

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

E-mail meriem.sardou@univr.it

Date of birth 11/11/1996

## EDUCATION

### Oct 2025– present **PhD in Foreign Languages and Literatures**

*University of Verona- Verona - Italy*

- Ranked 1st in the selection and awarded the Inclusive Humanities Scholarship.
- Specialization in Comparative Literature, Computational Literary Studies, Computational Linguistics and Research Methodology.
- Doctoral research focuses on the computational analysis of Otherness in migration literature.

### Sept 2021– April 2025 **Master's Degree in Linguistics**

*University of Verona- Verona - Italy*

- Graduated with full marks and honors (**110/110 cum laude**), with advanced training in theoretical and applied linguistics across language, technology, and textual studies.
- Relevant coursework included Statistics for the Humanities, Computational Thinking, Textual Scholarship and Editorial Techniques, and Levels of Linguistic Analysis, equipping me to engage critically with both digital methodologies and inclusive approaches to language and text.

### Sept 2019–Oct 2020 **Master's Degree in English Language Didactics**

*National Teacher's Training School - Ecole Normale Supérieur- Algiers*

- Admitted as one of the **top 15 candidates**, ranked eighth nationally upon selection.
- Coursework included Language and Society, Diversity and Multiculturalism, Translation, Applied Linguistics, and Research Methodology (both quantitative and qualitative), providing critical insight into the intersections of language, identity, and inclusion.

### Sept 2014–Jun 2019 **High School's Teaching Degree for English Language Teaching (Bachelor Degree)**

*National Teacher's Training School - Ecole Normale Supérieur- Algiers*

- Admitted to École Normale Supérieure after graduating high school with distinction; **consistently ranked in the top 5%** during the first two years and top 15% in the final years.
- Completed a comprehensive curriculum spanning American, British, and African literatures and civilizations, cultural studies, research methodology, and computational applications in language studies.

## EXPERIENCE

### Jan 2019 – July 2021 **High School English Language Teacher at a Public School**

*Seddik Ben Yahia High School, Kolea, Tipaza (Algeria)*

- Got the **highest University GPA** in Tipaza region in Algeria. Was granted the job position of a high school English language teacher immediately after graduation.
- Taught English language to high school students in different high schools and got the approval of both students and supervisor.

## RESEARCH WORK

Sept 2025 – present

### Computational Analysis of Otherness in Migration Literature

*University of Verona- Verona - Italy*

- Conducting doctoral research on how Otherness is represented in Francophone Maghreb and Anglophone Latin American migration literatures.
- Building a multilingual digital corpus and applying basic computational and linguistic methods to identify key passages related to Otherness.
- Comparing human and AI interpretations of selected passages to explore how Large Language Models themes of exclusion and marginalization.

Oct 2024 – April 2025 **Quantifying Racial Bias in BERT-based Arabic Language Models**

*University of Verona- Verona - Italy*

- Conducted a thesis project examining **cultural bias in BERT-based English Language Models**, contributing to the broader field of digital inclusion and linguistic equity.
- Designed and implemented a template-based dataset specifically for the detection of cultural bias, addressing underrepresented linguistic and cultural contexts in NLP research.
- The work is done using Python and the relevant Machine Learning and Data Analysis libraries.
- The Arabic Language Models are evaluated via the HuggingFace framework, which facilitates the interaction with the models.

May 2020 – Oct 2020 **Quantitative Analysis of Cultural Items in English Language High School Curriculum**

*National Teacher's Training School –Ecole Normale Supérieur- Algiers*

- Completed a master's thesis examining cultural representation in Algerian English Language high school curriculum, with attention to how the materials promote or hinder intercultural competence in educational settings.
- Addressed broader questions of cultural inclusion in educational settings.
- Utilized basic statistical analysis tool.

Jan 2019 – Jul 2019 **Investigating Learning Styles in Algerian Textbooks**

*National Teacher's Training School –Ecole Normale Supérieur Bouzareah- Algiers*

- Explored the extent to which Algerian English textbooks accommodate learners with sensory learning styles, contributing to inclusive pedagogical practices and highlighting accessibility in education.

## EXTRACURRICULARS

Nov 2020 – Jan 2021 **120-hour TESOL/TEFL Course**

*World TESOL Academy, Accredited Teaching Certifications*

- Developing online all the necessary skills to start teaching the English language.<sup>②</sup>
- Passed all the quizzes with no less than 100%.

Feb 2019 – Jun 2019 **Course Officer at Toastmasters International Organization**

*Public Speaking Club, Mohammadia Algiers (Algeria)*

- Selected as one of the 6 officers out of 20 members due to the good-excellent skills and performance showed during the meetings.
- Taking different roles (leader of the meeting, facilitator, and evaluator) in each meeting either by volunteering or being appointed.
- Presented varied speeches that were praised by the officers, members and guests.

Feb 2019 – Mar 2019 **Content-based Instruction MOOC**

- Participated in the Winter 2019 Five-Week Massive Open Online Course delivered by World Learning as a program of the U.S. Department of State and FHI 306.

## SKILLS

- Python (Basics)
- Natural Language Processing
- Data Analysis for Humanities
- Applied Linguistics
- Microsoft Office

## LANGUAGES

