

VATI Congress 2017

Official Opening

VATI President: Ferdinando Colarossi

Welcome: Dott. Marco Maria Cerbo – Consul General of Italy in Melbourne

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Franco Romano – University for Foreigners Perugia

Keynote address

"Fenomenologia dell'Italiano di oggi: evoluzioni, involuzioni e devoluzioni linguistiche."

Abstract

A language in evolution and how Italian is changing: a general view with examples on the most frequent anomalous phenomena, unusual and unexpected language occurrences, irregularities, deviances, as well as mutations and involution in the lexicon, vocabulary, orthography, grammar and syntax.

Italian Language like many other languages, undergoes natural evolutions, mutations, and changes, which include new terms, grammar mistakes once not accepted, modifications in orthography, alteration in syntax and the entry of new idiomatic expressions.

Presenter

Prof. Franco Romano

Il Prof. Franco Romano è Docente di Lingua e Cultura Italiana per Stranieri presso l'Università per Stranieri di Perugia dal 1992, dove ha maturato una vastissima esperienza nei seguenti ambiti: didattica della Lingua, della Cultura e della Civiltà italiana a Stranieri in tutti i livelli di apprendimento, dai livelli base a quelli più avanzati; formazione e aggiornamento di docenti di lingua italiana L2/LS, con particolare riferimento a docenti di madre lingua anglofona e tedesca; preparazione dei Test per le Certificazioni della conoscenza della lingua italiana (CELI), traduzioni dall'inglese e dal tedesco all'italiano; Letteratura italiana contemporanea. Si sottolineano inoltre le numerose attività formative svolte all'estero nell'ambito di Corsi di aggiornamento per docenti di lingua italiana L2/LS, segnalando in particolare quelle realizzate in Australia presso i Co.As.It. di Brisbane, Melbourne e Sydney.

Workshops

1.1 & 2.1 It's more than just another Italian Day! – Organising Italian Cultural Days

Abstract

Italian Cultural Activity Day is an integral part of the school curriculum. As such, it is an important event to showcase the Language Program in our schools and to highlight the importance of the continued learning of the Italian language and culture. This workshop will explore how to organise a successful Cultural Day, the benefits of conducting an Italian Day and how to involve the whole school and local community to support such an important event.

Presenter

Rosa Paladino

Teaching with over 25 years' experience, Rosa has conducted Italian Cultural Activity Days every year (with sometimes two in a year). She has worked at multiple primary schools with experience in State, Catholic and Private education. Rosa is very passionate about teaching and learning associated with the Italian language. She makes strong links with Literacy in her program to support classroom practises in her schools and she will use new and innovative strategies and resources including IT and Language Competitions, to engage her students. Currently working at two schools, Glenferrie and Northcote Primary Schools, Rosa has been the recipient of Departmental scholarships including CLIL, Language Leaders with Western/Northern Region and The Language Leaders course with The Bastow Institute. Rosa has worked alongside with Dott. Mignatti and has been part of a pilot project with the VCAA a few years ago, amongst other initiatives.

1.2 & 2.2 Neologismi e nuove entrate nel lessico dell'Italiano moderno

Abstract

Questa sessione sarà in lingua italiana.

Using the language in different contexts or situations by referring to new and more recent entries in the Italian vocabulary, in particular new words and terms, as well as English interferences, which in later years have successfully made their way into everyday conversational Italian, in social media, TV, radio, popular magazines and newspapers.

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1.3 Italian Poetry writing

Abstract

The presenters will talk about the many positive aspects of poetry writing and show you examples of students' capability when given the appropriate structure and tools that enables them to produce work that incorporates the 5 senses, emotions and musicality. We will guide you through the creative process and give you time to be creative as well.

Presenter

Mary Marcuccio

Mary is a former teacher who is heavily involved in the Dante Alighieri Society and supports all the various competitions that are organised. She is also a strong advocate of the learning of the Italian language through students' creativity and encourages colleagues to develop students' potential.

Massimiliano Tosi

Massimiliano coordinates the Italian bilingual program at Gladstone Park Secondary College. Together with his Italian team, he encourages students to discover the etymology of words and to analyse them in order to make them become creative writing. He is also a keen learner of foreign languages, and is passionate about growing food, soccer and promoting the Italian culture in Australia.

1.4 Strategies for Supporting and Managing Students with Special Needs

Abstract

This session aims to provide teachers with practical and effective strategies for working with the range of learners who experience challenges every day in our classrooms. This includes a focus on students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), as well as discussion of students with various needs, both social and emotional as well as academic. Teachers will learn strategies for management of behaviour, tools for motivation, and approaches to understanding needs of individual learners. Teachers will return to school with an insight into these learners and their specific needs, and ideas for adapting their everyday teaching in small ways to make big differences to students.

