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SCALA LORENZO

La Sapienza University of Rome

Between Self-Management and Statism: The Role of Trade Union Leadership in Socialist Algeria (1965-1968)

The contribution is thematically and methodologically connected to the candidate's doctoral research, which has a historical and sociological focus on trade union elites and senior officials in the public sector of Algeria's socialist economy in the 1960s and 1970s. Specifically, the contribution aims to clarify the link between the political-ideological formation of the leadership of the UGTA (Union Générale des Travailleurs Algériens, al-Ittiḥād al-ʿĀm lil-ʿUmmāl al-Ǧazāʾiriyyīn), elected during the second congress of the organization (held from March 23-28, 1965, in Algiers), and the political positions taken by the trade union center regarding social conflict and government policies during the period from June 1965 (the coup by Colonel Houari Boumedienne against Ahmed Ben Bella) to 1968. This latter period was marked by a severe state-repression against the Algerian left-wing radicals, following the failed coup of Colonel Ṭāhir Zibīrī in December 1967, which was considered linked to the progressive factions within Algerina society. Many trade union militants were persecuted in this period, and the UGTA itself was completely co-opted by the regime by 1969. Above all, I believe that such a contribution may represent a creative application of a historical and materialistic method, according to which specific material conditions (the imperatives of the anti-colonial struggle) led to a specific set of trade union ideologies and political practices.

GUPTA DEEPIKA

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Schooling of Bhil Children: An Intersection between Poverty, Culture and Modernity

The lives of Bhils (the largest Adivasis or indigenous groups in India) are characterized by extreme poverty, frequent forced migration, and poor health conditions. Consequently, Bhil children live precarious and vulnerable lives. In the backdrop of their socio-economic and political marginalisation, my work attempts to analyse the schooling of Bhil children.

School is an institution of modernity that promotes values and ideas related to democracy, science and equality. However, in India, the history of modernity is tied to a colonial past. The politics of knowledge has led to the marginalisation of cultural traditions and historical experiences of Bhils from the official school curriculum. The curriculum prioritises urban, middle-class perspectives, discrediting and demeaning Adivasi lives. School is a site of this struggle where Adivasi knowledge, ideas and values come into contact with 'modern' knowledge systems.

My work attempts to understand: How do Bhil children's home, culture and knowledge intersect with the views on culture and knowledge that the school disseminates? Through formal education (where power is asserted and negotiated), what perspectives do Bhil children develop about their group as well as about India's past, economy and society? Using an interactionist approach, it seeks to examine the epistemological relationship (interaction/negotiation/contestation/distance) between Bhil traditions and the knowledge taught at school.

HOSOI TAKUMA

Tohoku University

Administrative Guidance and Amakudari: A Case Study of Japan's Petrochemical Industry during the Postwar High Growth Period

This research examines the public-private relationship of the Japanese petrochemical industry during the high growth period, 1965-74 by exploring the effects of administrative guidance and Amakudari. In this research, I will focus on the functions of interactions through information sharing based on the network theory and examine them through econometric analysis.

Previous studies have focused on the effects of formal policy instruments such as capital investment regulation by MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industry), which led to an internationally competitive industry, ranking second in the world in 1968. However, the effects of informal administrative guidance and Amakudari were overlooked though these networks influenced the firm's performance through information sharing in the long-term.

As a result, the following two points became clear. First, while administrative guidance had a negative impact on each company's capital investment shares, Amakudari had a positive effect on them, suggesting that the functions of the networks were different. Second, when I examine the logic of Amakudari implementation, profitability did not affect much and the existing Amakudari network was connected to the new Amakudari. Overall, the information sharing channel between individual companies and the government played an important role in industrial policy and industrial development, which constructed Japanese characteristic socio-economic system.

