

LUIGI SQUILLANTE, PhD

Dip. Scienze Sociali ed Economiche – Sapienza, Università di Roma



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PhD student in Sociology with a strong interdisciplinary background in learning science, linguistics, and astrophysics, and a prior PhD in Computational Linguistics with “Doctor Europaeus” distinction. Experienced in high school and university-level teaching, with a solid record of academic publications and roles at leading tech companies (Apple, Amazon, Google) in natural language processing. Fluent in Italian and English.

EDUCATION

- **PhD Student in Sociology and Applied Social Research**

November 2024 – present | Sapienza Università di Roma - Rome, Italy

Admitted to a limited-enrollment PhD program within the PhD School in Social and Economic Sciences with the research proposal: “Mainstreaming Drag: An investigation on the Social Dynamics Behind the Contemporary ‘Drag Boom’ in the Italian Context”.

- **Laurea Magistrale in Scienze Sociali Applicate (MA in Applied Social Sciences)**

December 2023 | Sapienza Università di Roma - Rome, Italy

Thesis: Neoliberalism Drag. An analysis of the talent show RuPaul’s Drag Race as a governmental Dispositif.

Supervisor: Prof. Letteria G. Fassari

Honors: 110/110 *summa cum laude*

- **Laurea in Sociologia (BA in Sociology)**

July 2020 | Sapienza Università di Roma - Rome, Italy

Thesis: The Calvinist Ethic and the Spirit of RuPaulism. A sociological Interpretation of the Success of RuPaul’s Drag Race.

Supervisor: Prof. Letteria G. Fassari

Honors: 110/110 *summa cum laude*

- **PhD (double degree) in Filologia, Linguistica e Letteratura & Computational Linguistics (Philology, Linguistics and Literature & Computational Linguistics)**

July 2015 | Sapienza Università di Roma - Rome, Italy & Universität Hildesheim – Hildesheim, Germany

Winner of a scholarship for a three-year project aiming to study and empirically categorize multiword expressions and collocations in the Italian language. The research was co-tutored between Sapienza, Italy and Universität Hildesheim, Germany.

Dissertation: Polirematiche e collocazioni dell’italiano. Uno studio linguistico e computazionale (Italian Multiword Expressions and Collocation. A Linguistic and computational study).

Supervisors: Prof. Isabella Chiari & Prof. Ulrich Heid

Honors: Excellent (Italian) / *summa cum laude* (German), with “Doctor Europaeus” distinction.

- **Tirocinio Formativo Attivo (Post-graduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching)**

July 2015 | Sapienza Università di Roma - Rome, Italy

Selected for a post-graduate limited-enrollment course in pedagogy leading to the qualification required to teach in Italian secondary schools.

Honors: 100/100

- **Laurea Magistrale in Astronomia e Astrofisica (MSc in Astronomy and Astrophysics)**

May 2011 | Sapienza Università di Roma - Rome, Italy

Thesis: Constraining the Thermal History of the Universe with Cosmic Microwave Anisotropies.

Supervisor: Prof. Alessandro Melchiorri

Honors: 110/110 *summa cum laude* (4.0/4.0 GPA)

Winner of a school grant for a thesis on the process of Reionization at the University of Cambridge (UK) – Kavli Institute of Cosmology.

Degree obtained with the certification of “Percorso d’Eccellenza” reserved to most brilliant students.

- **Laurea in Fisica e Astrofisica (BSc in Physics and Astrophysics)**

July 2009 | Sapienza Università di Roma - Rome, Italy

Thesis: Rilevamento di satelliti di pianeti extrasolari (Detection of exoplanets’ satellites)

Supervisor: Prof. Pietro Giannone

Honors: 110/110 *summa cum laude* (3.9/4.0 GPA)

Selected for an internship to develop research on the Exomars Mission at ASI – Italian Space Agency in Rome, Italy.

Degree obtained with the certification of “Percorso d’Eccellenza” reserved to most brilliant students.

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Digital Humanities (taught in English)**

February 2021 – January 2023

Master’s Programme in English and Anglo-American Studies.

Dept. of European, American and Intercultural Studies, Sapienza Università di Roma | Rome, Italy

Topics: Origin and development of Digital Humanities, Zipf’s law and quantitative analyses of texts, text processing (POS tagging and dependency tagging), introduction to text-mining, regular expressions and simple scripting for linguistic analyses, distributional semantics and word embeddings.

FURTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Mathematics and Physics Secondary Teacher**

January 2012 – November 2024 (discontinuously) | High schools of Lazio, Italy.

Responsibilities other than teaching: Class Coordinator, Work-based Traineeships Coordinator, School Complex Responsible

- **Italian Teacher for Foreign Learners (Basic to Advanced Levels)**

January 2017 – May 2017 | Center of Italian Studies, Carlton – Melbourne Greater Area, VIC, Australia

OTHER EXPERIENCES

- **Data Curation Engineer**

December 2022 – June 2023 | Apple - Barcelona, Spain.

Responsible for the quality of linguistic data and the health of machine learning models for the Italian version of the conversational agent “Siri”.

- **Machine Learning Data Linguist II**

June 2021 – November 2022 | Amazon - Turin, Italy.

Part of the linguistic team working on the Italian version of the conversational agent “Alexa”. Involved in a series of different activities, including the development of improvements to linguistic artifacts, bug fixing, NLP related tasks, launch and maintainance of linguistic models targeted to specific tasks.

