Valentina Lunardi

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Education

University of California, Los Angeles

expected 2026 *PhD Indo-European Studies*
Thesis: Computational approaches to semantic change in Latin: the case of Christian Latin
Committee: David Goldstein (co-chair), Brent Vine (co-chair), Chris Johanson, Barbara McGillivray

2024 *CPhil Indo-European Studies*

2023 *Graduate certificate in Linguistics*

University of Cambridge

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

University College London

2016 *BASc Arts and Sciences*
Major: 'Cultures', with a focus on Classics | Minor: 'Sciences and Engineering', with a focus on Mathematics

Non-degree education

King's College London

2024–2025 *Visiting research student in Digital Humanities*
Supervisor: Barbara McGillivray

SUMMER SCHOOLS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

PEER-REVIEWED TALKS:

October 2025 Change-point models reveal coordinated semantic change in Latin, *with David Goldstein*
upcoming *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
[Watch recording]

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

OTHER:

May 2025	Softened death: the language of fainting in the *Iliad* *4th Homeric Symposium*, Durham, UK

Fellowships and awards

2025–2026	**Dissertation Year Award**, *UCLA Division of Graduate Education*
2025	**Graduate Student Summer Award**, *UCLA CMRS Center for Early Global Studies*
2024–2025	**Dissertation Research Fellowship**, *UCLA CMRS Center for Early Global Studies*
2023	**Mellon Foundation Pre-dissertation Fellowship**, *UCLA Humanities*
2022	**Graduate Student Summer Fellowship**, *UCLA CMRS Center for Early Global Studies*
2021	**Graduate Summer Research Mentorship**, *UCLA Division of Graduate Education* Mentor: David Goldstein
2020	**Graduate Student Summer Fellowship**, *UCLA Center for Medieval and Reniassance Studies*
2019	**Graduate Summer Research Mentorship**, *UCLA Division of Graduate Education* Mentor: Brent Vine
2015	**Arts & Sciences BASc Internship Bursary**, *University College London*

Teaching appointments

AS INSTRUCTOR:

Summer 2024 & Summer 2023	**Linguistics 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis** UCLA Linguistics
Summer 2022	**Linguistics 110: Introduction to Historical Linguistics** UCLA Linguistics
Fall 2021 & Fall 2019	**Latin 1: Elementary Latin** UCLA Classics

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT, ASSOCIATE, OR FELLOW:

Spring 2024	**Linguistics 170: Introduction to Sociolinguistics** UCLA Linguistics
Winter 2024, Winter 2023, Fall & Winter 2022	**Linguistics 120B: Syntax I** UCLA Linguistics

Spring 2023	**Linguistics 119A: Applied Phonology** UCLA Linguistics
Spring 2022	**Classics 30: Classical Mythology** UCLA Classics
Spring 2021 & Winter 2021	**Linguistics 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis** UCLA Linguistics
Winter 2020	**Classics 185: Origin and Nature of English Vocabulary** UCLA Classics

Research appointments

Summer 2020	**Graduate Student Researcher**, *UCLA Linguistics* Assistant to David Goldstein
Spring 2020	**Graduate Student Researcher**, *UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies* Assistant to Giulia Sissa and 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: James Clackson

Departmental service

2024–	**Abstract Reviewer** for the *Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*
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*) [Watch recording]
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