



In December 2023, the members of the CSSEAS elected Prof. Anna Filigenzi as their new coordinator. Anna takes over from Prof. Francesco Sferra, who played a crucial role in establishing and running the Centre during the first years of its existence. We are all very grateful to Francesco and wish Anna a great start as CSSEAS's new coordinator.

### Conferences, Lectures and Seminars at UNIOR

Francesca Moro and Antonia Soriente participated in the organization of the Language Documentation Summer School 2023 (10-14 July 2023). Organized by a consortium of three Universities (University of Naples L'Orientale, Free University of Bozen and University of Tuscia) and an Association (Ethnorema), the Summer School was held this year at the University of Naples L'Orientale. The Language Documentation Summer School 2023 (LDSS 2023) aimed to provide participants with an introduction to the methods and tools of linguistic fieldwork. In both continuity and complementarity with the previous editions (which focused on dialect variation), particular attention was paid to the languages of Africa and Asia. The lectures involved discussions of the theory and practice of language documentation, description and revitalisation, also addressing the issues of the ethical aspects of language research and of the collaboration with local communities, and the problems that a researcher may encounter and their possible solutions. Practical training sessions allowed participants to become familiar with the main tools used for collecting, processing and analysing data.

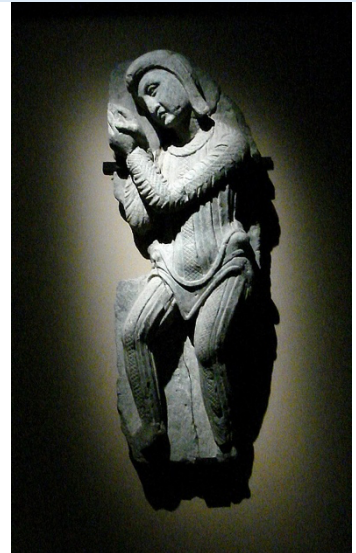


Antonia Soriente and Francesca Moro held a lecture on one of the languages of Indonesia, Sundanese, and tutored the documentation of few of its aspects with a native speaker. Antonia Soriente held a lecture titled "Documenting naturalistic data. From theory to practice: Experiences from Indonesia" and Francesca Moro held a lecture on "Elicited Data Collection".

On 9 October 2023, Antonia Soriente participated in the edizioni & traduzioni /editori e traduttori CESET Seminar, held at L'Orientale with a the contribution "Dall'Oralità alla

Scrittura: racconti e miti dei Kenyah e dei Punan del Borneo” [From orality to literacy: stories and myths of Kenyah and Punan of Borneo].

On 6-8 November, Anna Filigenzi participated in the workshop “La danza nel mondo antico - Dal Mar Mediterraneo al Mar del Giappone” [Dance in the ancient world - From the Mediterranean Sea to the Sea of Japan] - Palazzo Du Mesnil, Sala delle Confiners 6 - 7 - 8 November 2023 with the contribution “Testimoni silenziosi: il ritratto enigmatico di musicisti e danzatori nei primi secoli di arte buddhista” [Silent witness: The enigmatic portraits of musicians and dancers in the early Buddhist art]



DAAM Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo  
UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI L'ORIENTALE  
DIREST  
Università Ca' Foscari Venezia  
Dipartimento di Studi sull'Asia e sull'Africa Mediterranea


**Lecture Series on Buddhism (2023-2024)**  
*First Semester*

**Carmen Simioli**  
(Università di Napoli L'Orientale)

**TWO TIBETAN ALCHEMICAL TEACHINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY**

**NOVEMBER 14**  
17:00 p.m. (ONLINE AND IN PRESENCE)  
Salone delle conferenze  
(second floor-Palazzo Corigliano),  
Piazza San Domenico Maggiore, Napoli

Registration: [centrostudisulbuddhismo@gmail.com](mailto:centrostudisulbuddhismo@gmail.com)




On 14 November, Carmen Simioli in the workshop has participated in the “Lecture Series on Buddhism 2023-2024” (First Semester), held at L’Orientale and organised by the Centre for Buddhist Studies (L’Orientale), DAAM Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo (L’Orientale), DSAAM Dipartimento di Studi sull Asia e sull’ Africa e Mediterranea (Ca’ Foscari; UNIVE), and the Italian Doctorate in Religious Studies (DREST). Title of the contribution: “Two Tibetan Alchemical Teachings of the Fifteenth Century”.

Diego Maiorano organised a seminar series by CSSEAS’s and DAAM’s Visiting Professor, James Manor. Manor is Professor Emeritus of Commonwealth Studies at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. He was at L’Orientale between 13 November and 14 December 2023 and delivered 6 lectures for students and colleagues. The six lectures focused on “India: a resilient but endangered democracy at its crucial 2024 election”.

UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI L'ORIENTALE

**India:**  
a resilient but endangered  
democracy at its crucial  
2024 elections

Relatore  
Prof. **James Manor**, Emeritus Professor of  
Commonwealth Studies, University of London  
and Visting Professor, Dipartimento di Asia  
Africa e Mediterraneo





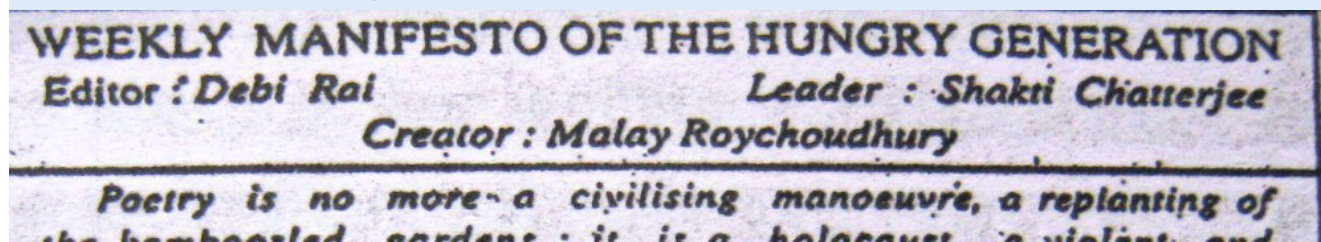
Francesca Moro and Antonia Soriente organised a seminar serie called “Linguistics in Indonesia and beyond. Fieldwork, methodologies and experiences on Austronesian and Papuan languages” (23/10/2023-21/11/2023). The series of six lectures were given by two scholars who are experts in Austronesian and Papuan linguistics: Prof. František Kratochvíl from Palacký University (Czech Republic) on Erasmus exchange at our university and Dr. Lidia Federica Mazzitelli. The lectures focused on issues of language documentation of some minority languages of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea and also touched on issues related to the study of loanwords as a means of understanding the history of island Southeast Asia, language typology and the study of oral traditions.



Serena Saccone and Francesco Sferra jointly organised a lecture series by Prof. Vincent Eltschinger (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris) and Prof. Madhucchanda Sen (Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata).

## Academic Publications

Daniela Cappello published a monograph titled *Transgression in the Avant-garde: The Poetry of the Hungry Generation*. The book is currently in press by HASP (Heidelberg Asian Studies Publishing)



The book wants to introduce the Bengali avant-garde movement “Hungry Generation” to a global audience through its poetry and other literary material. The poetry movement emerged from the cities of Patna and Calcutta, and it became known internationally after the poets’ sentence for obscenity in 1964. Aiming at shocking the Bengali establishment and middle-class morality, these Bengali bohemians featured topics like sexuality, alcohol and drug consumption, masturbation, and hyper-masculinity in their poetry as tropes and practices of cultural radicalism.

Exploring transgression as a worldling avant-garde practice, this book will delve into the poetry of some iconic representatives of the Hungry Generation, reading their oeuvre against the new models of sexuality, consumption and modernity in post-independence India.

Daniela Cappello: *Transgression in the Avant-garde: The Poetry of the Hungry*

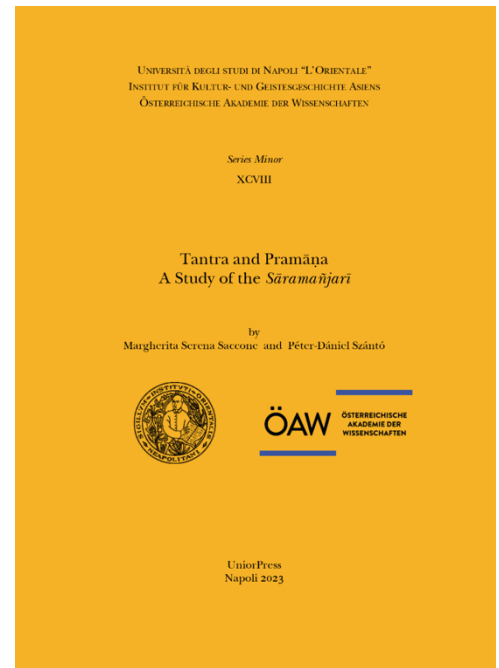
Generation Movement. Heidelberg: Heidelberg Asian Studies Publishing, 2024.  
ISBN/EAN 978-3-948791-90-2 (Print), 978-3-948791-89-6 (Online-PDF).

