

MMLW2026

MULTIMODAL LANGUAGE WORKSHOP: Theoretical Perspectives and Research Methods

16-17 April 2026

University of Florence, Department of Humanities (DILEF) – Via della Pergola 60, Firenze

16 April

- 9:00-9:30 *Welcome and institutional greeting*
- 9:30-10:30 **Keynote lecture**
The multifunctionality of gestures: The bane of researchers, the benefit for gesturers
Alan Cienki (UV Amsterdam)
- 10:30-11:00 *Toward a theoretical framework for multimodal communicative efficiency*
Anita Slonimska (MPI, Nijmegen)
- 11:00-11:30 *coffee break*
- 11:30-12:00 *Regulating discourse through adaptors: evidence from French- and Italian-speaking adults' narratives*
Corrado Bellifemine (University of Lorraine – CREM)
- 12:00-12:30 *Gestural alignment in story telling: a comparison between older adults with and without memory impairment*
Martina Mellana (MPI, Nijmegen) **Aslı Özyürek** (MPI, Nijmegen) **Melissa C. Duff** (Vanderbilt University Medical Center), **Sarah Brown-Schmidt** (Vanderbilt University), **Sharice Clough** (MPI, Nijmegen)
- 12:30-13:00 *Temporal coordination of (dis)fluency features and non-manual articulators in Italian speech*
Loredana Schettino (Free University of Bolzano), **Loulou Kosmala** (Paris-Est Créteil University)
- 13:00-14:00 *lunch*
- 14:00-15:00 **POSTER SESSION 1**
- 15:00-15:30 *Analysis of the linguistic structure of Italian Sign Language (LIS): sequentiality, simultaneity, and segmentation methodologies*
Alessio Di Renzo (ISTC-CNR, Rome), **Olga Capirci** (ISTC-CNR, Rome), **Isabella Chiari** (Sapienza University, Rome)
- 15:30-16:00 *Recurrent head movements in DGS and spoken German. Communicative functions of head nods and head shakes in dyadic interaction*
Silva Ladewig (Georg August University, Göttingen), **Anastasia Bauer** (University of Cologne)
- 16:00-16:30 *Multimodality and CEFR descriptors for the assessment of Italian Sign Language*
Valeria Buonomo (Sapienza University, Rome), **Dania Malerba** (Sapienza University, Rome), **Maria Roccaforte** (Sapienza University, Rome), **Virginia Volterra** (ISCT-CNR, Rome)
- 16:30-17:00 *coffee break*
- 17:00-17:30 *Typannot for multimodal corpora: toward a shared annotation system across spoken and signed interaction*
Claudia S. Bianchini (University of Poitiers), **Gaia Caligiore** (University of Catania), **Sabina Fontana** (University of Catania)
- 17:30-18:00 *Early multimodal coordination as a foundation for communicative development*
Guzmán Azagra, **Ana Mendoza-García**, **Eva Murillo**, **Ana Moreno-Núñez** (Autonomous University of Madrid)
- 18:00-18:30 *Biological and cultural influences on pointing and communication in infant-caregiver dyads at 18 months*
Caterina Verganti (University of Bologna)

17 April

- 9:00-9:30 *Political uncertainty as a multimodal gestalt*
Bruna Louzada, Cornelia Müller (Europa-University Viadrina Frankfurt-Oder)
- 9:30-10:00 *Gesture affiliation and information structure. Recurrent gestures anchored in the Topic and Comment functions and their contribution to the meaning of the multimodal utterance*
Massimo Moneglia (University of Florence), **Giorgina Cantalini** (Civica Scuola di Teatro Paolo Grassi, Milan).
- 10:00-10:30 *From syntax to gesture: eyebrow movements signal informational and contrastive focus in Italian*
Erika Petrocchi (Ca' Foscari University, Venice)
- 10:30-11:00 *coffee break*
- 11:00-12:00 **POSTER SESSION 2**
- 12:00-12:30 *Multimodality in Brazilian Portuguese spontaneous speech: the C-ORAL-BRASIL corpora and early empirical evidence*
Tommaso Raso, Bruno Rocha, Camila Barros, Marianna Bicalho, Gabriela Toledo (UFMG, Belo Horizonte)
- 12:30-13:00 *Narrative Expression after language loss: multimodal storytelling practices in aphasia*
Monika Messner (University of Graz), **Paul Mayr** (FAU, Erlangen-Nürnberg).
- 13:00-13:30 *Conclusions*
Emanuela Campisi (University of Catania), **Alessandro Panunzi** (University of Florence)