PAOLILLO ALESSIA

Sapienza University of Rome

The concept of multipolarity in the Chinese contemporary discourse: a diachronic quantitative text analysis

The theme of multipolarity has gained increasing scholarly attention in China at the turn of the 21st century, particularly within the discourse of the Nation's intelligentsia. A systematic investigation of the Chinese academic database CNKI identifies two prominent and influential journals that have extensively addressed this topic: *Shijie jingji yu zhengzhi* 世界经济与政治 (World Economy and Politics), published by the Institute of World Economy and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and *Waijiao pinglun* 外交评论 (Foreign Affairs Review), published by the China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing. This study compiles a comprehensive dataset of articles on multipolarity from these journals, covering the period between 2000 and 2012, and organises them into two distinct corpora for quantitative text analysis, conducted using AntConc software and the methodological framework of Corpus Linguistics (CL). By employing CL tools such as frequency analysis, co-occurrence patterns, and syntactic arrangement, this research examines the evolution of the concept of multipolarity within the discourse of Chinese intelligentsia, with particular emphasis on how linguistic and narrative constructions articulate the perspectives of Chinese experts in International Relations. Through this approach, the study aims to elucidate the defining characteristics of China's conceptualization of multipolarity and to assess some preliminary broader implications of this discourse for the Nation's global image, prestige, and pursuit of international legitimacy.

TOSO CAROLINA

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

On the Necessity for a Polyphonic Framework to Study Ādab al-ʿā'idīn

By ādab al-ʿā'idīn — returnees' literature — scholars refer to the literary works penned by Palestinian intellectuals who, following the Oslo Accords of 1993, returned to Palestine after several decades in exile. Yet, if the Accords did represent a watershed causing a shared feeling of disillusion, return journeys were extremely heterogeneous in the forms they took and in the generations of Palestinians they concerned. This paper contends that, if not unpacked, ādab al-ʿā'idīn ends up conflating manifold experiences of return, which in turn produce a wide array of literary responses in terms of formal experimentation, aesthetics and themes. The paper underscores that, in the context of an unexpected return after a forced exile, no two individual trajectories are alike, for they are simultaneously collective and individual. Grasping the significance of this polyphony thus becomes paramount to conduct a comprehensive literary analysis. First, the paper reprises polyphony as formulated by Said (1992) and De Groot (2010). It then interrogates several post-Oslo return journeys as instances of a multifaceted and polyphonic mobility. Lastly, it situates these trajectories in the wider frame of Palestinian literary history and its inherently disjointed character. The overarching goal is to stress that Palestinian literature resists pigeonholing because at its very core are discontinuous yet intertwined narratives.

MOHSIN ADNAN

Heidelberg University

Narrating the War of 1971 in Two Pakistani Novels: Basti and Khaleej

The War of 1971, which involved both wings of Pakistan and India, ultimately led to the creation of Bangladesh and has been explored through various literary lenses. However, few Pakistani novels delve into this theme, offering diverse perspectives. This paper conducts a comparative analysis of two significant novels: Basti (1979) by Intizar Hussain and Khaleej (2008) by Khalid F. Muhammad.

Basti is set in West Pakistan and observes the war from a distance, presenting a detached perspective where East Pakistan is nearly absent. In contrast, Khaleej is situated on the battlefield, directly dealing with the war's sufferings, including gendered violence and the psychological toll of the war.

This paper will argue that Hussain employs nostalgia, silence, and character passivity in Basti to reflect the indifference toward East Pakistan and focuses on the sense of defeat. It critiques the very notion of Pakistan as a cohesive entity, suggesting that the two wings never truly aligned within the framework of an imagined community—and East Pakistan, in this context, was largely unimagined.

Furthermore, this paper will analyze Khaleej as a narrative that highlights the emotional detachment between the two wings of Pakistan, the horrors of war, the exploitation of women, and the psychological impacts on both the general populace and soldiers. While Basti embodies emotional detachment, Khaleej utilizes emotion as a powerful tool to narrate the events of 1971.

