

*Sotto l'Alto Patronato
del Presidente della Repubblica*

*In cooperation
with the European Commission
Representation in Italy*



*A project designed
and developed by*



With



Università degli Studi
di Cagliari



LA
**LINGUA
MADRE**

A CONVENIENT LANGUAGE

21ST FEBRUARY 2024, 2:30 P.M.
SALA CAPITOLARE OF THE SENATE IN ROME
PALAZZO DELLA MINERVA · PIAZZA DELLA MINERVA 38

MANIFESTO

Our Mother Tongue. The element that unifies a community of speakers, the one true document that is with us everywhere.

The only organic and dynamic system that contains us completely: a tacit contract that applies to everyone, but where everyone has a clause of their own. **A unique code that identifies us fully and that no one can take from us.** So it is for those who are forced or choose to emigrate, for the academic or the researcher who relocates in pursuit of better career opportunities, for those who have studied abroad, and for the many who one day will. Language is baggage that cannot be left unattended.

Beyond its cultural value, a vital language is a vehicle of democracy and social inclusion. It is indispensable for honest and transparent public communication and, as such, the use of Italian ought to be addressed in dedicated and coherent policies.

Like all mother tongues, the Italian language is equal in dignity to the artistic, landscape, cultural and gastronomic heritage.

That is why rediscovering a modern and confident love for our language, and enhancing it as an all-round common good, is just as much a cultural necessity as it is a national economic interest.

The Italian language itself is in fine shape, but is used in a limiting and limited manner, somewhat like having a Ferrari, but leaving it in the garage, risking that eventually the engine will no longer start.

If indeed **words mirror the evolution of thought**, then the use of contaminated forms of Italian in all sectors and registers is symptomatic of inertia and mistrust in its ability to keep pace with the changing world. Inertia and mistrust that prevent this country from achieving its boundless potential.

There is no concept that cannot be translated into Italian.

Languages also evolve through word borrowing or transfer, but the ability to make the actual concepts their own is a creative exercise, ensuring that a language retains its status as a means of communication and knowledge instrument. **No longer nurturing our mother tongue is tantamount to relinquishing monument care, not paving our roads, not protecting the sea, not preventing bridges from collapsing. Neglecting our mother tongue results in economic damage and democratic deficit.**

In a society whose ambition is to remain vibrant, a renewed ownership of our mother tongue must engage the whole community, because language is the ongoing unstoppable development of family, personal, generational, media, political, institutional, economic, academic, popular and collective lexicons.

We are calling for a shared endeavour to reclaim the Italian language in a modern, creative and confident manner; not an academic exercise of conservation or restoration, but an ethical, aesthetic, democratic and economic mission.

PRESENTERS



Beatrice Cristalli

School publishing consultant, trainer and linguist.

Beatrice Cristalli is a school publishing consultant for the Mondadori Group, a trainer and a linguist. She collaborates with various publications including Focus Scuola and Treccani, for which she has been editing articles on the evolution of contemporary languages for years. She is the author of the podcast "Di cosa parliamo" (Piano P) together with journalist Luigi Lupo, and collaborates with Radio Due - Rsi (Swiss Radio and Television). Since 2017, she has been the Lombardy regional contact person for the Leopardi Prize of the National Centre for Leopardi Studies in Recanati (CNSL). Her latest book is 'Parla bene pensa bene. Piccolo dizionario delle identità' (Bompiani, 2022), in which she addresses the theme of identity construction through fifty entries in the form of a micro-essay, from agender to transition, passing through binarism, fluidity, intersectionality, queer, to name but a few.



with the participation of

Paolo Di Paolo

Paolo di Paolo is a writer and playwright. He hosts La Lingua Batte on Rai Radio 3.

