Valentina Lunardi



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

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

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 36^{th} 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]

'Semantic extension' and semantic change: were translators of the Old Latin Bible L1 speakers of December 2024 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 Was St Patrick a non-native speaker of Latin? (poster) April 2018 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 Dissertation Year Award, UCLA Division of Graduate Education 2025-2026 Graduate Student Summer Award, UCLA CMRS Center for Early Global Studies 2025 Dissertation Research Fellowship, UCLA CMRS Center for Early Global Studies 2024-2025 Mellon Foundation Pre-dissertation Fellowship, UCLA Humanities 2023 2022 Graduate Student Summer Fellowship, UCLA CMRS Center for Early Global Studies Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Division of Graduate Education 2021 Mentor: David Goldstein | Project: Old Irish Infixed and Suffixed Pronouns: no- or not? Graduate Student Summer Fellowship, UCLA Center for Medieval and Reniassance Studies 2020 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Division of Graduate Education 2019 Mentor: Brent Vine | Project: The role of Christian Latin in the development of Romance vocabulary Arts & Sciences BASc Internship Bursary, University College London 2015 Teaching appointments As Instructor: Summer 2024 Linguistics 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis & Summer 2023 **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

Linguistics 119A: Applied Phonology Spring 2023 **UCLA Linguistics** Classics 30: Classical Mythology Spring 2022 **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 Graduate Student Researcher, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Spring 2020 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 Departmental service Abstract Reviewer for the Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference 2024-2021-2023 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] Language contact: an introduction June 2024 Talk given at Champlain Valley Union High School, Hinesburg, VT (online) Il mio percorso dopo la scuola (tr.: My journey after school) January 2022 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

MODERN	Ancient	
O Native: Italian	Latin	Hittite
Fluent: English	 Ancient Greek 	Old Irish
O Reading: French, German, Spanish	 Sanskrit 	 Middle Welsh

Technical Skills

Markup	Programming	Other
○ KTEX	○ Python 3	 MS Office Suite
○ XML (basic)	O C (basic)	 Command Line Tools
○ HTML/CSS (basic)	O SQL (basic)	O Packages: NLTK, Pandas, Gensim, SpaCy, Transformers

Research Interests

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

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

References

DOCTORAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

O David Goldstein

Professor, Department of Linguistics & Program in Indo-European Studies

University of California, Los Angeles

Email: dgoldstein@humnet.ucla.edu

O Brent Vine

Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus, Department of Classics & Program in Indo-European Studies University of California, Los Angeles

Email: vine@humnet.ucla.edu

O Barbara McGillivray

Lecturer in Digital Humanities and Cultural Computation, Department of Digital Humanities

King's College London

Email: barbara.mcgillivray@kcl.ac.uk

O Chris Johanson

Associate Professor, Department of Classics & DataX

University of California, Los Angeles

Email: johanson@ucla.edu

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

O Stephanie Jamison

Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures & Program in Indo-European Studies

University of California, Los Angeles

Email: jamison@humnet.ucla.edu

O Nicholas Zair

Senior Lecturer in Classics (Classical Linguistics & Comparative Pholology), Faculty of Classics

University of Cambridge

Email: naz21@cam.ac.uk

O James Clackson

Professor of Comparative Philology, Faculty of Classics

University of Cambridge

Email: jptc1@cam.ac.uk