinking otherness, thinking translation. Poetics of translation in Édouard Glissant et Paul Ricœur.

Supervisor:

Prof. Fabio Vasarri (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof. Tiphaine Samoyault (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales).

Abstract:

This thesis aims to question the role of translation in the philosophical and literary reflections of Édouard Glissant (1928-2011) and Paul Ricœur (1913-2005). By bringing together points of convergence and points of divergence, both biographically and intellectually, the research aims to investigate the way in which these two thinkers accompanied their reflections on otherness with a reflection on translation. At the crossroads between literary and philosophical studies, our proposal is to bring together certain notions mobilised by Glissant and Ricœur (opacité/métaphore; trace/mémoire; imaginaire/imagination), inscribing them within their reflections on the relationship between identity and otherness (identité-rhizome/identité narrative; relation/reconnaissance), to describe their reflection on literary and philosophical translation as the result of a poetics. A poetics of translation, then, which we will define as the place where philosophy and literature can meet to rethink both the theoretical and practical discourse on translation, through the inextricable alliance between these two fields of knowledge.

Francesco Donato

Research project:

The 'Chiose Cagliaritanè': critical edition and commentary.

Supervisor:

Prof.sa Patrizia Maria Serra (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof.sa Massimiliano Corrado (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II).

Abstract:

The project aims to develop a new critical and annotated edition of the Chiose Cagliaritanè, a set of anonymous vernacular glosses on Dante's Commedia, preserved exclusively in manuscript 76 of the University Library of Cagliari and likely written by an author from the Arezzo-Cortona area towards the late 14th century. The critical edition will present the entire corpus of glosses, which was partially published by Enrico Carrara in his 1902 edition, while the commentary will analyze the relationships between the Chiose Cagliaritanè and other early exegetes of the Commedia.



Gianluca Landolfo

Research project:

Ecology as a Paradigm of Resistance. The Mining Landscape of Sardinia: Environmental Criticism in Abandoned Industrial Areas.

Supervisor:

Prof. Mauro Pala (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof. Giulio Iacoli (Università di Parma).

Abstract:

This research explores the mining industry in Sardinia as a paradigmatic case of environmental and social exploitation, analysing its literary representations through an interdisciplinary approach that combines ecocriticism, Marxism and postcolonial studies. By examining works by Dickens, Zola, Orwell, and Angioni, this study highlights how mining exploitation reflects broader systems of social and ecological injustice. The research demonstrates that extractivism is not merely an economic phenomenon but also a form of internal colonialism that affects cultural identity and environmental sustainability. In this context, literature emerges as a tool of resistance, offering a critical perspective to understand and challenge the destructive dynamics of capitalism. This thesis contributes to expanding the ecocritical debate by including peripheral areas and suggesting solutions based on fair and sustainable economic models.

Aldo Riccardo Medinaceli Lopez

Research project:

Psychic realism in an unpublished novel by Gamaliel Churata.

Supervisor:

Prof. Riccardo Badini (Università degli Studi di Cagliari), Co-supervisor: Prof.sa Elisabeth Monasterios (University of Pittsburgh)

Abstract:

The thesis, divided into three parts, seeks to bring readers and literary critics closer to the work of an author of fundamental importance for understanding the thought of the South American Andean region. The main objective is to write an introductory study to accompany the critical edition of the unpublished novel *Limeños de la sierra Metafísica del tiempo* (1969). After introducing Gamaliel Churata, the text first sets out the main critical context surrounding his writing, determining that, despite the existence of deep, broad and competent readings of his books (Aramayo 1979, Badini 1991, Bosshard 2007, Monasterios 2015, et al.), there are still gaps in interpretation, with particular attention to the last phase of his literary production between 1957 (after the publication of *El pez de oro*) until 1969. It is precisely in this period that Churata sets out and deepens his linguistic, philosophical and ontological proposal that he himself calls psychic realism (González 2009). It was also during



this period that he wrote the novel *Limeños de la sierra Metafísica del tiempo*, still unpublished.

Veronica Piccirillo

Research project:

Dioscorides' Epigrams. Critical edition, translation and commentary.

Supervisor:

Prof. Jürgen Hammerstaedt (Universität zu Köln), Co-supervisor: Prof.sa Tiziana Drago (Università degli Studi di Bari).

Abstract:

The main topic of this PhD thesis is the philological and literary analysis of most of the epigrams belonging to Dioscorides (an Alexandrian poet who flourished during the second half of the 3rd century BC). Specifically, the first section of this study includes an extensive introduction devoted to the reconstruction of the poet's biography, the identification of his corpus and the examination of both the direct and indirect tradition of his works. In the second section, instead, for each of the epigrams taken into account, this dissertation provides: i) a critical edition, based on the examination of the manuscripts that transmit the Greek Anthology (esp. codex Heidelb. Pal. Gr. 23 and codex Marc. Gr. Z. 481); ii) an accurate translation in accordance with the original Greek texts; iii) a systematic evaluation of their linguistic and content peculiarities (topoi, motifs, ancient models and imitative strategies), aiming at highlighting both the processes of *imitatio cum variatione* and *oppositio in imitando* that characterise a large part of Dioscorides' production, and the influence that this Hellenistic epigrammatist exerted over the following Greek and Latin literary works.