

Curriculum Vitae
Francesca Festi

Personal data

Place of birth: Negrar (VR)
Date of birth: 14/07/1993
Nationality: Italian
e-mail: francesca.festi@univr.it

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2019-2023

Joint Ph.D. track in Linguistics – Università di Verona & Norges Arktiske Universitet i Tromsø, the Arctic University of Norway

Research project: “*Reading comprehension in L2 Italian: Connecting psycholinguistic research and pedagogical practices.*”

Supervisor at Università di Verona: researcher Serena Dal Maso

Supervisor at Norges Arktiske Universitet i Tromsø: professor Merete Anderssen

Examiners: prof. Séverine Casalis (Université de Lille), prof. Stéphanie Bellocchi (Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier 3), prof. Andrea Padovan (UniVR), Yulia Rodina (UiT)

Titles awarded: dottore di ricerca in Letterature Straniere, Lingue e Linguistica (PhD in Foreign Literatures, Languages, and Linguistics), Philosophiae Doctor i Humaniora og Samfunnsvitenskap (Doctor of Philosophy in Humanities and Social Sciences), Doctor Europaeus

M.A. 2017-2019

M.A. Degree in “Linguistics” (110 cum laude/110), Università di Verona

Title of the thesis: “*Metalinguistic awareness and bilingualism*”

Supervisor: professor Maria Vender Co-supervisor: professor Denis Delfitto

B.A. 2013-2017

B.A. Degree in “Studi Storici e Filologico-Letterari” (105/110), Università degli Studi di Trento

Title of the thesis: “*La fortuna mediatica di Banksy*” (‘Banksy’s mediatic fortune’)

Supervisor: professor Denis Viva Co-supervisor: professor Claudio Giunta

High School 2007-2012

Liceo classico “Don Nicola Mazza”, Verona (VR)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interests cover language acquisition and reading, especially in bilingual and atypical contexts. During my PhD, I had the chance to explore research about reading development and comprehension from both a psycholinguistic and a pedagogical perspective. Understanding how language is processed and what kind of difficulties can be encountered by learners is fundamental to improve the educational experience of students of any age and from different backgrounds, contributing to inclusiveness in society.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

July 2024 – present

Adjunct professor: “Percorso di Formazione Iniziale Insegnanti 60 CFU e 30 CFU all. 2 DPCM 4 agosto 2023” (Teachers Training Program), Department of Human Sciences, University of Verona

Course: “Inclusive and accessible Language Teaching”. 12 hours.

Disciplinary sector: Language Teaching

July 2024 – present

Adjunct professor: “Percorso di Formazione Iniziale Insegnanti 60 CFU e 30 CFU all. 2 DPCM 4 agosto 2023” (Teachers Training Program), Department of Human Sciences, University of Verona

Course: “Elements of Linguistic Application”. 12 hours.

Disciplinary sector: Language Teaching

May 2024 – August 2024

Adjunct professor: “Percorso di Formazione Insegnanti 30 CFU ex Art. 13 del DPCM 4 agosto 2023” (Teachers Training Program), Department of Human Sciences, University of Verona

Course: “Teaching Design: Methods”. 12 hours.

Disciplinary sector: Language Teaching

May 2024 – August 2024

Adjunct professor: “Percorso di Formazione Insegnanti 30 CFU ex Art. 13 del DPCM 4 agosto 2023” (Teachers Training Program), Department of Human Sciences, University of Verona

Course: “Teaching Implementation: Methods”. 12 hours.

Disciplinary sector: Language Teaching

May 2024 – August 2024

Adjunct professor: “Percorso di Formazione Insegnanti 30 CFU ex Art. 13 del DPCM 4 agosto 2023” (Teachers Training Program), Department of Human Sciences, University of Verona

Course: “Teaching Evaluation: Methods”. 12 hours.

Disciplinary sector: Language Teaching

May 2024 – August 2024

Adjunct professor: “Percorso di Formazione Insegnanti 30 CFU ex Art. 13 del DPCM 4 agosto 2023” (Teachers Training Program), Department of Human Sciences, University of Verona

Course: “Technologies for Teaching: Methods”. 12 hours.

Disciplinary sector: Language Teaching

November 2023 – December 2023

Research fellow at the Department of Cultures and Civilizations, University of Verona

Title of the research project: *Valutazione delle competenze di letto-scrittura di adulti migranti con italiano L2* (‘Evaluation of literacy skills in adult L2 Italian learners with migrant background’).

As part the project “E-FraLit (Employability and Fragile Literacy)”, I carried out the data collection and the statistic analyses to test and normalize a new tool for the evaluation of the literacy skills of adult L2 Italian learners attending A0 courses.

August 2020 – August 2021

Academic Tutoring for the master’s programme in Linguistics (LM-39), Department of Culture and Civilizations, University of Verona

As an academic tutor, I assisted students during the development of their final theses (data collection, management, experiment building) and I organised seminars concerning academic writing and dissemination of research.