Presenter

Sarah Pavy

Sarah is a teacher of Languages who consults in Melbourne and interstate in a variety of areas relating to learning and teaching. Previously Head of Languages at a secondary boys' school, Sarah completed a Masters in Education focusing on engaging boys in languages and teacher role in motivation. Sarah runs seminars in a range of areas, including Differentiation of the Curriculum, Behaviour Management, VET Languages, Boys Education, EAL in the Mainstream Classroom, iPads in Classrooms, Backwards Design Curriculum Planning, Assessment, and Inquiry Teaching and Learning. Sarah facilitates short and long-term projects, tailoring objectives, workshops and ongoing support to the needs of the teachers with whom she works. Sarah is passionate about supporting teachers to constantly reflect on, and enhance their approaches to teaching and learning.

In 2014 and 2015, Sarah was based in Jakarta, Indonesia, where her work (in an international school setting) focused on inquiry approaches to primary teaching, assessment practices across primary and secondary schools and EAL in the mainstream classroom. During that time, Sarah continued to consult in Australia. Since her return to Melbourne, Sarah's work has focused on Assessment in Schools, the role of Feedback in the Assessment Process, and Differentiation (in particular, highly able and gifted learners, as well as learners with special needs).

1.5 & 2.5 Digital resources for the Italian classroom: a practical approach

Abstract

“I have to embed ICT in my classes, it’s part of my school’s requirements, do you know any good resources?” This is a comment I hear all too often from teachers and it’s only through hours of trawling through websites that you find something appropriate. During this session, I will aim to provide you with examples of great digital resources for the Italian classroom. I will take you through websites, apps. and other programs that are accessible and easy to use across F-12

Presenter

Fabiano Nigro

Fabiano is an Italo-Australian with a passion for Italian language and culture, “When I finished high school, all I knew was that I wanted to study Italian.” His appetite for learning has seen him study in Italy and become a practising teacher of Italian, English, Humanities and Food & Technology.

Fabiano has led curriculum development and change at numerous schools, all the while incorporating ICT to give his students every opportunity to access authentic and clever resources to enhance their learning experience. He enjoys facilitating professional development opportunities that encourage the sharing of resources and ideas amongst teachers, “If you have an awesome lesson on how to teach telling the time in Italian, shout it from the rooftops and give it to everyone you know”.

2.3 The Living Italian classroom

Abstract

In this workshop you will explore the power of cognitively stimulating classrooms spaces, especially designed for language education. Jenna Lo Bianco will walk you through step-by-step how to establish your own language-specific classrooms, from layout to decoration, to resource management and the psychology of learning. Arm yourself with the knowledge to create a classroom space that is both powerfully stimulating and engagingly beautiful at the same time. Ideal for both primary and secondary teachers.

Presenter

Jenna Lo Bianco

Jenna Lo Bianco likes to think outside the box when it comes to Italian language education. Jenna is a practising teacher, has taught Italian in the UK and has a background in language education consulting and publishing. Passionate about ensuring a future for Italian language education in Australia, Jenna is exploring new and exciting pedagogical strategies through her doctoral studies at Monash University. Jenna has committed her teaching practice to developing hands-on engaging activities, which provide not only for differentiated and inclusive learning, but also foster a love of the Italian language and culture. Grounded in the belief that motivation and self-efficacy directly impact on student outcomes, Jenna's work seeks to ensure that every single student can experience success in the Italian classroom...and it can be fun, too!

2.4 Visual and tactile resources to build language skills

Abstract

This workshop is aimed at primary teachers and focuses on the use of visual and tactile resources to build language skills. Visual and tactile resources can be used to provide engaging and varied experiences for students, offer opportunities for a broader range of vocabulary, focus on building student confidence and fluency and increase use of target language. This will be a hands-on workshop where teachers will participate in all activities demonstrated and will leave with a range of ideas that can be immediately implemented in classrooms.

Presenter

Sarah Pavy

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3.1 Victorian Curriculum Primary Implementation

Abstract

The workshop *A practical approach to implementing the Victorian Curriculum for Primary level Italian Teachers* will provide a hands-on approach to exploring the Victorian Curriculum for effective language learning and teaching. It guides teachers in unpacking elements of the curriculum through practical activities. These activities are designed to assist teachers with planning engaging activities that lead to addressing capabilities and curriculum priorities with an emphasis on developing languages proficiency amongst learners. It is expected that teachers have viewed the Victorian Curriculum and seek to gain a working understanding of the implications of the Curriculum for their own teaching contexts.