PENSABENE PEREZ GIUSEPPE

Sapienza University of Rome

Ğangū and sumbuk: a sociolinguistic analysis of two Sudanese words

Migration, as a human phenomenon, has its own specialized language. Sudanese migrants traveling across North Africa to reach Europe use technical words that acquire specific meanings within the migration context. This study focuses on two such terms: ğangū and sumbuk. The significance of these terms lies in their distinct usage by Sudanese migrants, with ğangū denoting their identity as migrants from Sudan and sumbuk referring specifically to the act of crossing the sea to reach Europe. Both terms encapsulate critical aspects of the Sudanese migratory experience, serving as linguistic markers that reflect identity and practice within the migration journey. This contribution is part of my doctoral dissertation on the specialized language of migration in Arabic. The two terms under examination were extracted from a corpus of colloquial Arabic texts on migration, sourced from social media platforms, which I am compiling as part of my research. The aim of this study is to provide a sociolinguistic analysis of these two words, focusing on their etymology, usage, and the relationship with the context in which they acquire meaning. The findings of this work, therefore, not only contribute to insights into Sudanese dialectology, but also offer valuable perspectives for other disciplinary fields, such as migration anthropology and border studies, since these terms shed light on how migrants navigate, interpret, and articulate their experiences.

CHAN HEI CHING

Heidelberg University

Rooting Home: Hong Kong Overseas Migrants' Funeral Practices and Identities

Home matters in migration, and also after death. While migration is often misconceived as a permanent departure, the Chinese proverb "falling leaves return to their roots" (luo ye gui gen 落葉歸根) aptly encapsulates the enduring desire among overseas Chinese migrants to return to their place of origin. This desire may only become salient in old age, when the question of whether to remain abroad or be repatriated after death takes on both immediate and symbolic significance. Using Hong Kong migrants as a case study, this research examines how diasporic communities grapple with shifting understandings of "home" and the role of death in reshaping these conceptualizations.

Existing scholarship on funeral practices among migrants has largely focused on documenting changes in rites and attitudes. This dissertation extends this field by incorporating an anthropological perspective on home, exploring how the proverb frames home as a dynamic time-space construct shaped by negotiation and contestation. While grounded in the experiences of Chinese migrants, the study also engages with the universal yearning for "returning" embedded in migration processes. Through this lens, it seeks to offer a transcultural understanding of how death rituals reflect broader migrations of both bodies and identities.

CIROTA NICOLETTA

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Cognitive-Linguistic Predictors in Chinese Character Acquisition: Insights from Italian Dyslexic and Typically Developing L2 Learners

This study examines the cognitive-linguistic predictors influencing Chinese character acquisition among Italian dyslexic and typically developing learners of Chinese as a second language (L2). With limited research on dyslexia in non-alphabetic L2 acquisition, this project addresses a critical gap, particularly relevant as Chinese language education expands in Italian secondary schools. A custom-developed experimental battery, adapted from assessments used with L1 Chinese dyslexic children, evaluates key skills such as phonological, orthographic and morphological awareness, Rapid Automatized Naming (RAN), and visual attention.

Preliminary insights from initial data reveal specific challenges for dyslexic learners, who display slower reading times, higher error rates, and reduced RAN speeds in Italian tasks. In Chinese phonological tasks, these learners show difficulties with rime detection, tone accuracy and phoneme inversions, while TDL demonstrate higher accuracy but struggle with tone identification. Dyslexic learners also frequently exhibit character order errors in morphological tasks.

These early findings aim to contribute to cross-linguistic dyslexia research, enhancing understanding of dyslexia's impact in non-alphabetic language contexts. Continued data collection and analysis will further clarify cognitive-linguistic predictors, ultimately supporting improved and targeted educational strategies for dyslexic learners of Chinese L2 in Italian secondary schools.

