

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

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Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici

DOTTORATO IN STUDI LETTERARI, LINGUISTICI E STORICI

# *Disconnection*

RESEARCH IN RESILIENT AND CONTRARY DIRECTION

**Graduate Conference 2021**

Cristina Bernazzani - "From one branch to take so many windows that overlook people"



***Salerno, 29 September - 1 October 2021***

University of Salerno, Fisciano Campus

## CALL FOR PAPERS

In a world constantly connected, which is paradoxically marked by different forms of non-communication, discontinuity, isolation, and fracture, what does the term “disconnection” mean?

However odd it may seem today, especially in the current order of the day, disconnection is ever present. Human history and the history of human sciences have always been characterized and accompanied by this.

The Graduate Conference 2021 - organized by the Doctorate in Literary, Linguistic and Historical Studies, UNISA - invites researchers to reflect on the theme of disconnection, perceived as contextual discontinuity, temporal fracture, and spatial separation with an interdisciplinary approach.

The themes for the three curricula are reported below.

### *Literature*

Considering the path that stretches from the 1500s to the contemporary, disconnection is reflected in the literary production through the most diverse manifestations: from novel to poetry, from theatre to critical applications. In this regard, the possible declinations of the theme are highlighted in a context that includes the main European literatures.

- *Diachronic disconnection.* Disconnection can be understood as a break from a dominant norm, a widespread taste or a pre-established canon. According to Fausto Curi, the canon and the anti-canon coexist: think of the authors “outside the canon” such as Gadda and Pizzuto or the avant-garde, who are “already outside the canon even before violating it” (Curi, 1997). Curi also affirms that with the Enlightenment and Romanticism and even more with the twentieth century the definition of the “objective” canon fails: from the eighteenth century onwards, in fact, the revival of Dante’s and Shakespearean paradigms puts the Aristotelian model in crisis.
- The concept of disconnection is also applicable to the author: think of figures such as García Lorca, Svevo and Wilde. They impose themselves, in different ways, as elements of break with the dominant trends in the cultural environment from which they come. This fracture is embodied not only by the

authors, but also by the characters: examples of which are the *pícaro* and the *gracioso*, widely present in European literature of the 16th and 17th centuries.

- One can be *disconnected* from one's ego or in relation to the other. With reference to Pirandello, the reflection on identity deconstruction extends beyond national borders, to Beckett, Camus and Unamuno. The common thread that unites them is a sense of strangeness and estrangement that is reflected in every social and personal aspect. In that case, the attempt to find oneself reflects the impossibility of recognizing the self.
- *Spatial disconnection*. The experiences of expatriation—voluntary or mandatory—become a trigger for disconnection from identity, space and language. Diasporic literature includes writers like Brecht, Foscolo, and Mann, but also contemporary testimonies, such as the ones by Alain Mabanckou and the characters of Marie Ndiaye (Albert, 2005). These authors, precisely through their disconnection from their native soil, create new literary experiences.

## *Linguistics*

In the context of linguistic studies, we propose an interpretation of disconnection as a property of certain linguistic aspects with respect to an ideal temporal continuity, or to a spatial-cultural contiguity, or the property of some linguistic theories. Highlighting marginal or divergent phenomena with respect to a theory, these theories can place themselves on or outside the margin or against an established paradigm. Some of the dimensions within which a disconnection thus understood can be identified below.

- *Diachronic dimension*: Linguistic phenomena out of time.  
On the temporal level, linguistic change does not occur in a uniform way. In fact, it is possible to identify “disconnected” forms, which bear witness to both resistance, and *avant-garde* at all linguistic levels. (for example innovative linguistic aspects and grammaticalization processes).
- *Diatopic dimension*: Linguistic phenomena out of space.  
On the spatial level, conditions of migration and geographical remoteness lead to the appearance of varieties and / or isolated phenomena, highlighting exceptions and resistances (for example linguistic minorities, multilingual linguistic landscapes, migrant languages, Pidgin and Creole languages, phenomena of L1-L2 / LS).
- *Theoretical dimension*: Linguistic phenomena out of context.

