



# English Language Teaching in Italy (1900–2000).

## A historical archive of ELT materials at the University of Milan



**Symposium on 20 Sept. 2024**

Università degli Studi di Milano  
Via Festa del Perdono 7 – Milan  
(Room 309)

**Book of abstracts**



### **Scientific committee**

Luciana Pedrazzini  
Giovanni Iamartino  
Andrea Nava  
Martin Ruskov  
Emanuela Tenca

### **Organising committee**

Luciana Pedrazzini  
Andrea Nava  
Martin Ruskov  
Emanuela Tenca  
Andrea Verdino

### **Under the patronage of**

AILA Research Network for the History of Language Learning and Teaching –

**HoLLTnet**

Associazione Italiana di Anglistica – **AIA**

Centro Interuniversitario di Ricerca sulla Storia degli Insegnamenti Linguistici

– **CIRSIL**

Società Italiana di Didattica delle Lingue e Linguistica Educativa – **DILLE**

Ufficio Scolastico Regionale per la Lombardia – **USR**

## Table of Contents

AN ELT ARCHIVE – HOW CAN IT BE RELEVANT TO TEACHING TODAY? .....	4
BEYOND NATIVES: TRACING AND VALUING ITALIAN AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO ELT COURSEBOOKS AND MATERIALS IN ITALY: LESSONS TO BE LEARNT FROM NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS' PERSPECTIVES .....	6
EVOLUTION IN LANGUAGE LEARNING, TEACHING AND TRAINING IN ITALIAN SCHOOLS.....	8
TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH TO COMMUNICATE: A CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE FOR ELT COURSEBOOKS?.....	9
A DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF ELT MATERIALS IN ITALY (1900-2000) .....	10
ROUND TABLE: IL RUOLO DELLE UNIVERSITÀ, DELLE RIVISTE E DELLE ASSOCIAZIONI NELL'AMBITO DELL'INSEGNAMENTO DELL'INGLESE IN ITALIA .....	13
WORKSHOP: ELT METHODOLOGIES AND MATERIALS: EXPLORING LEARNING DESIGN .....	15



# An ELT Archive – how can it be relevant to teaching today?

Richard Smith  
University of Warwick

The Warwick ELT Archive, which I founded in 2002 and have been building up since then, is a stand-alone, browsable historical collection of published and unpublished materials relating to the teaching of English as a foreign language and the development of applied linguistics, c.1880–c.1990. We advertise the collection as “a unique resource for students, teachers, researchers and others interested in the history of ELT, and the histories of language teaching and applied linguistics more broadly” ([www.warwick.ac.uk/elt\\_archive](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/elt_archive)). Certainly, the collection has been consulted occasionally and to good effect by researchers, contributing also to the general expansion of History of Language Learning and Teaching (HoLLT) as a field of inquiry in recent years, for example as a direct inspiration (according to Nava and Pedrazzini 2019) for the Italy ELT Archive. To what extent, though, have students and teachers become more attracted to and enlightened by the history of ‘global’ ELT and of English language education in their own contexts over the last 20 years? In this talk, I present some resources and activities that have proven to be useful and sketch out others that the HoLLT Research Circle at Warwick is currently envisaging, with a view to further collaborative exploration of ways to embed the history of ELT/ELE more deeply in language teacher education, including with colleagues in Italy.

Nava, A. and Pedrazzini, L. (2019). Italy ELT Archive. A historical archive of materials for English language teaching in Italy. *Quaderni del CIRSIL* 12, 291–314.



## Richard Smith's Bio

Richard Smith, Professor of ELT and Applied Linguistics at the University of Warwick, is the founder and co-convenor (with Professor Giovanni Iamartino) of the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA) Research Network

on History of Language Learning and Teaching (HoLLTnet). His publications include *The History of Language Learning and Teaching* (with Nicola McLelland; Legenda, 2018), *Policies and Practice in Language Learning and Teaching: 20th-century Historical Perspectives* (with Sabine Doff; Amsterdam University Press, 2022) and *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching: Historical Perspectives* (with Tim Giesler; Benjamins, 2023), as well as 22 volumes which reproduce classic texts from the 19th and early 20th-century histories of language teaching and ELT (partly with A.P.R. Howatt; Routledge, 2000–2005).