KATO SHIORI

Tohoku University

The activation of phonological information during visual word processing of Japanese katakana as a syllabic script

Readers of languages that utilize phonograms activate phonological information during visual word processing. The present study employed a masked priming paradigm to examine the time course of orthographic and phonological activation in visual word processing of katakana, a Japanese syllabic script. Behavioral studies of the Roman alphabet (i.e., a phoneme-based script) suggest that phonological activation follows orthographic activation (e.g., Ferrand & Grainger, 1993). However, it remains unclear whether this time course can be assumed in a syllable-based script like katakana. Given the greater transparency (i.e., direct mappings between graphemes and phonemes) of katakana, we expected that phonological activation would occur more rapidly compared to the Roman alphabet. To examine the activation time course, the present experiment manipulated two factors: Prime Type (orthographic-phonological, phonological, unrelated) and Prime Duration (17, 33, 50 ms). We compared the facilitation effects of each Prime Type in different Prime Duration groups. The participants were a total of 134 native Japanese speakers (Mage = 20.5, SD = 1.7), who were randomly assigned to each condition of Prime Duration. Participants performed semantic judgment on the target words presented on a screen while their response times were recorded. We will report the results of the response times and discuss the time course of orthographic and phonological activation in the processing of katakana.

GEBBIA CLAUDIO

Sapienza University of Rome

Neologisms and Motivation in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language

Neologisms constitute a long-standing linguistic phenomenon that continues to attract the interest of scholars and users, and their importance has already been previously recognized by distinguished linguists such as Lü Shuxiang (1984). Numerous studies have focused on their definition and classification, as well as their history, etymology, origin, and morphological and compositional structure, while others have delved into the life cycle of neologisms, their standardization, and the criteria for compiling dedicated thematic dictionaries. The birth, popularity, use, and dissemination of neologisms, especially through internet channels, have made them increasingly present in the daily conversations of internet users and beyond, resulting in many being officially included as entries in prestigious dictionaries such as the Xiandai Hanyu Cidian. However, regarding the teaching of neologisms, in the last twenty years, internationally, the studies produced have been relatively limited. Nevertheless, the issue of the official inclusion of neologisms in the curriculum of Chinese as a Foreign Language (CFL) emerged more than a decade ago (Gong and Hong, 2019). Neologisms, which constitute a linguistic mirror of major social, economic, and technological events, could not only serve as a springboard for teaching and learning cultural content but could also further stimulate motivation in studying the Chinese language. This speech will also present the preliminary results derived by an experiment regarding CFL, neologism and motivation in a school in the United Kingdom.

BERGAMINI MIRKO

Sapienza University of Rome

Official's Education in Early China: a preliminary analysis of Yuelu Academy's Wei li zhi guan ji qianshou 為吏治官及黔首

The *Wei li zhi guan ji qianshou* 為吏治官及黔首 is a Qin dynasty (221-206 BCE) manuscript acquired by the Yuelu Academy of Changsha, Hunan, in 2007. This text was a handbook for imperial officials which focused mainly on two subjects: the correct administration procedures for an official position and the moral values that officials had to follow while administering their posts.

Due to the peculiar format of the written text, scholars have dedicated much research to the structural features of the manuscript, whereas less attention has been paid to its semantic characteristics. The aim of my talk will be to propose a reading of the contents of the *Wei li zhi guan ji qianshou*, based on an in-depth analysis of the text. This analysis will be primarily focused on how the sentences were composed (which will include the study of different rhetoric and prosodic devices, such as the use of rhyme, parallelism etc.), and will aim to contribute to the studies on the text, paying special attention to the way in which its contents have been arranged. The understanding of these matters could therefore help us to better understand the purposes with which the text had been written.

