

The Informalisation of English Language Learning through the Media: Final PRIN Conference

14 – 15 May 2026

Coro di Notte “Giancarlo Magnano San Lio”

University of Catania
Department of Humanities (DISUM)

14 May

9.45 – 10.30

Opening

Prof. Enrico Foti, Rector of the University of Catania
Prof. Stefania Rimini, Head of the Department of Humanities
Prof. Maria Pavesi, Principal Investigator, University of Pavia
Prof. Raffaele Zago, Catania Unit Coordinator, University of Catania

10.30 – 11.30

Keynote Address

Chair: Maria Pavesi, University of Pavia

Geoffrey Sockett, Université Paris Cité
Theoretical Frameworks in Informal Learning Research: A Scoping Review of Twenty Years of Research in an Emerging Field

11.30 – 12.30

Chair: Francesca Bianchi, University of Salento

Silvia Bruti, University of Pisa
and **Gianmarco Vignozzi**, University of Pisa
Sports Media Exposure and ESP Vocabulary: Evidence from Italian University Learners

Veronica Bonsignori, University of Pisa
and **Denise Filmer**, University of Pisa
The Lexicon of Politics on Social Media: A Study on Acquisition through Informal Learning

12.30 – 13.30

LUNCH BREAK

13.30 – 15.00

Chair: Silvia Bruti, University of Pisa

Maicol Formentelli, University of Pavia
and **Maria Pavesi**, University of Pavia
Syntactic Complexity over Time in Informal L2 English Speakers: Structural and Functional Patterns in Face-to-face Interviews

Giulia Staggini, University of Milan, University of Pavia
and **Elisa Ghia**, University of Pavia
Assessing Accuracy in High-exposure Informal English Users: Methodological Issues and Challenges

Liviana Galiano, San Raffaele University of Rome
(Dis)fluency in Informal English Learning through the Media: A Longitudinal Case Study

15.00 – 15.30

COFFEE BREAK

15.30 – 17.00

Chair: Massimo Sturiale, University of Milan

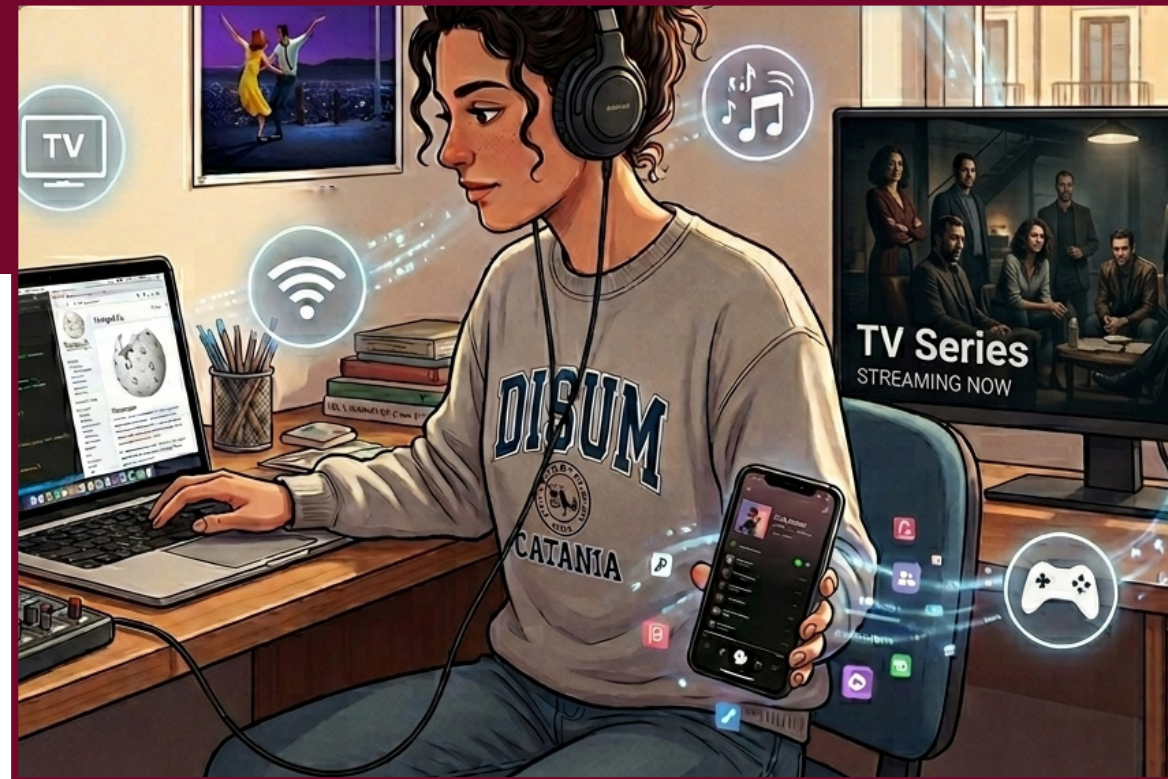
Camilla De Riso, University of Pavia
Tracking Informal Exposure to English over Time: A Diary Study of Italian University Students' Media Access Habits

Iain Halliday, University of Catania
“And those who Learn Begin to Learn / And those who Loiter Begin”: Personal Learning Environments and the Use of Songs in English Language Learning

Cristina Arizzi, University of Catania
Followers or Learners? TikTok ‘Microlessons’ of English as a Blend of Formal and Informal Language Learning

20.00

SOCIAL DINNER



15 May

9.00 – 10.00

Keynote Address

Chair: Raffaele Zago, University of Catania

Monika Bednarek, University of Sydney
Unfamiliar Words in Australian Television Series: Identification and Categorisation

10.00 – 11.00

Chair: Cristina Arizzi, University of Catania

Massimo Sturiale, University of Milan
and **Irene Ranzato**, Sapienza University of Rome
From Exposure to Evaluation: Interview-based Perspectives on English Accents and Informal Audiovisual Learning

Francesca Bianchi, University of Salento
Visual Novels as Linguistic Artifacts and Vehicles for Unsupervised Language Learning: A Corpus-informed Analysis

11.00 – 11.30

COFFEE BREAK

11.30 – 12.30

Chair: Iain Halliday, University of Catania

Paola Leone, University of Salento
Ideal Self and Social Standards in Informal English Exposure: A Longitudinal Perspective on L2 Motivation

Cristina Mariotti, University of Pavia
Exploring Motivation and Agency in Informal Contact with English. An Emic Investigation of Italian University Students

12.30

Closing

Prof. Raffaele Zago, Catania Unit Coordinator, University of Catania
Prof. Francesca Bianchi, Salento Unit Coordinator, University of Salento
Prof. Silvia Bruti, Pisa Unit Coordinator, University of Pisa
Prof. Maria Pavesi, Principal Investigator, University of Pavia

Scientific Committee:

Francesca Bianchi, University of Salento - Silvia Bruti, University of Pisa - Maria Pavesi, University of Pavia - Massimo Sturiale, University of Milan - Raffaele Zago, University of Catania.

Organising Committee:

Cristina Arizzi, University of Catania - Iain Halliday, University of Catania - Irene Ranzato, Sapienza University of Rome - Massimo Sturiale, University of Milan - Raffaele Zago, Head of the Organising Committee, University of Catania.