# **Beyond natives: tracing and valuing Italian authors' contributions to ELT coursebooks and materials in Italy: lessons to be learnt from non-native speakers' perspectives**

Lucilla Lopriore

Università degli Studi Roma 3/TESOL Italia

This contribution is aimed at offering an overview of the outstanding contributions of numerous Italian authors and publishers to innovative EFL coursebooks, teacher education programs and language policies in the Italian educational system, as well as the role played by research studies in our foreign language education. Main changes and innovations, European recommendations, the active involvement of both the British Council and the USIS, the unofficial paths offered by publishers, by professional associations initiatives and conferences, by international exchange programs, and, most recently, by European initiatives, will be explored and discussed. Some of the changes introduced at curriculum level (e.g. CLIL) and recent shifts to include World Englishes and English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) in teacher education and in coursebooks, have added yet new perspectives in language teaching and are currently informing classroom practice in the Italian growingly multilingual schoolscapes.



## **Lucilla Lopriore's Bio**

Lucilla Lopriore, English language teacher in Italian schools (1976-2000). qualified teacher educator (1988, UK; 1989, USA Fulbright) and Roma Tre University Professor (2001 -2022), served as TESOL Italy President between 1996 and 1998. Between 2001 and 2004 she was part of the TESOL International Directors Board, and in 2017 of the TESOL International Research Council.

She has led and participated in several research projects in Italy and abroad: National Italian Primary school foreign languages (1999-2000); ELLiE (2006-2010); National Project on ELF (2015/17); Erasmus+ ENRICH Project (2018/21); eCOST-CLILNetLE(2023/27).

She is a coursebook author and teacher educator in ELT, ELF, and CLIL courses. Her research interests include: CLIL, continuity, disciplinary literacies, early language learning, educational linguistics, ELF, language awareness, mediation, multilingualism, oracy, as well as teacher identity and education.

## Evolution in language learning, teaching and training in Italian schools

Gisella Langé

Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito

To provide some background on the evolution of language education in the last five decades, I will begin with a brief look at the history of language learning in Italy, analyzing teaching approaches that have influenced foreign language classrooms both in schools and universities over the years. Focusing on the impact of European and United Nations policies and documents on decisions made by the Italian Ministry of Education, I will mention strategic objectives and key areas while designing continuous professional development for trainers and teachers. Particular attention: fostering innovative methodologies, analyzing frameworks and defining profiles for teachers of all languages.

Finally, the presentation will conclude with recent developments and global perspectives for the future of language education in Italy.



### Gisella Langé's Bio

Professor Gisella Langé is a Foreign Languages Inspector with the Italian Ministry of Education advising on internationalization and foreign languages. She has extensive experience of working as an expert on European Commission, Council of Europe, OECD/PISA, RAIScuola assignments. A researcher, writer and consultant on issues relating to FL teaching, curriculum development and plurilingual/intercultural education, she specializes in culture and language learning solutions, and web-based teacher training. She has also been instrumental in the realization of innovative language learning practices through international project development of early language learning, the European Language Portfolio, the CEFR Companion Volume, plurilingual/intercultural education and Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) in different parts of the world.



# Teaching and learning English to communicate: a change of perspective for ELT coursebooks?

Paola Vettorel

Università degli Studi di Verona

After a brief introduction of some ELT coursebooks used in the Italian education system in the 1980s, this presentation will explore how coursebook materials could represent a relevant reference point regarding the role English has developed as a main means of international communication.

Indeed, coursebooks and coursebook materials still represent a main tool in class, both for teachers and learners, and their role in the teaching and learning process remains central. Over the last decades, English has become the global language *par excellence*; its vast presence in the linguistic landscape at large and its role as a lingua franca of communication entail that encounters with English are nowadays no longer limited to ELT classes. As a consequence, learners of English are most often also users of the language in actual communicative contexts, interacting with other bi/multilingual speakers of English.