IMPERATO MARZIA

Sapienza University of Rome

A corpus-based study on the postposition of the subordinative clause in the vernacular novels during the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China 1840 – 1928

Ever since the linguist Wang Li expressed himself in the 1940s by claiming that "The Europeanization of grammar has been an event of great consequence in the history of our language" many scholars have begun to study the Europeanization of Chinese from a linguistic perspective. At the lexical level rich results have been achieved, but we cannot say the same for syntax: the most recent studies show that the corpus collected by most researchers is not enough representative and systematic, the data sampling is not sufficiently broad, and furthermore, researchers did not pay due attention to the transition phase between *jindai hanyu* and *xiandai hanyu*, which occurred during the final period of the Qing dynasty and the early Republic of China (1840 - 1928). In fact, the late Qing Dynasty and the Early Republic of China witnessed the rapid development in Chinese society and the old and the new language system were in dynamic change. Among the syntax Europeanized phenomena, one of the most significant is the phenomenon of the postposition of the subordinate clause to the main clause, since it alters one of the bases of the traditional syntactic structure of the Chinese sentence. This phenomenon does not seem to have been taken into consideration in the studies conducted on digital corpora in a diachronic perspective.

FEDI MELISSA

Sapienza University of Rome

Words and their collocations: value and problems of meanings in lexicographic research

This paper stems from doctoral research work aimed at launching an Italian-Persian digital dictionary. In the construction of a bilingual dictionary, different levels of linguistic competence are essential. For each single headword, it is first of all necessary to precisely define its use in the context of the source language, with its different meanings: for this purpose, substantial lexicographic tools are necessary (for the current research, T. De Mauro, Nuovo vocabolario di base della lingua italiana, 2016, and T. De Mauro, Grande dizionario italiano dell'uso, 2006-7). In the target language, after the definition of the main translation equivalents (with the help of bilingual and monolingual dictionaries: in this case mainly A. Coletti, H. Coletti Grünbaum, Dizionario persiano-italiano. Nuova edizione rivista e aggiornata, 2021; H. Anvari, Farhang-e bozorg-e soxan, 2002), it is necessary to broaden the perspective to the meanings of these equivalents. This is a complex task, as these equivalents may in turn have a wide range of different meanings according to different contexts. Tracing the relevant phraseology – a fundamental tool of the dictionary – will help define the boundaries of this second lexical constellation, allowing for the establishment of inclusions and exclusions, particularly by exploring the presence of headwords in the literary field of the target language. In this paper, the following words will be examined as case studies: abbassare, alzare, vuoto, showing their use according to their different meanings in the context of contemporary Persian literature (short stories, novels, poems).

WU LILY JINXIAN

Lancaster University

The Risks and Strategies of Participating in Chinese MeToo in China and from Abroad

Since 2018, there has been increasing research on Chinese MeToo, primarily relying on analysing online data. However, this research, based on 34 semi-structured in-depth interviews with Chinese digital feminists in China and abroad, examines differing challenges to participating in Chinese MeToo and the strategies digital feminists employ to overcome them. Digital feminists without international education often regard Chinese MeToo as "activities", a characterisation that may depoliticise the feminist movement. However, this perspective plays an important role in ensuring the movement's survival within the Chinese context. Due to stringent censorship, digital feminists based in China typically focus on supporting prominent cases to amplify other voices, instead of speaking up directly. I term this approach the "indirect amplification" strategy. I argue that while the courage of those who speak up for themselves is undeniable, their prominence would not be possible without the support of other, often-overlooked, digital feminists. Compared to its domestic counterpart, those with an international education feel emboldened to call it "activism", and some choose to speak out on their own, considering the more controlled risks. However, I found that they engage in MeToo to confront not only gender inequality but also the complex intersections of sexism, racism and Chinese nationalism. I argue that the understanding and participation in Chinese MeToo by domestic and overseas feminists are significantly influenced by their sociopolitical environments and personal experiences.

