

CURRICULUM VITAE

CURRENT POSITION

Sept 2016-present **Lecturer in English Philology** (Vilnius University, Lithuania)

Courses taught: Stylistics, English Grammar, Lexicology, Introduction to Psycholinguistics, The Language of Poetry, Twentieth Century Anglo-American Poetry

EDUCATION AND DEGREES AWARDED

Jan 2016 **PhD** 'Difficulty in Poetry: a Linguistic and Empirical Perspective'
University of Nottingham, UK
Supervisors: Prof Violeta Sotirova, Dr Neal Alexander

Feb 2010 **MA** 'Translating Poetry: Vittorio Sereni and William Carlos Williams'
University of Pavia, Italy
Supervisors: Prof Clelia Martignoni, Dr Angelo Canavesi

Dec 2007 **BA** in English and Spanish (joint Hons)
University of Pavia, Italy
University of Malaga, Spain (Erasmus Programme)

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Feb 2014-Jun 2016 **Part-time Lecturer** (The University of Nottingham, UK; De Montfort University, UK; Middlesex University, UK)

Courses taught: Stylistics, Language and Psychology, Discourse Analysis

FUNDING AND AWARDS

Jul 2018 Department funding for conference participation (€ 500)

Apr 2018 Erasmus+ funding for teaching purposes in Warsaw (€1000)

Sept 2011-2014 EU Research Excellence Scholarship (Tuition Fees + €7000 p.a.)

Jul 2013 Bursary from the [Poetics and Linguistics Association](#) (€ 300)

Aug 2011 Bursary from the Hungarian Scholarship Board (University of Pécs, four week room and board)

Jul 2011 Award for best MA thesis (University of Pavia, Italy, €500)

Aug 2009 Bursary from the [Ghislieri College](#): four week room and board at St. John's College, Cambridge, UK

Nov 2004-2009 Admission (free room and board) at the [Ghislieri College](#) (Pavia, Italy)

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS

Poetic and Linguistics Association (**PALA**)

SUPERVISION OF RESEARCH WORK

Areas of supervision: Stylistics, Literary Theory, Discourse Analysis

Projects supervised (BA theses): robotic consciousness in sci-fi fiction; extended metaphors in popular scientific writing; discourse analysis of political speeches in TV series; the stylistic construction of loss and desire in Shakespeare's sonnets; stylistic markers in Enlightenment vs Romantic poetry.

OTHER ACADEMIC COMMITMENTS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of the 'Effects of Foregrounding' Research Coalition. This is part of a [structured international network of scholars](#) working in stylistics and empirical studies.

Member of the Board for Plagiarism at Vilnius University. The board are drafting an internal policy to deal with cases of plagiarism uniformly across the department.

PhD external examiner of a thesis applying Critical Stylistics to the analysis of poetry (Huddersfield University, 7 March 2018).

Peer reviewer for *Language and Literature* (July 2018), *Journal of Literary Semantics* (Aug 2016) and *English Language Research Journal* (Jan 2013).

Reviewer for *Language and Literature*. Books reviewed: David-Smith Nowell, *On Voice in Poetry: The Work of Animation* (London, Palgrave 2015); and Peter Hühn, *Facing Loss and Death. Narrative and Eventfulness in Lyric Poetry* (Berlin-Boston, Walter de Gruyter 2016)

Co-founder of the [Stylistics & Discourse Analysis reading group](#) at the University of Nottingham (Jan 2013-Jun 2015), organising a symposium on readers in stylistics in 2014.

PG seminar committee member at the University of Nottingham (2012- 2013)

Outreach activities: school tutor for the [Brilliant Club](#) organisation (Nottingham, 2014- 2015); promoter of a series of culture-related talks at the creative space [Ideas Block](#) (Vilnius, 2018) and of a reading group at the [Italian Institute of Culture](#), Vilnius (2017- 2018)

Translator (Italian to English) of texts about customer service in robotics and of art catalogues

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS (academic)

D. Castiglione (2018, forthcoming), *Difficulty in Poetry: a Stylistic and Processing Model*. Palgrave, London.

D. Castiglione (2017), 'Difficult poetry processing: reading times and the narrativity hypothesis' *Language and Literature*; 26(2): 99-121.

D. Castiglione (2013c), 'The channel of (mis)communication: semantic and pragmatic deviances in two poems by Geoffrey Hill and Susan Howe', [PALA conference proceedings](#).