Serena Saccone co-authored a book titled *Tantra and Pramāṇa. A Study of the Sāramañjarī*. Series Minor 98, Università degli Studi di Napoli, Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo, Napoli, 305 p.

### Abstract

The *Sāramañjarī* by Samantabhadra (ca. mid-9th c. CE) is a commentary on Jñānapāda's *Samantabhadrasādhana* (ca. late 8th c. CE), a practical meditation manual of the Guhyasamājatantra. This book provides the first critical edition of the Sanskrit text as well as the first English translation of a long portion devoted to the logical justification of the practice of the binduyoga. The book also presents a general introduction to the work and a philosophical introduction to its contents. More info here:

<http://www.fedoabooks.unina.it/index.php/fedoapress/catalog/book/468>



Members published a number of research articles during the semester, including:

- Serena Saccone, “Introduction” In: Pei-Lin Chiou, Hiroko Matsuoka, Serena Saccone (eds.) *Kamalaśīla's Significance in the Intellectual History of Buddhism*, special issue of the Asiatische Studien/Études Asiatiques
- Serena Saccone, “The Vajracchedikā, the self, and the path” In: Pei-Lin Chiou, Hiroko Matsuoka, Serena Saccone (eds.) *Kamalaśīla's Significance in the Intellectual History of Buddhism*, special issue of the Asiatische Studien/Études Asiatiques.
- Francesco Sferra, “On Verbal Cognition. Śāntarakṣita's and Kamalaśīla's Treatment of Vivakṣā.” In Pei-Lin Chiou, Hiroko Matsuoka and Margherita Serena Saccone (eds.), *Kamalaśīla's Significance in the Intellectual History of Buddhism*, Special issue of Asiatische Studien/Études Asiatiques 2023, 27 pp.
- Francesco Sferra “Materials for the Study of the Pudgalavāda and Its Criticism: Critical Edition and English Translation of the Vātsīputrīyātmaparīkṣā.” In Vincent Eltschinger, Jowita Kramer, Parimal Patil, Chizuko Yoshimizu (eds.), *Burlesque of the Philosophers. Indian and Buddhist Studies in Memory of Helmut Krasser*. Hamburg Buddhist Studies Series 19. Bochum/Freiburg: projekt verlag 2023, pp. 625–678 [ISBN 978-3-89733-585-1].
- Diego Maiorano, “The Politics of Economic Reform in India”, in Knut Jacobsen (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary India*, Oxon, Routledge.2023 (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition).
- Diego Maiorano, “Food Security in India”, in Noemi Lanna and Marisa Siddivò (eds.), *The Challenge Ahead: The Politics of Food Security in China, India, Japan and South Korea*, Napoli, UNIOR Press, 2023.

## External events

Members of the Centre participated in numerous conferences and workshops during the semester.

Diego Maiorano organised a panel at the European Conference on South Asian Studies, held at the University of Torino on 26-29 July 2023. The panel was titled “The Present Crisis of Democracy in South Asia” and consisted of four sessions. He also participated in an international conferences organised by the Department of Education, Jawarhlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 1<sup>st</sup> August; And chaired a session at the ISAS International Conference 23-25 October 2023, organised by the Institute of South Asian Studies, national University of Singapore. He also organised a seminar by Neelanjan Sircan (CPR, Delhi) at the National University of Singapore on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023. Finally, he was among the panellist of the Workshop “Making sense of India’s Democracy” organised by the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Ubaldo Iaccarino delivered 2 lectures during the semester. The first one, titled “Friars and Merchant-Pirates in Late-Ming China and Early Tokugawa Japan” was delivered at the Department of Humanities of Pompeu Fabra University on 7 November 2023, as part of the Master’s degree programme “Asian-Pacific Studies in a Global Context.” The second one was held at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and East Asian Studies of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The lecture, entitled “Japanese Migration to the Philippines at the Turn of the 16th Century,” is part of the seminar series of the European Research Council Starting Grant project, AFTERMATH (2018-2024) organized by Prof. Rebekah Clements and Dr. Barend Noordam. Finally, on 16-17 November Iaccarino has participated in the international symposium, *Missionnaires & communautés indigènes entre accommodation & intransigence*. Mexique et Asie XVIe-XVIIe siècles, held in France at the University of Strasbourg, with a paper entitled “Evangelical Approaches and Missionary Goals in Early Modern East and Southeast Asia: Jesuits and Friars in Comparison.”

