

Valentina Lunardi

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Education

- 2018–ongoing **Program 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
- 2023 **Graduate certificate in Linguistics, University of California, Los Angeles**
- 2016–2017 **MPhil in Classics, University of Cambridge**
Caucus: Classical and Comparative Philology and Linguistics (E)
Thesis: The Latin of St. Patrick | Supervisor: Prof. James Clackson
- 2013–2016 **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 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 19A: 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 **Research Assistant**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Prof. David Goldstein, Department of Linguistics
- Spring 2020 **Research 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:

- June 2025 Static and contextual embeddings for tracing semantic change: the case of Christian Latin, *with Barbara McGillivray*
Digital Classicist London, London, UK
upcoming
- 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
- Language contact and bilingualism
- Sociolinguistics

- Historical Linguistics, esp. semantic change
- Comparative Indo-European Linguistics
- Italic languages, esp. Latin
- Celtic languages, esp. Old Irish