D. Castiglione (2013b), 'The semantics of difficult poems: deriving a checklist of linguistic phenomena'. *Journal of Literary Semantics*; 42(1): 115-140.

D. Castiglione (2013a), 'Sereni e il processo traduttivo: analisi sincronica e diacronica di una versione da Williams' [Sereni and the translation process: a synchronic and diachronic analysis of a poem by Williams]. *Strumenti Critici*, 28(2), 267-288.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS (creative writing)

D. Castiglione (2017), *Non di fortuna* [poetry in Italian] Ancona, Italic Pequod.

D. Castiglione (2010), *Per ogni frazione* [poetry in Italian] Campanotto, Udine.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND GUEST LECTURES

1. 'Inter-authorial translation variants: a stylistic case study'. Lecture delivered at the University of Warsaw, Poland, April 2018 (invited speaker)
2. 'A processing and language-based typology of difficulty'. Linguistic Seminar Research Series, University of Huddersfield, UK, March 2018 (invited speaker)

3. 'Towards a typology of thwarted representation in poetry'. PALA (Poetics and Linguistics Association), Cagliari, Italy, July 2016.
4. 'Reference and deixis in difficult poems'. English Language Events Week, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK, March 2016 (invited speaker)
5. 'Mapping poetic difficulty: a new model and some examples'. The Place for Poetry, London, UK, May 2015.
6. 'Reading lines, reading times. A psycholinguistic approach to difficult poetry processing'. IGEL (International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature), Turin, Italy, July 2014.
7. 'Has style survived stylistics? Plea for a theoretically autonomous stylistics' PALA (Poetics and Linguistics Association), Maribor, Slovenia, July 2014.
8. 'Suggestions for a model of poetic meaning'. IALS (International Association of Literary Semantics), Canterbury, UK, July 2014.
9. 'Testing the channel of (mis)communication in difficult poems'. PALA (Poetics and Linguistics Association), Heidelberg, Germany, August 2013.
10. 'Sereni and the translation process: synchronic and diachronic analysis of a translation from W. C. Williams'. A Centenary Conference on Vittorio Sereni, Reading, UK, June 2013.
11. 'Difficult poetry: deriving and testing a stylistic check-list'. Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics and Language Teaching, Lancaster, June 2012.

DETAILS OF PAST, CURRENT AND FUTURE RESEARCH

I have spent the last year thoroughly revising, restructuring and refining my PhD dissertation (award gained in January 2016 with minor corrections) on the notion of linguistic difficulty in poetry. In the resulting monograph, forthcoming for Macmillan Palgrave (expected publication date: Autumn 2018), I develop a full-fledged analytical model within an interdisciplinary framework bringing together linguistics, cognitive science and literary studies. The model (introduced in Castiglione 2013 and, with updates, in Castiglione 2017) identifies nearly thirty linguistic features likely to cause processing and interpretive difficulty (i.e. a lack of comprehension, including the triggering of faulty or elliptical mental representations).

Typical features, called linguistic indicators of difficulty (LIDs henceforth) include: morphological deviation, phrasal complexity, the use of abstract over concrete nouns, of subordination over coordination, of novel over conventional metaphors, the shifting of tenses and pronouns, the weakening of textual schemata (i.e. narrativity and coherence). These features prompt a range of cognitive effects, from a feeling of detachment to the thwarting of mental representations. Such effects can be inferred from behavioural data such as tentative written or spoken interpretations (e.g. containing hedges, hesitations, self-corrections, alternative statements), long reading times and blunt rejections. On a more theoretical level, the model brings together different linguistic traditions – especially the systemic-functionalist and the cognitive – showing how they complement each other in accounting for linguistic creativity and its effects. My model thus offers a principled methodology to examine, assess and even predict the cognitive difficulty of texts. Its stepwise applicability is likely to appeal to researchers from a wide range of disciplines: from experimental psychologists to pedagogy experts – not to mention its relevance to literary scholars.

In collaboration with a thriving creative space in Vilnius, I am starting to investigate the parallels between linguistic techniques of difficulty and painterly techniques of abstraction. In this way, it will become possible to spread interpretation practices in non-academic settings, as well as creating new ways and contexts through which verbal art can be accessed and appreciated. A detailed research plan, specifying the theoretical background, the methodology and a proposed timescale, is available upon request.