Serena Saccone gave 2 lectures during the semester. The first one on November 27, at the University of Bologna. The Lecture was titled “Seeing Something, Saying Something. Mediacy and Immediacy in the Proof of the Buddha’s Omniscience”. Symposium: Immediacy, Consciousness, Knowledge.

The second one, “Veni, Vidi, Dixi. On Demonstrating the Buddha's Omniscience” was delivered at the University of Budapest on 7 December. More info here:

<https://shorturl.at/ptLZ5>.

Carmen Simioli has been invited by Professor Leonard van der Kuijp to give a lecture on 4 October 2023 for *The Inner Asian and Altaic Studies Lecture Series (2022-2023)* at Harvard University, MA. Title of the Lecture: “A Preliminary Analysis of Core Textual Sources on Alchemical Recipes and Alexipharmics Preserved in the Brang ti lha rje’i rim brgyud kyi man ngag gser bre chen mo”.

She has also participated, on 14 November, in the “Lecture Series on Buddhism 2023-2024” (First Semester), held at L’Orientale and organised by the Centre for Buddhist Studies (L’Orientale), DAAM Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo (L’Orientale), DSAAM Dipartimento di Studi sull’Asia e sull’Africa e Mediterranea (Ca’ Foscari;



UNIVE), and the Italian Doctorate in Religious Studies (DREST). Title of the contribution: “Two Tibetan Alchemical Teachings of the Fifteenth Century”. Finally, Simioli held a lesson on 6<sup>th</sup> December at the University of Ghent in the framework of the seminar “CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ACADEMIC DEBATES I - (A005650): ANIMALS, HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN ASIAN STUDIES, organised by Dr. Rosina Pastore (GHENT UNIVERSITY). Title and Topics of the Lesson: Of Vultures, Deer, and Bee: Tibetan Religious and Poetic Imagery Associated to Animals (Moral standing of animals according to Tibetan Buddhism; Bon rituals associated to animals; Tibetan geomancy; analysis of selected mgur ma poems). Francesco Sferra gave four lectures during the semester. On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 he gave a lecture titled “A Life of Hell. Narakas and Nārakas According to the Abhidharmasamuccayakārikā by Saṅghatrāta” (The Conference of Heavens and Hells. Life After Death in Religious Traditions from South Asia. ERC Project “Śivādharma,” University of Naples L’Orientale. Supported by the Department of Indian Languages and Literature, the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo and “Dynamism of Cultural Contact in South Asia,” ILCAA Joint Research Group, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. On 20 July 2023, Sferra gave a lecture at the University of Tokyo titled “The World as Concept and Representation. An Inquiry into Taxonomy and Doxography in Classical India”. On 14-20 August 2023, Sferra participated in the Sanskrit Panel Session of the 7th Beijing International Seminar on Tibetan Studies, held in Beijing. On the Vajrapadasārasaṃgraha. Part II’, China Tibetology Research Centre Finally, on 27-28 November, he delivered a lecture titled “‘How a Pot Knows Mario’, Immediacy, Consciousness, Knowledge”. A Symposium on South Asian and European Philosophy, Università di Bologna, Dipartimento di Storia Culture Civiltà, Accademia delle Scienze dell’Istituto di Bologna.

### Third Mission and Outreach

Several members of the Centre were involved in the Festival delle Lingue, held at L’Orientale on 29-30 September. Francesca Moro and Antonia Soriente were involved in the Panel on the Languages of South East Asia, as was Antonia Soriente. The Festival aimed at introducing the variety of languages and cultures studied at L’Orientale to the wide community. A special session was organized to present the languages of South-East Asia: Indonesian, Thai, Vietnamese, Burma, Khmer. Stefania Cavaliere, Francesco Sferra, Giacomella Orofino, Sabir Badal Khan, Daniela Cappello, Dorotea Operato, Carmen Simioli e Valentina Punzi were also involved in the Festival, in the panel on the languages of South Asia, with presentations on Tibetan, Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali and Tamil.



