



Alumna Chiara Gianollo



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Senior Assistant Professor,
Department of Classical Philology
and Italian Studies,
University of Bologna

Artwork by
Patrick Tresset

Chiara Gianollo

Chiara Gianollo, senior assistant professor at the Department of Classical Philology and Italian Studies in Bologna, says that she always had an international and interdisciplinary aspect in her profile. "Believe me, that wasn't planned at all!" she laughs, when thinking of all the directions her research career has taken.

Chiara finished her PhD in Linguistics 2005 at the University of Pisa and did not anticipate that she was about to spend so much time abroad thereafter. Pisa has a partner university in Paris, so her first stays followed there. "Over the past 15 years I lived and worked in France, the Netherlands, the USA and Germany. This was very important for my development as a scientist." It influenced the way she conducted her own research and how she followed different interests – looking at structure and meaning of language theoretically, but also in its use and in the changes it undergoes in time. As a result, her path led her towards interdisciplinarity. In her application for the Zukunftscolleg, she included a project about language families in which she treated them like biological species. The idea was to meld language models into models of biology: "Something very new and exciting!"

Currently Chiara is involved in two projects. On the one hand, she focuses on language acquisition of children with migration background. "From a scientific perspective it is highly interesting how their first language blends with Italian." She also wants to raise awareness that the children do not lose their first language. For this project she collaborates with schools and says "it brings me right into society and into the real life – I love that!" On the other hand, she still focuses

on historical linguistics. "I have these old interests, this fascination with languages that I happily continue to explore! All these questions, like why is Latin so different from French?" She also looks into the structure of languages and how little words like auxiliary verbs, articles and pronouns determine it.

Her fascination with Latin and Ancient Greek in high school led her to study linguistics in the first place. "It felt so natural to learn these dead languages. I tried to figure out the relation between them and discovered my love for grammar!" After her PhD she also completed a postgraduate Master course to become a teacher, allowing her to teach Italian, Latin and Ancient Greek. Then various positions in Trieste and Rome followed, before Chiara applied to the Zukunftscolleg. "Everything about the application process was so open and transparent, I liked that a lot!" She became a Fellow in 2008 and stayed until 2011.

She arrived at a time when the Zukunftscolleg was being shaped the most. "Fellows had the opportunity to create the atmosphere around the meetings, which developed into the *Jour Fixe* gatherings." Chiara is sure that understanding other researchers and their research, problems and frustrations is something that she mostly learned at the Zukunftscolleg. "Everything I learned there is still so useful!"

She invited Paul Kiparsky from Stanford University as a *Senior Fellow* and thinks there is nothing better to advance a career in academia: "It is essential to have an external adviser, somebody who is not a direct supervisor or boss." The invitation worked perfectly for both the Zukunftscolleg and the

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Department of Linguistics at the University of Konstanz – another thing she liked. "The Zukunftscolleg as an institution is quite unique, but without the department something would be missing."

At the Zukunftscolleg, she also met Senior Fellow and linguist Klaus von Heusinger. Their research interests overlapped, and together, they organised a workshop. When Chiara left the Zukunftscolleg, Klaus von Heusinger offered her a job at the University of Stuttgart. When he accepted an appointment at the University of Cologne, Chiara went along him. In Cologne, she worked as a researcher and lecturer and completed her *Habilitation* dissertation.

Chiara points out that it is very difficult for researchers to search for a new job and trying to be creative and productive at the same time. "This time is literally like poison for all young researchers, as it is also a time when people want to start a family and have many changes in their personal life. That's not easy when you have no idea where you might end up. I can only advise to put up with it and keep on pushing forward! There will be better times."

Since 2016, Chiara has a position as a tenure track senior professor in Bologna and despite some obstacles she thinks that young researchers should enjoy their path. "Don't rush your education. Don't be afraid to take some time to explore new ideas, as it will help you in the long run with your career."



Curriculum Vitae

Education

- 2013** Italian National Scientific Qualification for Associate Professor (Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale di Seconda Fascia)
- 2007** Professional Teaching Degree (Abilitazione all'insegnamento), University of Trieste, Italy
- 2006 – 2007** Professional Teaching Specialization (SSIS), University of Trieste, Italy
- 2005** Ph.D. (Dottorato di Ricerca), Department of Linguistics, University of Pisa, Italy
"Constituent structure and parametric resetting in the Latin DP: a diachronic study"

- 2002 – 2005** Ph.D. student under the supervision of Giuseppe Longobardi, University of Pisa, Italy
- 2001** Diploma of Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy
"I soggetti accusativi del latino tardo e del medio olandese" ["Accusative Subjects in Late Latin and Middle Dutch"]
- 2000** Master's thesis, Department of Classics and Linguistics, University of Pisa, Italy
"Il medio in latino e il fenomeno dell'intransitività scissa" ["Middle Voice in Latin and the phenomenon of Split Intransitivity"]

- 1998, 2000** Visiting Exchange Student at the École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France
- 1996 – 2000** M. A. in Classics and Linguistics, University of Pisa, Italy

Scientific Career

- Since 2016** Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Philology and Italian Studies, University of Bologna, Italy
- 2012 – 2016** Akademische Rätin auf Zeit (Researcher and Lecturer), Institute of German Language and Literature I, University of Cologne
- 2011 – 2012** Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute of Linguistics and German, University of Stuttgart
- 2011 – 2012** Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Research Center for Linguistics and Cognition, University of Stuttgart

- 2008 – 2011** Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Linguistics, University of Konstanz
- 2006 – 2008** Research Associate (assegno di ricerca) in Linguistics, Department of Classics, University of Trieste, Italy
- 2002 – 2004** Research Associate (assegno di ricerca) in Linguistics, Faculty of Communication Science, University of Trieste, Italy

Distinctions, Awards and Honorary Posts

- 2008 – 2011** Fellow of the Zukunftscolleg, University of Konstanz
- 1996 – 2000** Undergraduate Fellow of Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy