

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.

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### 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:** Neoliberalismo Drag. Un’analisi del talent show RuPaul’s Drag Race come dispositivo governamentale (Neoliberal 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.

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- **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

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## 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 maintenance 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: Neoliberalismo 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.

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- 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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  
*10<sup>th</sup> 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*
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## 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
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