JOHN DEEPA ELIZABATH

Heidelbeg University

Transcending Trauma to an Empowering Tool: Storytelling as Cultural Resistance Against Gender-Based Violence

Violence against women remains a critical issue in South Asia, deeply rooted in cultural norms. Despite various policies, women continue to experience gender-based violence (GBV), irrespective of their socio-economic background. This research, explores the role of contemporary women writers and filmmakers in addressing this issue arguing that literature and storytelling can challenge the normalization of violence, foster resilience, break the silence, amplify marginalized voices, and encourage critical dialogue about the socio-cultural factors and provide emotional tools for recovery by focusing on themes like survival, hope, and empowerment. By highlighting the interplay between literature, culture, and gendered violence, this research emphasizes how storytelling offers frameworks for understanding trauma and identity. The project focuses on South Asian contemporary literature and cinema from India, incorporating multidisciplinary perspective. Methods such as narrative and discourse analysis examines how individuals affected by GBV construct meaning around their trauma and build resilience, how narratives reframe these experiences within broader societal contexts and contribute to critical discourse on women's subjectivity, embodiment, and evolving conceptions of femininity. Ultimately seeks to demonstrate how storytelling in literature and film offers creative, interdisciplinary solutions to the complex issue of gender-based violence.

PROIETTI MARILENA

Sapienza University of Rome

"The group is like a mother to me": Adivasi women's collectives and their impact on gender issues in present-day Jharkhand

The paper examines the experiences of women from Adivasi/Indigenous communities in contemporary Jharkhand, India, focusing on the role of women's collectives at the grassroot level. In particular, I focus on the role of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in addressing gender issues and shaping women's roles within their communities. Despite the persistent challenges such as domestic violence, witch hunts and human trafficking, SHGs have emerged as crucial spaces where Adivasi women find financial support, solidarity and opportunities to speak up about their concerns. The study explores how the formation of these groups has been facilitated by a process of feminization of villages, in which women take on increasingly central roles in community activities. Through case studies in the Khunti, Gumla, and Dumka districts, the paper investigates the strengths and limitations of SHGs, exploring their impact on gender relations. In doing so, I aim to evaluate whether these groups have influenced women's participation in village-level meetings and contributed to the fostering of collective action for gender equality.

BENIGNI MARTINA

Sapienza University of Rome

Wandering Shanghai's "closely woven wrinkles and veins": the city through the eyes of an all-female poetry collective

This study examines the ways in which the city of Shanghai is portrayed and reshaped in the verses of a collective of seven women poets born in the 1990s. Founded in Shanghai in 2016, the group known as *Chengshi manyouzhe* 城市漫游者 (The Flâneuses) focuses on contemporary urban life from women's perspective. Calling themselves flâneuses, they reinterpret Baudelaire's flâneur and defy imposed masculinist norms by writing about the city they wander both practically and symbolically, thus claiming urban and literary space through creative and practical actions, opposing traditional male gaze.

To understand how their poetry turns the urban environment into a site of women's realization, and how the city of Shanghai is described and experienced, I will first introduce the flâneuse, the woman walking the streets in syntony with the creative potential of the city, and the flânerie, as an ideal, artistic and living practice; after this brief presentation, I will discuss some significant poems from the collective's vast corpus, found online and in print. Employing close reading techniques, I will analyze those verses that portray the metropolis herself (for Shanghai is female according to the group) through post-modernity typical tropes such as the non-places as defined by the sociologist Marc Augé (1992), in an in-depth reflection on Chinese social reality in this accelerating century (*jiasu de shiji* 加速的世纪), during which slowing down and writing poetry serve as forms of resistance.

GIANFRATE SERGIO

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Scrolling Inside Out. Exploring the Dynamics of Remediation through Chinese Handscroll Painting

The handscroll format, among the greatest of Chinese contributions to the art of painting, comes as close as any pre-modern device to the effect of the motion picture" (Silbergeld, 1982). This research examines the Chinese Handscroll Painting (CHP) through a media theory perspective, with particular attention to the bodily practices involved in the creation and appreciation of a CHP. Through the practice of scrolling by manipulation, this format enables a progressive reading experience that combines text and images into a tactile-kinesthetic interaction.