Paolo Di Paolo, born in 1983 in Rome, is a renowned author who has published several novels that have gained wide recognition. These include Raccontami la notte in cui sono nato (2008), Dove eravate tutti (2011; winner of the Premio Mondello and Super Premio Vittorini), Mandami tanta vita (2013; finalist for the Premio Strega), Una storia quasi solo d'amore (2016), and Lontano dagli occhi (2019; winner of the Premio Viareggio-Rèpaci). All of his books are available in the Feltrinelli catalogue and have been translated into various European languages. Many of Paolo's literary works were born from dialogues with notable personalities such as Antonio Debenedetti, Dacia Maraini, Raffaele La Capria, Antonio Tabucchi (whose Viaggi e altri viaggi he edited), and Nanni Moretti. Additionally, Paolo has authored texts for children, including La mucca volante (2014; finalist for the Premio Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi) and I Classici compagni di scuola (Feltrinelli, 2021), as well as for the theatre. Paolo is also a regular contributor to 'la Repubblica' and 'L'Espresso'.

PROGRAMME 1/3

WELCOME AND GREETINGS



EXPRESSIVE READING - VIDEO
THE MOTHER TONGUE - ELENA FERRANTE

Students of
the University of Cagliari



**YOUR HONOUR, I DO NOT UNDERSTAND:
THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE LINGUISTIC ASSISTANCE
FOR THE SUSPECT IN THE ITALIAN LEGAL SYSTEM**

Nicola
Canestrini
Criminal Lawyer



**LET'S NOT CUT CORNERS: ECONOMICS,
LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTIC JUSTICE**

Michele
Gazzola
Economist - University of Ulster



**THE LIMITS OF MY LANGUAGE ARE THE LIMITS
OF MY WORLD: MULTILINGUALISM AS THE GLUE
OF THE UNION**

Guendalina
Carbonelli
European Commission - Translation Antenna



**RULES ESSE NEVER FIXE:
LINGUISTIC VARIETY IS A NECESSITY**

Diego
Marani
Writer, interpreter, former Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Paris

PROGRAMME 2/3



WITHOUT A LIFEBELT: BEING ADOPTED BY ANOTHER LANGUAGE TO FIND ANOTHER SELF

Jhumpa
Lahiri

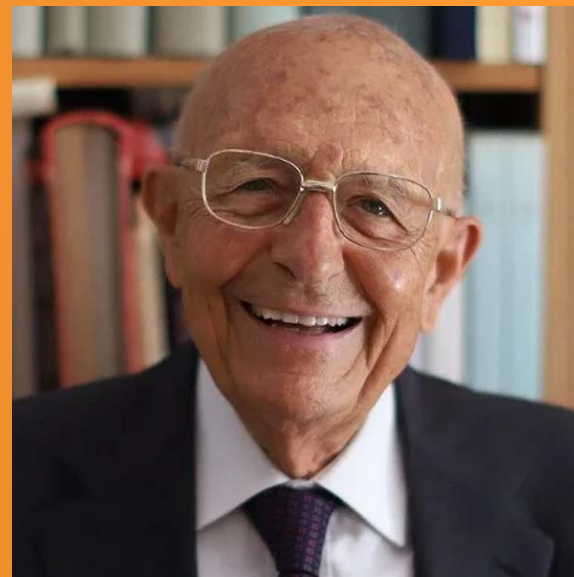
Writer



WHEN THE CONCEPT BINDS TO THE WORD (THOUGHT BECOMES COMMUNICABLE): LANGUAGE AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN ITALY

Elena
Joli

Theoretical physicist, science popularizer, teacher



UNOFFICIALLY OFFICIAL: CONSTITUTION, RIGHTS AND LANGUAGE POLICIES

Sabino
Cassese

Constitutionalist



LANGUAGE IS THE ONLY HOMELAND: LINGUISTIC PLURALISM WITHIN US

Petros
Markaris

Writer and playwright (Greece)



LANGUAGE IS A MOTHER BECAUSE IT GENERATES WORDS

David
Bidussa

Historian, works at the Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation

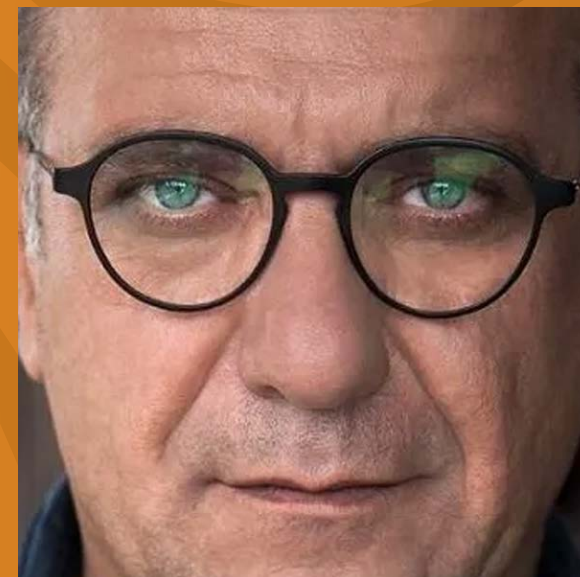
PROGRAMME 3/3



**THE MOTHER TONGUE HAS NO FAVOURITE CHILDREN:
DISCOVERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPERIMENTATION
TO FOSTER AN INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE**

Laura
Scarmoncin

Translator



**LEARN THE ART THEN TOSS IT OUT:
THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE'S WEIGHT IN THEATRE
AND FILM-MAKING**

Luigi
Di Fiore

RAAI - Register of Italian Actors



**THE UNICA WAY:
MULTILINGUAL OR MONOLINGUAL
EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS**

Francesco
Mola

Rector of Cagliari University



**SITTING ON A TREASURE: ENHANCING
THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE IN KNOWLEDGE
TRANSMISSION AT CONFERENCES**

Gabriella
Gentile

President Federcongressi&eventi

**SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION
INTO ITALIAN, ENGLISH AND GREEK
BY AIIC**

**INTERPRETATION
IN ITALIAN SIGN LANGUAGE
BY ANIOS**

Palazzo della Minerva's Chapter Hall

Palazzo della Minerva is located in the Minerva Square, to the left of the beautiful church and adjacent to the ancient Dominican convent. The building has undergone architectural changes over time, which are suggested by the seventeenth and eighteenth-century views of the square. At the center of the square stands the obelisk supported by the marble elephant designed by **Bernini** and also known as "Il pulcin della Minerva", a symbol of intelligence and strength.

The "Guidetti cloister", adjacent to the Chapter Hall of the Santa Maria sopra Minerva convent, was built in the second half of the sixteenth century by the architect **Guidetto Guidetti**. The cloister is adorned with a sumptuous pictorial cycle, dating back to Mannerism and the early Baroque period, depicting the Mysteries of the Rosary and Scenes from the life of St. Thomas Aquinas. In the cloister garden stands a bronze statue by **Sandro Chia**, created in 2003, representing an angel with a single wing, raising a golden heart to the sky.



A project designed and developed by



AIIC Italia is the Italian branch of the **International Association of Conference Interpreters**. AIIC has over 3000 members in 106 countries on 5 continents and 74 languages interpreted. AIIC is the only global professional association in this field and AIIC Italia is one of its 23 member Regions. AIIC is the only negotiating partner of the major

European and global institutions and is the main reference partner of the private market, which is in constant cultural and technological evolution. Its natural vocation is to protect and support multilingualism. AIIC members operate in the most sensitive fields such as justice, economy, health, politics and finance, technology and culture and since 1953 they have never stopped interpreting the world. <https://aiic-italia.it/>



LA
LINGUA
MADRE

A CONVENIENT LANGUAGE

*Sotto l'Alto Patronato
del Presidente della Repubblica*

*In cooperation
with the European
Commission Representation
in Italy*



*A project designed
and developed by*



With



University
of Cagliari

Main Sponsor



Supporting sponsors



Technical sponsors



Under the patronage of



With the kind assistance of



*We would like to express our gratitude
to the students of the University of Cagliari.*



LA
**LINGUA
MADRE**

**A
CONVENIENT
LANGUAGE**

