

Valentina Lunardi

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Education

University of California, Los Angeles

- expected 2026 *PhD Indo-European Studies*
Thesis: Computational approaches to lexical 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:

- September 2025 Tracing semantic shifts in Neo-Latin texts using word embeddings, *with *Barbara McGillivray*
Digital Neo-Latin studies: ideas and perspectives, Aarhus, Denmark
- 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:

- January 2026 Synsets, Emotions, and Cultural Shifts: A Diachronic Study of Conceptual Metaphors in Latin,
with Roberta Leotta and Andrea Farina
Quantitative Diachronic Linguistics and Cultural Analytics: Data-Driven Insights into Language and Cultural Change, London, UK

- January 2026 Christian loanwords in Latin evolve in clustered bursts, *with David Goldstein*
upcoming Quantitative Diachronic Linguistics and Cultural Analytics: Data-Driven Insights into Language and Cultural Change, London, UK
- October 2025 The punctuated evolution of Christian loan-words 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
[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 | Project: Old Irish Infixed and Suffix Pronouns: *no-* or *not*?
- 2020 **Graduate Student Summer Fellowship**, *UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies*
- 2019 **Graduate Summer Research Mentorship**, *UCLA Division of Graduate Education*
Mentor: Brent Vine | Project: The role of Christian Latin in the development of Romance vocabulary
- 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 **Latin 1: Elementary Latin**
& Fall 2019 UCLA Classics
- As TEACHING ASSISTANT, ASSOCIATE, OR FELLOW:**
- Spring 2024 **Linguistics 170: Introduction to Sociolinguistics**
UCLA Linguistics
- Winter 2024, **Linguistics 120B: Syntax I**
Winter 2023, UCLA Linguistics
- Fall & Winter 2022
- Spring 2023 **Linguistics 119A: Applied Phonology**
UCLA Linguistics
- Spring 2022 **Classics 30: Classical Mythology**
UCLA Classics
- Spring 2021 **Linguistics 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis**
& Winter 2021 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 | Project on Old Irish determiners
- Spring 2020 **Graduate Student Researcher, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies**
Assistant to Giulia Sissa and to 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

Service

DEPARTMENTAL:

- 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*

OTHER:

- 2025– **Reviewer** for the *Journal of Open Humanities Data*

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
- Summer 2015 Exhibition Curator: “Greek in Italy”, *Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge*
Prepared a public exhibition for the *Festival of Ideas 2015* (for AHRC-funded project *Greek in Italy*), showcasing objects illustrating the cultural influence of Ancient Greece on the peoples of the Italic peninsula.

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