However, in contemporary contexts, the original experience of the CHP is often mediated through other media, such as museum exhibitions, photographic reproductions in books or on digital devices. The concept of remediation (Bolter, Grusin, 2000), is therefore central to understanding how the CHP integrates into today's intermedial landscape.

The research investigates the individual character of the CHP by analyzing its interactions with other media: the scroll in museum spaces (Chapter 1), its digital reproductions (Chapter 2), and the bodily practices involved to its production and contemplation. These will be documented through the film format — offering an active example of remediating the text-based discussion — during fieldwork planned for 2025 (Chapter 3).

The project aims to provide an innovative perspective on the CHP through a multimedia investigation that sheds light on the dynamics of remediation and the ways this format interacts with contemporary cultural and technological contexts.

ILVES ELIZAVETA

Heidelberg University

Text-Image Relations in Colonial Bengal

What connections can be drawn between a beloved collection of Bengali fairy tales, which has shaped generations since its publication in 1907, and satirical cartoon albums emerging from 1917 to 1921? How does a seminal children's primer, regarded as one of the most formative texts in an individual's life and published in 1930, relate to an ekphrastic collection of paintings and poems created by a Nobel laureate a decade later? Additionally, what relevance does a long-lost manuscript from a founder of the Bengali art school, undiscovered for nearly 70 years, hold in relation to these works? What insights can these seemingly disparate artistic productions from the worlds of adults and children provide about colonial Bengal—an area of great significance in the geopolitical landscape of the colonial era?

By synthesizing diverse methodologies surrounding text-image relations, from semiotics to visual studies, and incorporating theories articulated by the leading Bengali intellectuals of the period, my research "Text-Image Relations in Colonial Bengal" seeks to address these inquiries. Additionally, I will explore how these text-image dynamics continue to resonate within contemporary Bengal and examine the broader implications this study offers for our understanding of text-image relations as a whole.

CIATTINI REBECCA

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

STALINOBOD (1929-1961). Persian Literature, Textual Urbanism and the Construction of a Capital City

In 1929 Dushanbe, once a small trading settlement, was appointed as the capital city of the newly established Soviet Socialist Republic of Tajikistan. After this designation, the city was renamed Stalinobod and experienced a rapid urban transformation. In this context, this research will analyze the urban, social, and cultural growth of Dushanbe, from a village to the Soviet capital of Stalinobod, through the lenses of Persian literature, in the period between 1929 and 1961, when the city, after the process of destalinization, was renamed Dushanbe. The study begins by exploring early 20th-century Bukhara, where intellectuals—who later migrated to Stalinobod and shaped its literary and cultural environment—firstly engaged with revolutionary ideas. Then, the focus will shift to the city of Dushanbe, exploring how the urban development has been textualized, and, on the other hand, on the physical spaces where a literary canon was produced, such as the press and the writers' associations. The research will finally show how the narrative of the new capital is inevitably entwined with the capital of the wider Soviet Union, the city of Moscow. Ultimately, this work aims to illuminate how the literary texts both produce an urban discourse and mirror the development of Dushanbe, a small hub within the wider network of the Persianate world, and how this connection between space and text engages with modern ideas.

PETERS AMBER ELISABETH

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Painting the Ruins: Re-envisioning a Forgotten Past in the Monuments of Bijapur

Since the fall of the Adil Shahi Sultanate in 1686, their capital city of Bijapur has seen multiple waves of destruction. Through subsequent battles and changes in administration, arches collapsed and columns fell while intricate woodwork was stolen and buildings were left abandoned. Today, the pressure of a rising population has caused builders to flatten heritage buildings in favour of new residential construction. However, there still remain dozens of heritage buildings, though only few have been recognized under the Archaeological Survey of India. A number of Bijapuri historians, architects, guides, and others recognize the historical value of the city and want to see it preserved, even though the majority of the local population is largely unaware of the city's history. In order to bring awareness to the importance of these monuments, it is crucial to highlight the human experience lived in these towers of concrete and stone.