A section of the festival was dedicated to poetry competitions and multilingual games with the participation of students. Among the closing events of the festival, on September 29, 2023, there were performances of classical music and Bollywood dance by choreographers and dancers Marialuisa Sales and Veronica Aishanti.

Antonia Soriente co-organised an Indonesian Cultural night on 7 September 2023. The night included a Angklung musical performance at Conservatorio San Pietro a Majella Napoli jointly organized by the Indonesian Embassy in Rome, University of Naples L'Orientale in collaboration with Conservatorio San Pietro a Majella.

Antonia Soriente was also responsible for organising the *L'Orientale in Jazz*. *Musiche sulle vie della seta*. This was the Annual Concert for the opening of the academic year 2023-24 with music performance of the Indonesian group Tarawangawelas in collaboration with Conservatorio San Pietro a Maiella and ISMEO.



Antonia Soriente was also instrumental in the acquisition by the University of the Gamelan Set (Indonesian traditional Javanese orchestra instruments), donated by PERTAMINA, the major Indonesian State-owned oil and natural gas corporation, that will allow the wide public to get acquainted with the traditional music from Indonesia. On the occasion, Ms Nicke Widyawati, CEO of Pertamina, the major Indonesian state-owned oil and natural gas corporation, gave a lecture on

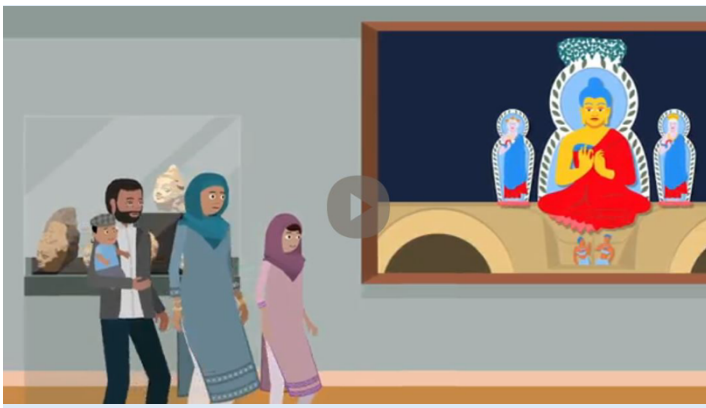
Energy Resiliency & Transition through Innovation.

Diego Maiorano participated in two Festivals dedicated to contemporary Geopolitical Events. The first one was the Festival della Seta – Dialoghi sulla Cina Contemporanea, held in Prato on 5-6<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The second one, co-organised by the University of Naples L'Orientale and the Association Futura, was *Geopolitiks, il Mondo che Verrà – Festival di Geopolitica*. The [Festival](#) was held at the Teatro Sannazaro on 28-30 September. Maiorano hosted a talk, with journalist Ugo Tramballi, on the role of India in the Ukrainian Crisis.



Serena Saccone was among the speakers of the Orientation Conference Univexpò 2023, held at Complesso universitario di monte Sant'Angelo, Napoli, on 15 November 2023.

Francesco Sferra gave a talk at A.Me.Co, titled "Gli scherzi dell'amore. Riflessioni su leggerezza e punti deboli in un'ottica interspaziale e interletteraria" on 16 December 2023.



Anna Filigenzi produced the animated video “Only heads? The mystery of Afghanistan’s pre-Islamic clay sculptures” (in collaboration with Giulia Forgione). The video is based on the field activities and studies by the Italian Archaeological Mission in Afghanistan, administrated by the International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies

(ISMEO), co-funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and supported by UniOr. The video is part of a programme of benevolent smart education for the dissemination, valorisation and preservation of the Afghan Cultural Heritage which targets a dual audience of children and adults. To be soon released by Science Animated (see <https://sciani.com/portfolio/>).

### Media engagements

Francesco Sferra, wrote an [article](#) for SATI, the review of the A. Me.Co. Association. ‘Angie.’ SATI xxxii.1, pp. 31-37.