Presenter

Teresa De Fazio

Dr. De Fazio has worked in tertiary education for over 25 years in the areas of teacher education, academic development, management, academic literacies, and educational research. She has worked at various universities across Australia and has managed a range of projects focussing on languages education, intercultural literacies, student engagement, student diversity, inclusive practices, educational development, leadership, blended learning, curriculum and resources development.

Amongst other activities at VU, Dr. De Fazio is currently involved in a range of initiatives to support languages teachers through methodology programs for mainstream and community language sectors. She has initiated the Learning through Teaching Program (LTTP) as an innovative response to mentoring PhD students transitioning into academia.

Dr. De Fazio has developed various online modules and courses for programs such as the Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Education at Victoria University, Swinburne University and Open Universities Australia on Theories of Learning, Inclusive Teaching and Learning, Development of Academic Literacies amongst others.

Dr. De Fazio has published two well-regarded books on study skills amongst other publications. Further, she has published and presented papers on a range of topics aligned to learning development and multiculturalism.

In addition to her academic work, Dr. De Fazio is a Commissioner with the Victorian Multicultural Commission, a Love of Languages Ambassador and Community Ambassador for Melbourne Victory Football Club.

3.2 & 4.2 Frasi idiomatiche di recente acquisizione nell'espressività dell'italiano contemporaneo

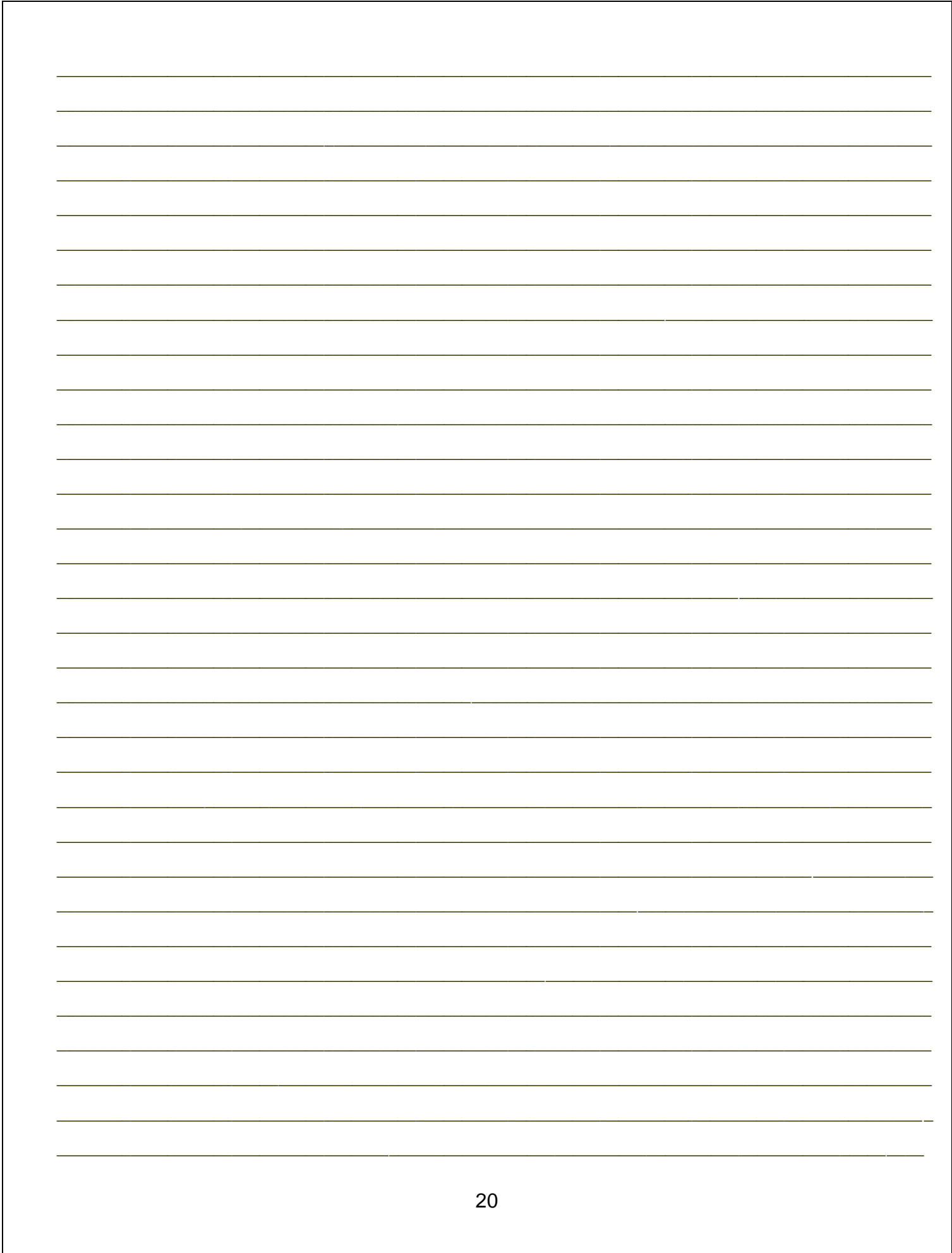
Abstract

A general view on the most relevant changes in idiomatic expressions, as well as new commonly used idioms, sayings, and phrases both in everyday conversational Italian, and in more formal linguistic situations and registers.