During one month of work in the field, many monumental sites were visited with a local guide so local knowledge can be used alongside historical documentation, literary works, and manuscript illustrations. By combining information from contemporary sources with the educated imagination of scholars, we can better imagine how these buildings were being built and used before they were eroded and emptied, and in this way (metaphorically) paint over the ruins to restore them in the collective memory.

DIECKMANN SOPHIE

Heidelberg University

Hindi in Colonial Calcutta. The Mārvāṛī public and, domesticity' as reflected in the journal landscape of the early 20th century

In my PhD research, I examine original Hindi journals from early 20th century Calcutta, which were published by and for members of the Marwari community. Amongst other things, topics on domesticity were brought to the attention of the Hindi public. Calcutta's journal landscape at that time was extremely dynamic; newspapers and magazines served as venues for the most important political and cultural discussions, reached a very broad audience and were thus an essential component and driver of public socio-political and cultural discourses in India. In my PhD project, I will focus on both the discourse of domesticity and questions of gender constructions within the Marvari community in colonial Calcutta, which are placed in a broader cultural-historical context. This re-centering of the existing (literary) history of Calcutta during the British colonial period and of the Marvaris as a culturally emerging ethnic community opens a new way of looking beyond purely political events in the context of the Indian independence movement. This proves that previously privatized issues around household, women and family within the community were important means of establishing identity and self-definition in an ethnically, religiously, linguistically and culturally complex metropolis like Calcutta. It also shows that the discourses about Indian women at the time did not take place in a vacuum but were specifically used by different population groups – especially male actors – for different motives.

MARINCIONI LUDOVICA

Sapienza University of Rome

Blending Kabuki and Nō: Metatheatrical Elements and Female Voices in Ōmura Kayoko's Midare Konparu

This paper examines Midare Konparu (Chaos at Konparu), a play by Ōmura Kayoko (1883–1953), one of Japan's earliest female dramatists to achieve significant recognition within the kabuki genre. Despite her prolific output of approximately one hundred plays, frequently staged from the late Taishō (1912–1926) to the early Shōwa (1926–1989) periods, Ōmura remains largely overlooked in both Japanese and Western scholarship. Addressing this critical gap, the study focuses on Midare Konparu, one of Ōmura's most representative works, a two-act, four-scene domestic drama premiered in 1920 at the Imperial Theatre. The play offers a behind-the-scenes exploration of nō, the most elevated and ritualistic form of Japanese theatrical art, presented through the framework of a domestic kabuki story, a more accessible and popular style.

The analysis investigates the narrative structure and thematic content of the script, with particular attention to its metatheatrical elements, highlighting how Ōmura skilfully blends the formal aspects of nō with the narratives of kabuki to create a distinctive intertextual dialogue. Furthermore, the study examines the portrayal of female characters and the thematic engagement with gender roles, situating these elements within the broader context of Ōmura's lesser-studied body of work as a female playwright.

By emphasizing the play's contributions to the evolution of the kabuki genre and the significance of women playwrights, this paper advocates for a reassessment of Ōmura's place within the literary and theatrical canon.

SABETI SOMITA

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Cultural-Affective Spaces of Resistance:

A Multi-Sited Ethnographic Study of the Iranian Diaspora in Milan and Beyond

My PhD project explores the role of cultural-affective spaces shaped by overt and subtle acts of resistance in the Iranian diaspora in Milan and Beyond. Adopting a multi-sited ethnographic approach, it examines the diverse practices of artists, performers, co-creators, and audiences who are engaged in the overlapping fieldwork settings of the theatre scene, a coffeehouse and a civil society organization. The study seeks to understand the various everyday forms of resistance within these interconnected cultural settings and examine how they foster diasporic catharsis, foster connections, and drive change during a time of profound sociopolitical significance for the diaspora, and the nation their roots trace back to. By triangulating data, I combine methods, such as participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and a participatory arts-based approach, to achieve a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of my research subject.