- **Event Support Volunteer**

November 2017 – June 2021 | Amal for Education - Rome, Italy.

Provided logistical and organization support for charity events in Rome focused on raising funds for Syrian refugee children.

- **Analytical Linguistic Project Manager**

November 2014 – February 2015 | Google (via Adecco) - Milan, Italy.

Responsible for training, managing and supervising of a team of junior linguists working on raw linguistic data for the Italian version of the conversational agent “Google Assistant”.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

SQUILLANTE L. (forthcoming) – *RuPaul’s Drag Race: Neoliberalism Queer? (RuPaul’s Drag Race: Queer Neoliberalism?)*. Pisa: ETS.

SQUILLANTE L. (forthcoming) – “Polirematiche” (Multiword Expressions), in Schafroth, E., Imperiale, R. & Autelli, E. (eds.), *Manuale di fraseologia italiana*. Alessandria: Dell’Orso.

SQUILLANTE L. (2025) – “The Neoliberal ‘Ru-presentation’ of Drag as a Key to Success and Acceptance”, in Laamanen, M., Campana, M., Micheli, M., Venkatraman R. & Duffy, K. (eds.), *Drag as Marketplace: Contemporary Cultures, Identities, and Business*. Bristol: Bristol University Press.

CHIARI I., BADER M., SALEM A. & SQUILLANTE L. (2021) – “Using Corpora in Building a Multilingual Glossary of Migration”. Proceedings of the Corpora 2021 International Conference, 84-94. St. Petersburg.

SQUILLANTE L. (2020) – “Empirical Variability of Italian Multiword Expressions as a Useful Feature for their Categorisation”, in Corpas Pastor, G. and Colson, J. P. (eds.), *Computational and Corpus-based Phraseology*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

SQUILLANTE L., RUTIGLIANO S. & MINOTTI A. (2016) – “Continuità e discontinuità di una funzione: una proposta didattica innovativa” (Continuity and Discontinuity of a Function: An innovative Didactic Approach). *Archimede*, 2, 78-85. Firenze: Le Monnier.

RUTIGLIANO S., SQUILLANTE L. & MINOTTI A. (2016) – “Funzioni lineari e quadratiche: due situazioni concrete per un approccio intuitivo all’argomento” (Linear and Quadratic Functions: Two Real Situation for an Intuitive Approach to the Topic). *Archimede*, 4, 211-217. Firenze: Le Monnier.

SQUILLANTE L. (2016) – *Polirematiche e collocazioni dell'italiano. Uno studio linguistico e computazionale (Italian Multiword Expressions and Collocations. A Linguistic and Computational Study)*. Hildesheim: Universitätsverlag.

SQUILLANTE L. (2014) – "Syntax and Semantics vs. Statistics for Italian Multiword Expressions: Empirical Prototypes and Extraction Strategies". Proceedings of EURALEX International Congress: The User in Focus. Bolzano.

SQUILLANTE L. (2014) – "Towards an Empirical Categorization of Multiword Expressions". Proceedings of the 10th EACL Workshop on Multiword Expressions, 77-81. Gotheborg.

SQUILLANTE L. (2013) – "A Corpus-linguistic Approach to the Colour Naming Debate". *Texte et corpus. Actes des Journées de Linguistique de Corpus 2013*. Lorient.

CONFERENCES, INVITED AND SEMINAR TALKS

2025 Wittgenstein's Family Resemblance as a Conceptual Tool for Queer Research
ISA RC33 11th International Conference on Social Science Methodology – Naples, Italy

2021 Linguistic Representation of Migration in Italy (2013-2020) (with I. Chiari)
AMLI 2021 – Approaches to Language, Migration & Identity – University of Sussex, UK

2019 Perché la matematica è difficile? Dalla logica naturale alla logica formale – Logaritmi e Divina Commedia – Legge di Zipf e fenomeni sociali (Why is mathematics difficult? From natural logic to formal logic – Logarithms and the Divine Comedy – Zipf's law and social phenomena)
Training Course on Digital Mathematics – Caravaggio Institute, Rome, Italy

2016 Empirical Techniques to Categorize Italian Multiword Expressions
Forschungskolloquium der Universität Hildesheim – Hildesheim, Germany

2015 Tecniche statistiche per il trattamento di espressioni a più componenti (Statistical techniques for the treatment of multiword expressions)
International School of text analysis and text mining – Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy

2014 Syntax and Semantics vs. Statistics for Italian Multiword Expressions: Empirical Prototypes and Extraction Strategies
EURALEX International Congress: The User in Focus – Bolzano, Italy

2014 Towards an Empirical Categorization of Multiword Expressions
10th EACL Workshop on Multiword Expressions – Gotheborg, Sweden

2013 A Corpus-linguistic Approach to the Colour Naming Debate
7. Journées de Linguistique de Corpus – Lorient, France

ACADEMIC RECOGNITIONS & GRANTS

2025 Special mention at the "Premio Studi GLBTQ" Award for best queer-themed Thesis
Maurice GLBTQ Association, Turin, Italy

2020 Cultore della Materia (Honorary Fellow) in General Linguistics
Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy

2014 Full sponsorship at the 10th Workshop on Multiword Expressions for the quality of research
European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics

LANGUAGES

- Italian (native speaker)
- English (full professional proficiency)
- Spanish (limited working proficiency)
- German (basic knowledge)

OTHER SKILLS

- Experienced in Agile/SCRUM project management methodology
- Strong teamwork skills, both as a participant and as a leader
