Valentina Lunardi

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Education

expected 2026 — **PhD in Indo-European Studies**, *University of California, Los Angeles*
Thesis: Computational approaches to semantic change in Latin: the case of Christian Latin
Doctoral committee chairs: Prof. David Goldstein, Prof. Brent Vine

2024-2025 — **Visiting research student in Digital Humanities**, *King's College London*
Supervisor: Dr. Barbara McGillivray

2024 — **CPhil in Indo-European Studies**, *University of California, Los Angeles*

2023 — **Graduate certificate in Linguistics**, *University of California, Los Angeles*

2017 — **MPhil in Classics**, *University of Cambridge*
Caucus: Classical and Comparative Philology and Linguistics (E)
Thesis: The Latin of St. Patrick | Supervisor: Prof. James Clackson

2016 — **BASc Arts and Sciences**, *University College London*, First Class Honours
Major: 'Cultures', with a focus on Classics
Minor: 'Sciences and Engineering', with a focus on Mathematics

Non-degree education

Summer 2025 — **InkCode: a DH² Summer School for Ancient to Early Modern History**, *Scuola Normale Superiore*

Summer 2023 — **Digital Humanities and the Ancient World: the role of digital technologies in preserving, investigating and revitalizing antiquity**, *Lake Como School of Advanced Studies*

Summer 2019 — **4th Naxos Summer School**, Language Variation and Change in Ancient and Medieval Europe

Summer 2018 — **13th Summer School in Languages and Linguistics**, *Universiteit Leiden*

Teaching appointments

AS INSTRUCTOR:

Summer 2024 — *Linguistics 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Linguistics

Summer 2023 — *Linguistics 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Linguistics

Summer 2022 — *Linguistics 110: Introduction to Historical Linguistics*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Linguistics

Fall 2021 — *Latin 1: Elementary Latin*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Classics

Fall 2019 — *Latin 1: Elementary Latin*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Classics

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Spring 2024 — *Linguistics 170: Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Linguistics

Winter 2024 — *Linguistics 120B: Syntax I*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Linguistics

Spring 2023 — *Linguistics 119A: Applied Phonology*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Linguistics

Winter 2023	*Linguistics 120B: Syntax I*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Linguistics
Fall 2022	*Linguistics 120B: Syntax I*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Linguistics
Spring 2022	*Classics 30: Classical Mythology*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Classics
Winter 2022	*Linguistics 120B: Syntax I*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Linguistics
Spring 2021	*Linguistics 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Linguistics
Winter 2021	*Linguistics 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Linguistics
Winter 2020	*Classics 185: Origin and Nature of English Vocabulary*, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Department of Classics

Research appointments

Summer 2020	**Reseach Assistant**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Prof. David Goldstein, Department of Linguistics
Spring 2020	**Reseach Assistant**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Supervisors: Prof. Giulia Sissa, Prof. Peter Cowe
Summer 2015	**Research Assistant**, *University of Cambridge*, Faculty of Classics Research Project: *Greek in Italy*, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council Principal Investigator: Prof. James Clackson

Presentations

INVITED TALKS:

January 2025	The impact of Christianity on the Latin lexicon: computational approaches to semantic change *Classics Department Research Seminar, King's College London, London, UK*

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS:

October 2025 *upcoming*	Change-point models reveal coordinated semantic change in Latin, *with David Goldstein* *36th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, Los Angeles, CA
June 2025	Static and contextual embeddings for tracing semantic change: the case of Christian Latin, *with Barbara McGillivray* *Digital Classicist London*, London, UK
May 2025	Softened death: the language of fainting in the *Iliad* *4th Homeric Symposium*, Durham, UK
December 2024	'Semantic extension' and semantic change: were translators of the Old Latin Bible L1 speakers of Greek? (poster) *Fourth AMC Symposium: Contact and language change*, Edinburgh, UK
September 2024	A computational approach to the study of semantic change in Latin: the case of Christian Latin vocabulary *Latin vulgaire – Latin tardif XV*, Munich, Germany
January 2024	New Perspectives on Messapic Language and Culture, *with *Michele Bianconi, Marta Capano, Federica Fanizzi, Marcello Gelone, and Simona Marchesini* *Society for Classical Studies 155th Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL
September 2022	The role of Christian Latin in the development of Romance vocabulary: a lexical study of the *Peregrinatio Egeriae* *Latin vulgaire – Latin tardif XIV*, Ghent, Belgium

November 2021	Person hierarchy effects and Old Irish infix and suffix pronoun distribution *32nd Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, Los Angeles, CA
April 2018	Was St Patrick a non-native speaker of Latin? (poster) *Variation and Contact in the Ancient Indo-European Languages*, Pisa, Italy

Publications

2023	φ-feature Hierarchy and Old Irish Object Pronoun Distribution. In Goldstein, D. M., Jamison, S. W., and Vine, B. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 32nd Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, 199-220. Hamburg: Buske Verlag

Fellowships and awards

2025-2026	**Dissertation Year Award**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, $30,000
2025	**CMRS-CEGS Graduate Student Summer Award**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, $7,890
2024-2025	**CMRS-CEGS Dissertation Research Fellowship**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, $30,000
2023	**Mellon Foundation Pre-dissertation Fellowship**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, $8,000
2022	**CMRS-CEGS Graduate Student Summer Fellowship**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, $2,500
2021	**Graduate Summer Research Mentorship**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, $6,000 Mentor: Prof. David Goldstein
2020	**CMRS Graduate Student Summer Fellowship**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, $1,000
2019	**Graduate Summer Research Mentorship**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, $6,000 Mentor: Prof. Brent Vine
2015	**Arts & Sciences BASc Internship Bursary**, *University College London*, £1,375

Departmental service

2021-2023	**Reading Room Curator for the *Program in Indo-European Studies***
2018-2022	**Co-organiser of the *Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference***

Outreach

May 2025	Ancient Texts, Modern Tools: How AI Transforms the Study of Classical Languages, *with Andrea Farina and Barbara McGillivray* Talk given at *The King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence 2025*, King's College London, London, UK (*online*)
June 2024	Language contact: an introduction Talk given at Champlain Valley Union High School, Hinesburg, VT (*online*)
January 2022	Il mio percorso dopo la scuola (tr.: My journey after school) Video recording for Liceo Classico Europeo, Villa del Poggio imperiale (*alma mater*), Firenze, Italy
March 2018	Il latino e i suoi vicini (tr.: Latin and its neighbours) Talk given at Liceo Classico Machiavelli, Firenze, Italy

Languages

MODERN
- Native: Italian
- Fluent: English
- Reading: French, German, Spanish

ANCIENT
- Latin
- Ancient Greek
- Sanskrit
- Hittite
- Old Irish
- Middle Welsh

Technical Skills

MARKUP
- ○ LaTeX
- ○ XML (basic)
- ○ HTML/CSS (basic)

PROGRAMMING
- ○ Python 3
- ○ C (basic)
- ○ SQL (basic)

OTHER
- ○ MS Office Suite
- ○ Command Line Tools
- ○ Packages: NLTK, Pandas, Gensim, SpaCy, Transformers

Research Interests

- ○ Language technology
- ○ Digital Humanities
- ○ Sociolinguistics
- ○ Language contact and bilingualism
- ○ Natural Language Processing

- ○ Historical linguistics, esp. semantic change
- ○ Comparative Indo-European linguistics
- ○ Italic languages, esp. Latin
- ○ Celtic languages, esp. Old Irish
- ○ Syntactic theory