How can coursebook materials, and classroom practices, respond to this new reality? Do coursebooks take it into account in any way, particularly as to the development of communication skills and strategies needed in these lingua franca contexts? And are teachers prepared to integrate, and possibly to move 'beyond' the coursebook, in this respect?



## Paola Vettorel's Bio

Paola Vettorel is Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures - University of Verona. Her research interests include ELF and its implications in ELT. Among her recent publications: (2021) *World Englishes, English as a Lingua Franca and ELT materials: a critical perspective*, in Y. Bayyurt (ed.), *Bloomsbury World Englishes-Pedagogies Volume 3*. London: Bloomsbury; (2023), with M. Antonello. *Promoting ELF awareness in Language Teacher Education and ELT practices: perspectives and challenges*. *Journal of English as a Lingua Franca* 12/1.

## A digital archive of ELT materials in Italy (1900–2000)

Luciana Pedrazzini, Andrea Nava, Martin Ruskov, and

Emanuela Tenca

Università degli Studi di Milano

Over the last decade, international research into the history of foreign language education has gained in importance (Coffey 2020; Howatt & Smith, 2014; McLelland & Smith 2018; Smith 2016). However, compared with historical research into French language teaching, for example, the history of English Language Teaching (ELT) in the Italian context is still a relatively undeveloped field of enquiry. To address this gap, a two-year project is underway at the Department of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Mediations at the University of Milan to create an online archive of ELT materials published in the 20th century targeting Italian learners of English – the Italy ELT Archive.

The primary sources, comprising genres such as coursebooks and pedagogical grammars, are collected as bibliographical entries and supplemented by digitised sample pages. The purpose is to promote research into ELT history in Italy, and to provide in-service and pre-service teachers with a tool to understand the principles underpinning ELT materials (Nava and Pedrazzini 2019).

The rationale behind the development of the archive will be illustrated by outlining the criteria for sampling the sources as well as the categories adopted to organise their entries. These, for instance, identify the methods and approaches informing the materials while emphasising the authors' professional background (e.g. teacher, teacher trainer, or academic) and the local teaching context. The critical impact these elements exerted on materials design will be demonstrated by providing an example of how the archive can be browsed and used to investigate the local take-up and adaptation of a language teaching method. Additionally, some preliminary data analysis will be performed to illustrate the usefulness of the archive in answering research questions.

Given that developing a historical sense has fundamental implications for language teacher education (Smith 2013, 2016), it is hoped that this project will enable teachers to critically evaluate current teaching methods, approaches, and practices, whilst paving the way for innovation in the EFL classroom.

Coffey, S. (Ed.). (2020). *The History of Grammar in Foreign Language Teaching*. Amsterdam University Press.

Howatt, A. P. R., & Smith, R. (2014). The history of teaching English as a foreign language, from a British and European perspective. *Language & History* 57(1), 75-95.

McLelland, N., & Smith R. (Eds.). (2018). *The History of Language Learning and Teaching* (3 volumes). Legenda.

Nava, A. and Pedrazzini, L. (2019). Italy ELT Archive. A historical archive of materials for English language teaching in Italy. *Quaderni del CIRSIL* 12, 291-314.

Smith, R. (2013). Harold E. Palmer, IRLT and Historical sense in ELT. *IRLT Journal* 12, 1-8.

Smith, R. (2016). Building 'Applied Linguistic Historiography': Rationale, scope, and methods. *Applied Linguistics* 37(1), 71-87.

## Bios



**Luciana Pedrazzini** (Principal Investigator) is an Associate Professor of Second Language Education and TESOL in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Mediations of the University "Statale" of Milan. Her main research interests are in the areas of second language acquisition and pedagogy, history of language teaching, and teacher education. She is the co-author (with Andrea Nava) of *Second Language Acquisition in Action: Principles from Practice* (Bloomsbury, 2018) and the co-founder of the Italy ELT Archive at the University of Milan.



