

University of Calabria, Rende (Cosenza)
February 2-4, 2023

*What words don't say:
Intercultural, cross-cultural and societal aspects of (in)direct communication*

Pragmatics is a broad discipline encompassing a range of approaches to the study of language and communication in context. Taking the lead from Leech's words (2014: 77) – "Why is what people say often at variance with what they mean, and how is it that (despite this) we humans can nevertheless more or less understand one another?" –, the conference aims to promote theoretical and applied research on pragmatics as "meaning in interaction" (Thomas, 1995; Culpeper & Terkourafi 2017), which includes what is conveyed explicitly and implicitly.

Interlocutors collaborate to establish a joint understanding of what they are talking about by creating a common ground of direct and indirect references that allows them to share, negotiate and mediate meaning(s). Since people communicate through and beyond words, the 'unspoken' needs to be inferred from the context, but what remains implicit in conversation may vary depending on the relationship between the interlocutors, the language(s) they are using, the topic they are discussing, and the social and cultural context in which the interaction occurs (Hall, 1969/1990).

The conference is meant to open a debate on issues relevant to explicit and implicit communication. Research questions can be approached within various frameworks in pragmatics such as neo-Gricean approaches, relevance theory, usage and corpus-based approaches theory of mind, meaning-making, the role of context, the semantics/pragmatics interface, explicature, implicature, grammaticalization, speech act theory, presuppositions, (im)politeness, dialogism, cognitive pragmatics, clinical pragmatics, neuropragmatics, variational pragmatics etc. In addition, insightful contributions can be offered within the neighbouring disciplines of sociolinguistics, conversation analysis and discourse analysis.

Specifically, we welcome papers dealing with, but not restricted to, the following topics:

Bilinguals' and heritage speakers' language use
Intercultural and cross-cultural communication
Implicit aspects of linguistic content
Co-construction and negotiation of meaning
Persuasive strategies (from implicit meaning to inferences)
Pragmatic competence, teachability and learnability of pragmatic skills
Interlanguage pragmatic development (L1, L2, L3...)
Interaction between verbal and non-verbal aspects in web-mediated communication
Digital resources for relational and (im)politeness purposes
Construction of identities, affiliation and group memberships in a mediated context
Quasi-proxemics aspects of mediated communication
Multimodal communication
Managing interaction: (Im)politeness and relational work
The interface between pragmatics and morphology, lexicon, syntax and prosody
Pragmatics and non-verbal communication
Pragmatic aspects of accommodation

Language conflict
Expression and perception of emotions
Translation and interpreting
Figures of speech (irony, metaphor, hyperbole, etc.).

We welcome theoretically or empirically oriented proposals (up to 300 words) for 20-minute oral presentations (+ 10 minutes for questions) or posters, which should be sent by November 25, 2022, to the three following addresses: anna.demarco@unical.it, mariagraziapalumbo@yahoo.it, mnl.paone@gmail.com, inserting "What words don't say" in the subject line of the e-mail. Abstracts must include name, surname, affiliation and a short bio-note (50 words). Acceptance will be communicated by December 20, 2022. The languages of the conference, which will be held on site, are English and Italian. Contributions will be published in an edited volume.

Important dates and deadlines:

Conference date: February 2-4, 2023

Abstract submission deadline: November 25, 2022

Notification of abstract acceptance: December 20, 2022

Confirmation of attendance: January 3, 2022

Conference organizers: Anna De Marco (chair of the organizing committee), Mirko Casagrande, Emanuele Fadda, Giusy Gallo, Giorgio Lo Feudo, Mariagrazia Palumbo, Emanuela Paone.

Scientific committee:

Grazia Basile, Mirko Casagrande, Giuseppe Cosenza, Barbara D'Annunzio, Anna De Marco, Emanuele Fadda, Giusy Gallo, Sara Gesuato, Paola Leone, Giorgio Lo Feudo, Elena Nuzzo, Renata Oggero, Mariagrazia Palumbo, Emanuela Paone, Patrizia Sorianello, Ineke Vedder.

Conference link: https://www2.unical.it/portale/strutture/dipartimenti_240/dsu/wwds/

References

Bratt Paulston, C., Kiesling, S. F., Rangel E. S. (Eds) (2012), *The Handbook of Intercultural Discourse and Communication*, Wiley-Blackwell.

Culpeper, J., Terkourafi, M. (2017). "Pragmatics and (Im)Politeness". In: Culpeper J., Haugh, M. and Kadar D. (eds.), *Palgrave Handbook of (Im)politeness*. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 11-39.

Hall, E. T. (1969/1990). *The hidden dimension*. New York: Anchor Books Editions.

Leech, G. (2014). *The Pragmatics of Politeness*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Lombardi Vallauri, E. (2019). *La lingua disonesta. Contenuti impliciti e strategie di persuasione*. Bologna: Il Mulino.

Ochs, E., Schlegoff, E.A. Thompson, S. A. (2010), *Studies in Interactional sociolinguistics*; Cambridge: CUP.

Thomas, J. (1995). *Meaning in Interaction: An Introduction to Pragmatics*. London and New York: Longman