Presenter

Prof. Franco Romano

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3.3 Get up and *parla italiano!* – Transforming learning in the 21st Century Italian classroom

Abstract

You can never have enough classroom activity ideas, right? Come along to learn how to focus your classroom practice on specific 21st century learning skills. From the promotion of collaborative learning tasks, to teaching inductive reasoning and inference, this workshop will provide you scope to ramp up your own practice. The activities shared in this session are both primary and secondary level friendly, just adapt them to suit your own context!

Presenter

Jenna Lo Bianco

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3.4 Tecniche di scrittura creativa e l'uso della letteratura in classe

Abstract

L'ascolto è comunemente percepito come l'abilità linguistica in cui si incontrano le maggiori difficoltà. In questo laboratorio si parlerà di quali strategie e approcci siano consigliati per il miglior svolgimento di questa attività in classe. Come possiamo aiutare gli studenti a non bloccarsi di fronte a questa percezione del non capire nulla e come servirsi di risorse già disponibili per la classe.

Presenters

Marco Lacivita

Marco Lacivita is a native-speaker Italian teacher at Gladstone Park Secondary College. He arrived from Rome in 2008 after completing his Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Philosophy. In 2009, he worked as a Language Assistant at Parade College in Bundoora and since 2011 he has been working at Gladstone Park Secondary College. He teaches CLIL (History and Geography) and VCE Italian. He is a regular contributor to 'Orizzonti' and worked as VCAA Oral Assessor.

Annalisa Nardi

Annalisa Nardi is a native-speaker Italian teacher at Gladstone Park Secondary College. Before moving to Australia, she completed a Bachelor of Arts with a focus on literature and linguistics in Venice. In her thesis she analysed archetypical themes in Pinocchio and its renderings. In 2008, she worked as a Language Assistant and since 2010 she has been teaching at Gladstone Park Secondary College. Annalisa teaches CLIL (History and Geography) and VCE Italian. She is a regular contributor to 'Orizzonti' and worked as VCAA Oral Assessor and Exam developer.

3.5 & 4.5 “Ascoltate bambini!”: an instruction based program to extend the use of the target language in the classroom

Abstract

This workshop will focus on the use of instructions in the target language in everyday classroom routines. It will be organised in two parts: (a) a short presentation of the instruction based program that we are implementing at Seabrook Primary School; (b) a practical activity to offer support in developing an instruction based program tailored to your school’s needs.

Presenter

Elena Pirovano

Elena is passionate about bilingualism and second language learning. After teaching for 14 years in Italy, she moved to the US. She took *l’occasione al volo* and started teaching Italian as LOTE. Since 2010, she teaches Italian at Seabrook Primary School. In these years, her focus has been on extending the use of the target language in the classroom by introducing a CLIL program and developing an instruction based program F-6.

4.1 Victorian Curriculum Secondary Implementation

Abstract

The workshop *A practical approach to implementing the Victorian Curriculum for Secondary level Italian Teachers* will provide a hands-on approach to exploring the Victorian Curriculum for effective language learning and teaching. It guides teachers in unpacking elements of the curriculum through practical activities. These activities are designed to assist teachers with planning engaging activities that lead to addressing capabilities and curriculum priorities with an emphasis on developing languages proficiency amongst learners. It is expected that teachers have viewed the Victorian Curriculum and seek to gain a working understanding of the implications of the Curriculum for their own teaching contexts.

Presenter

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4.3 Know thy practice

Abstract

This workshop is designed to be a crash course in second language pedagogy and methodology. Ideal for teachers who have never undertaken formal language methodology training, or for those simply wanting to refresh their knowledge, make sure you bring a pen! Jenna Lo Bianco will guide you through some of the more 'traditional' teaching pedagogies, right through to the most contemporary. Ideal for both primary and secondary teachers.

Presenter

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4.4 VCE Examiners Report

Abstract

A discussion of the Oral and Written examinations of 2015.

Presenter

Tiziana Dodds

Tiziana Dodds has had extensive experience in examinations and assessment. She has been the Chief Assessor for both the oral and written examinations in Italian. She has been an examiner for many years and has been on the review panel for the study design.