**Andrea Nava** is an Associate Professor in English in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Mediations of the University "Statale" of Milan. His research interests are mainly in the areas of grammaticography, second language acquisition and the history of language learning and teaching.



**Martin Ruskov** is a Researcher in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Mediations of the University "Statale" of Milan, where he works in the area of Computer Supported Collaborative Work and its applications in Computational Humanities and Cultural

Analytics. Martin earned his PhD degree at University College London. He worked on a variety of projects including virtual explorations of historical artefacts, lexical analysis of parallel medieval texts, and study of evolution of intended and perceived values. His research interests include exploratory data analysis, data-driven storytelling, and technology-enhanced learning.



**Emanuela Tenca** is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Mediations of the University "Statale" of Milan. Her research interests include English language teaching and learning, also from a historical perspective, inclusive and accessible foreign language education, English for Specific Purposes, and corpus-assisted discourse analysis.

## Round table: Il ruolo delle università, delle riviste e delle associazioni nell'ambito dell'insegnamento dell'inglese in Italia

Chair: Stefania Nuccorini  
Università degli Studi Roma 3/CIRSIL

Dopo qualche breve considerazione sull'Archivio, che invita a riflettere sui principi sottesi ai materiali didattici per l'apprendimento dell'inglese pubblicati nel contesto italiano del ventesimo secolo, saranno affrontate le tematiche sul ruolo delle associazioni, università e riviste nella formazione degli insegnanti, nella didattica e nella ricerca, sia in chiave storica, sia guardando 'oltre', prendendo in considerazione contesti e approcci più recenti, con riferimenti a varie esperienze professionali negli ambiti della formazione, dell'evoluzione della glottodidattica, dei metodi, e del ruolo dei corsi universitari.

**Lucilla Lopriore** (Università degli Studi Roma 3/TESOL Italia), **Silvia Minardi** (LEND), **Gianfranco Porcelli** (ANILS) e **Maria Cecilia Rizzardi** (Università degli Studi di Milano) affronteranno tematiche ben presenti nelle loro esperienze didattiche e nelle loro pubblicazioni – libri, articoli, manuali – e, in particolare, faranno riferimento al ruolo delle riviste con cui hanno collaborato nell'ambito dell'apprendimento e insegnamento della lingua inglese.



### Stefania Nuccorini's Bio

Stefania Nuccorini is Honorary Professor of English at the University of Roma Tre. She is a member of the International Committee of the International Association of University Professors of English (IAUPE), and a member of the European Master in Lexicography (EMLex) and of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's degree (EMJMD) in Lexicography.

She has conducted research into English Learner's Dictionaries and dictionaries of collocations, English lexicology, lexicological and lexicographical English-Italian contrastive issues, dictionary use, specialised lexicography, text analysis and pragmatics. Her recent research interests include phraseology, corpus linguistics, translation, norm and usage, English-Italian culture-specific issues, and the synchronic and diachronic analysis of

19th and early 20th century bilingual (English-Italian and English-French) dictionaries. She is currently working on usage labels in different dictionaries.

# Workshop: ELT methodologies and materials: exploring learning design

Sharon Hartle

Università degli Studi di Verona

This workshop aims to:

1. sensitize the course participants to available resources and the methodological approaches they are based on.
2. Provide the opportunity to adapt existing materials to meet the needs of different approaches they may wish to implement.



## Sharon Hartle's Bio

Sharon Hartle is Associate Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Verona University. She is specialized in English Language teaching (ELT) pedagogy and didactics and works specifically in the field of English for Specific Purposes (ESP). She has worked for some years in the field of e-learning and specializes in multimedia materials development for ELT in Blended Learning contexts as well as inclusive English Language Teaching contexts. Her research interests also extend to include English language assessment and EMI.



## Contacts

Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Mediations

Università degli Studi di Milano

Piazza S. Alessandro 1 – Milan

[italy.elt.archive@gmail.com](mailto:italy.elt.archive@gmail.com)

<https://italy-elt-archive.unimi.it/>

Follow us on X (Twitter) [@ItalyELTArchive](https://twitter.com/ItalyELTArchive)