POSTER SESSION 1

P1	Luisa Troncone (University of Salerno/University of Lille), Miriam Voghera (University of Salerno)	A pilot analysis of TikTok modality or modalities?
P2	Maira De Iaco, Francesco Meledandri (University of Bari Aldo Moro)	The Multi-layered Function of Gestures in Foreign Language Teaching: An Observational Study
P3	Fanny Catteau (University of Modena e Reggio Emilia)	Contrasts and prosodic boundaries in LSF-SR - a preliminary qualitative study
P4	Matilde Barucci¹, Mariapaola Scuderi², Sara Andreozzi², Maria Cristina Tiziana Bronte², Marta Lanza¹, Francesca Antonelli¹, Rachele Muraca¹, Francesca Gennai³, Silvana Buono³, Barbara Ongari¹, Eugenio Parise¹, Francesco Pavan¹ (¹ University of Trento; ² Baby Sign Italia, Padova; ³ Cooperativa "La Coccinella", Trento)	Use of Baby Signs Emblems in infants attending daycare centers: evidence of transfer from educators to infants
P5	Marion Blondel (CNRS-Paris8), Geoffrey Besnard (CNRS-Paris8), Christelle Dodane (University Sorbonne Nouvelle), Karine Martel (Paris-Est Créteil University)	Prosodic pauses and turn-taking at the table: common strategies in French Sign Language (LSF) and multimodal French?
P6	Benedetta Nevola (University of Florence), Maria Graziano (Lund University Humanities Lab), Alessandro Panunzi (University of Florence), Valentina Saccone (University of Florence)	A multimodal analysis of parenthetical expressions
P7	Alessandra Giorgi, Erika Petrocchi (Ca' Foscari University, Venice)	A Multimodal Approach to Adversativity
P8	Ezgi Mamus (MPI, Nijmegen)	Blind speakers' path gestures are more precise than those of sighted and blindfolded speakers

POSTER SESSION 2

P10	Annamaria Minafra (Conservatorio Guido Cantelli, Novara)	Multimodal language on improving musical skills in beginner violin-group players
P11	Sergio Cámara Mateos, Chiara Bonsignori, Gabriele Gianfreda, Olga Capirci (ISTC-CNR, Rome)	Multimodal object reference in Italian Sign Language (LIS): an experimental study
P12	Anna Inbar (Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan)	What a single clap can do: Audible gestures in Hebrew face-to-face interaction
P13	Cornelia Müller, Jeanette-Christine Bauer, Katerina Papadopoulou (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt-Oder)	Multimodal complexities – gesture sequences and audiovisual orchestration in political speeches
P14	Anastasia Bauer (University of Köln), Anna Kuder (University of Köln), Marc Schulder , (University of Hamburg), Job Schepens (University of Köln)	Feedback Head Nods Reveal a Shared Kinematic Signature Across Languages: Insights from Spoken and Signed Interaction
P15	David Gil (MPI, Leipzig)	Pantomime vs. Duality of Patterning: Kode Papua
P16	Sharice Clough, Mounika Kanakanti, Ezgi Mamus, Anita Slonimska, Sho Akamine, Anna Palmann, Ercenur Unal, Asli Ozyurek (MPI, Nijmegen)	Quantifying gesture and sign space using video-based motion tracking: A case series tutorial
P17	Francesca Panzeri, Chiara Saponaro (University of Milano-Bicocca)	The role of multimodal cues for the detection of ironic criticisms and ironic compliments
P18	Alessandro Rosborough (Brigham Young University)	Languaging-Gestures in L2 Primary Classrooms: A Vygotskian Theoretical Approach