PARTICIPATION IN EVALUATION OR SELECTION COMMITTEES

July-August 2024: Member of the evaluation committee of the “Formazione Insegnanti - Percorso 30 CFU ex Art. 13 del DPCM 4 agosto 2023 ” (Teachers Training Program). Area: AB24 – English Language and Culture for secondary school

July-August 2024: Member of the evaluation committee of the “Formazione Insegnanti - Percorso 30 CFU ex Art. 13 del DPCM 4 agosto 2023” (Teachers Training Program). Area: AC24 – Spanish Language and Culture for secondary school

ACADEMIC TRAINING

3rd Winter School in Linguistics, organised by the Università di Verona in cooperation with the Universitet i Tromsø, Università di Verona, 18th-27th November 2019. Topics covered: phonology, L1 and L2 morphology.

Basic course in Statistics, organised by the Università di Verona, October-December 2019. Topics covered: introduction to statistics, descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, regression analysis.

MultiLing Winter School 2020: “Issues in Second Language Learning (With)in the Marginalized Populations: Research Methods, Language Policy, Teacher Education, Ideologies”, organised by the Centre for Multilingualism in Society across the Lifespan, Universitet i Oslo, 24th-29th February 2020.

SVF-8038 Research Ethics, organised by the Universitet i Tromsø, 12th-14th August 2020. Topics covered: philosophical considerations about ethics, ethics in research.

4th Winter School in Linguistics, organised by the Università di Verona, Università di Verona, 19th-28th January 2021. Topics covered: syntax, artificial grammar learning.

Språk 8866: Fundamentals in experimental design, organised by LingPhil, NTNU, 5th-15th December 2020. Topics covered: open and reproducible science, fMRI, working with special populations, eye-tracking, MEG.

Statistics for Linguists with R bootcamp, organised by PoLaR lab, Universitet i Tromsø, 14th-18th June 2021. Topics covered: linear fixed effects modeling, mixed effects modeling.

SVF-8054 Theory of Science, organised by the Universitet i Tromsø, September-November 2021. Topics covered: general philosophical issues about Theory of Science with a focus on the study of sociocultural phenomena, philosophy of language.

SVF-8001 Research Dissemination, organised by the Universitet i Tromsø, October-December 2021. Topics covered: dissemination of science to general and academic audiences, presenting research through different media (video, poster, articles, interviews).

Eye-tracking training, organised by the Università di Verona, 1st-4th February 2022. Topics covered: technical aspects and optimal setup, Experiment Builder, visual word and reading tasks, data collection and analysis.

STUDY ABROAD

August 2021 – August 2022 – period abroad for the joint agreement at the Universitet i Tromsø

At UiT, I was part of the research group AcqVA Aurora (Acquisition Variation and Attrition). While completing my PhD thesis, I also had the opportunity to strengthen my statistic analysis skills and attend several seminars and workshops organized by both AcqVA and the PoLaR lab (Psycholinguistics of Language Representation).

PUBLICATIONS

Submitted for review. Festi, F., Vender, M., Metalinguistic awareness and dual language exposure: A bilingual advantage in L2 Italian children with a migrant background. *Ampersand*.

In preparation. Festi, F., Dal Maso, S., Vender, M., Anderssen, M., Mapping Reading Comprehension: A Random Forest Analysis of Predictors for L2 Italian Pupils.

PRESENTATIONS

2020

Festi, F., “*Reading comprehension in L2 Italian: Integrating a psycholinguistic and pedagogical approach*”, MultiLing Winter School 2020, UiO, 24th-29th February 2020.

2021

Festi, F., Vender, M. “*Metalinguistic awareness and bilingualism: a study involving primary school pupils*”. 40th/41st TABU Dag, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, 10th-11th June 2021.

2023

Festi, F., Dal Maso, S., Vender, M., Anderssen, M., “*Sentence processing in language minority bilingual pupils in L2 Italian*”, ICMME4, University of Malta, 12th-13th October 2023.

Festi, F., Dal Maso, S., Vender, M., Anderssen, M., “*Reading comprehension and morphological processing in language minority bilingual pupils in L2 Italian*”, Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium 2023, University of South Carolina, 20th-21st October 2023.

Vender, M., Festi, F., “*Metalinguistic awareness and bilingualism: evidence for an advantage in L2 Italian children with a migrant background*”, Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium 2023, University of South Carolina, 20th-21st October 2023.

IT SKILLS

ECDL full-standard certificate

Advanced knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Familiarity with programs for statistical analysis (JASP, SPSS, R)

R language programming

Familiarity with software programs to create experiments (OpenSesame, Experiment Builder)

LANGUAGES

Italian: native speaker

English: academic proficiency in all four modalities

Portuguese: good reading and listening skills, basic writing and speaking skills

Dutch: basic skills in all four modalities

MEMBERSHIPS (PRESENT AND PAST)

LaTeC

LingPhil

AcqVA

I hereby declare that the contents of this CV correspond to the truth and that the declarations have been made according to the articles 46 and 47 of the Decree of the President of the Republic 445/2000. I authorize the use of my personal data in compliance with the Law 675/96 and subsequent changes.

27/08/2024

Francesca Festi