From the theoretical point of view, certain phenomena are observed which sometimes seem to contradict a given paradigm. They have the potential to complete, change, revolutionize it (linguistic phenomena of non-arbitrariness, “extra-grammatical”/ “marginal” morphology). Furthermore, language production is generally conceived as a continuous process. On closer inspection, however, it is possible to observe a series of phenomena which seem to interrupt the ideal continuity of communication which appear to be an integral part of the modality and multimodality of meaning-production (for example, interlingual and/or intersemiotic translation, disfluencies, additive syntax, language disorders, variety of learning LS and acquisition stages L1-L2).

## ***History***

In recent decades, historiography has shown increasing attention to the analysis of phenomena that have developed in different geographical, economic and cultural contexts, connected to each other through multiple social, cultural and economic channels, appropriately highlighted by scholars. The connection, therefore, has become a privileged interpretative paradigm in the aftermath of the new millennium. However, the construction of global spaces and times cannot hide or disregard the prevailing trait that has characterized history as a discipline, namely the “science of differences.” Even today, historical investigation continues to show us processes that can be read in the light of terms such as extraneousness, fracture, marginality, exception, and isolation and segregation, which seem to suggest the perception of a “disconnection” from any potential global framework constructed by historiography. Ideas and people of the past often present a trait of irreducible inaccuracy under the lens of legal institutions, political and social problems, customs and doctrine that distinguish an era. Paths that derive from it can maintain a disconnected character over time by qualifying these phenomena or characters as reactionary and anachronistic. Or, the opposite may happen, that is, over time the novelty brought about by the fracture is accepted or even imposes itself with its transformative load, in whole or in part, recomposing that perceived disconnection.

The call for papers takes its cue from the category of “anachronism in history,” which is a term that refers to the set of opinions, facts, customs, biographies in contrast with what is commonly considered compliant in their time. Furthermore, the investigation into disconnection also refers to a spatial-relational dimension, which includes the multiple forms of isolation of groups and individuals that have developed in the contemporary age. Facts, ideas, and people who have been, as their lowest common

denominator, catalogued in their time horizon as “out of place” and “out of time” elements.

The potential questions of political, institutional and cultural historiography on “disconnection” of some processes of contemporary history from contemporary global contexts open up a profitable space for the purposes of innovation in historical research. Discussing them is the main objective of this conference. The suggested research themes are:

- *Temporal disconnection.*

Anachronistic or visionary political movements and cultures in the contemporary age. This area of research also opens up to a subjective dimension of disconnection, bringing out biographies of historical figures who, with their actions and ideas, challenged the predominant collective horizon of their time.

- *Disconnection from space.*

Groups or individuals who have experienced the condition of isolation due to the lack/failure of integration with a social and cultural context. We intend to collect the contributions that have used categories such as separateness, loneliness, marginalization and segregation, for the understanding of some historical phenomena of the contemporary age.

All doctoral researchers interested in participating must fill in the attached form, and send a short academic curriculum, and an abstract of max. 4000 characters, spaces included, excluding title, sources and bibliography. Contributions in Italian or English are accepted. The document should be sent to **[gradconfdipsum2021@unisa.it](mailto:gradconfdipsum2021@unisa.it)**.

The organizing committee is responsible for communicating the acceptance of contributions to the Graduate Conference. Participants will have 15-20 minutes to present their contribution. The selected contributions must be sent to the Organizing Committee by 3 September, in order to publish the proceedings.

For more information, please consult the section dedicated to the Graduate Conference on the official website of the Doctorate of Literary, Linguistic and Historical Studies or contact the Organizing Committee via the email address **[gradconfdipsum2021@unisa.it](mailto:gradconfdipsum2021@unisa.it)**.

## **DEADLINES**

Application submission: 21 May 2021

Communication acceptance of contributions: 4 June 2021

Deadline for submission of contributions: 3 September 2021

Conference dates: 29 September - 1 October 2021\*

\*Depending on the situation of the COVID-19 emergency, the dates and modalities of the conference may be subject to changes, and will be communicated promptly.

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

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