Diego Maiorano wrote an [article](#) for *IAI Commentaries*, of the Institute for International Affairs in Rome. The article is titled “The Nijjar case: a litmust test for the future of India-West Relations?”. He was also [interviewed](#) by Radio 24 (*Nessun Luogo è Lontano*) on 19 September.

Carmen Simioli was [interviewed](#) by Radio Rai Tre (*Uomini e Profeti*) on 9 December on Bon Medicine.

Daniela Cappello recorded a podcast with *The Times of India* on 5<sup>th</sup> December on the bengali vanguard movement The Hungry Generation.

### Fieldwork, Funding and Projects

Antonia Soriente co-organised an exhibition at Maritime Museum of Jakarta: *Boat Legacy in Indonesia. An exhibit on the Indonesian-Italian boatbuilding endangered heritage project*.

The exhibit already held at Universitas Indonesia and at the Italian Institute of Culture in Jakarta and funded and supported by the Italian Institute of Culture (Jakarta, Indonesia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Italy), Embassy of Italy (Jakarta, Indonesia), Universitas Indonesia (Indonesia), BRIN (Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional, Indonesia), Università di Napoli L’Orientale (Italy), presents the results of almost five years of Indonesian-Italian joint multidisciplinary research on the boatbuilding heritage of Indonesia. Aim of this project is to study and record the multiple aspects of the boat legacy in the archipelago through archaeological surveys, iconographic and historical investigations, ethnographic interviews, language documentation and museum collections.



Daniela Cappello was busy in three rounds of fieldwork research. Fieldwork in London, British Library (June 16- July 2). Archival research of primary Bengali sources on the composition and circulation of *Purāṇas* in modern Bengal in the context of ERC Project SHIVADHARMA. Collected a selection of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century printed editions of *Purāṇa* with Bengali prose translation and published with the Calcutta-based publisher “Bangabasi”. Also found a selection of early 19<sup>th</sup> century books of *Purāṇas* in Bengali verse translation.

Fieldwork in Calcutta, West Bengal (October 10-November 11). Archival research at Asiatic Society and Bangiya Sahitya Parishad to look for manuscript Bengali sources. Collected a series of late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century manuscripts of *Purāṇas* in Bengali versification. Meeting with scholars at Jadavpur to find references to reconstruct the history of the publisher Bangabasi (1890-1940).

3/11/23 - day trip to Tarakeswar, a Shaiva temple and famous pilgrimage site in West Bengal, for a session of photograph and to collect pamphlet and other literary material sold at the temple stands related to the history and promotion of the pilgrimage site, as part of a side project on “modern mātmya”.

Anna Filigenzi was part of the [selection](#) committee of the Chaire Arts et patrimoine d'Afghanistan at INALCO, Paris, France.

Francesca Moro was awarded a large grant for the project HELLO Campania (Heritage Languages and Languages of the Others), Progetto PRIN PNRR 2022. PI: MORO Francesca Romana (Settore SH4, codice progetto P2022WJ8YF, 262,586 euro ).

HELLO CAMPANIA is a project about heritage languages (HL) in Campania, these are the languages spoken by immigrant communities. The project has three main objectives: (i) to provide the first sociolinguistic study on HLs in Campania in order to describe the forms of migration-induced multilingualism; (ii) to describe the multilingual language practices of migrants with respect to the choice of Italian, the local dialect and their HL in order to investigate how multilingual speakers strategically make use of linguistic resources, and how these practices relate to external linguistic variables (gender, level of education, ethnic origin, kind of social network, mother tongue, segregation index); (iii) to carry out the first qualitative and quantitative description of a HL in Italy, starting from one single case study, the one of Filipino in Campania to investigate contact-induced language changes.

The project consists of two research units (RU): University of Naples L’Orientale (PI: Francesca Moro), and university of Naples Federico II (PI: Margherita di Salvo). The objectives (1) and (2) will be developed by the RU at Federico II, as Margherita di Salvo has massive experience in sociolinguistic, while objective (3) will be developed by the RU at L’Orientale, as Francesca Moro’s main expertise are HLs and language contact phenomena.

The social impact of this research includes the identification of policies devoted to immigrant integration, as the project promotes multilingualism and HL maintenance by raising awareness in the migrant communities and, in doing so, is strongly related to the PNRR aim of building more inclusive societies.