

**IAFLL** 

PORTO 2022

**BOOK  
OF  
ABSTRACTS**

**4<sup>TH</sup>** EUROPEAN CONFERENCE  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF **FORENSIC AND LEGAL LINGUISTICS**

JULY  
18<sup>TH</sup> / 21<sup>ST</sup>

# Contents:

Welcome to Porto! .....	2
Local Organising Committee .....	3
Scientific Committee .....	3
Design .....	4
Sponsors .....	4
Conference Dinner .....	5
Venue .....	6
Local Transportation .....	7
Conference Rooms .....	8
Practical Information .....	11
Social Activities .....	13
Alternative suggestions .....	14
Plenaries .....	15
Abstracts .....	18
Parallel Sessions .....	19
Poster Sessions .....	75

## **Welcome to Porto!**

Bem-vindas e bem-vindos ao Porto!

Welcome to Porto and to the 4<sup>th</sup> European Conference of the International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics, on the theme of 'Rigour and Transparency in Forensic Linguists'. We hope that this meeting contributes to increasing rigour and transparency in forensic linguistics work, while bringing new research areas closer together, which is the ultimate aim of the research on forensic linguistics/language and the law.

Therefore, this conference has encouraged participation of researchers from across the world and from different areas of expertise, as well as practitioners, and this reflects in the parallel sessions planned. The programme reveals a truly multidisciplinary research. The conference programme offers a wide variety of exciting topics and we are sure there will be plenty of lively discussion, both during and between the sessions.

However, life is not only work, and Porto is not known just for its delicious Port; it also has a long standing tradition of hospitality. We hope you will enjoy your stay in our city and take full advantage of all it has to offer in the time available.

Até já!

The Organising Committee  
IAFLL Porto 2022

## **Local Organising Committee**

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## Design

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## Sponsors

Official Carrier



Financial Support



Organisation



## **Conference Dinner**

The Conference Dinner will take place on Tuesday, 19 July, at Restaurante Torreão, a place with a breathtaking view to the River Douro. The dinner includes a selection of, a variety of salty appetisers, drinks, main course (fish, meat, vegetarian, vegan), desert and coffee/tea.

The Conference Dinner is NOT included in the conference fee. The price per person is 35 Euros.

## Venue

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities (Faculdade de Letras, in Portuguese) is located in Via Panorâmica, not far from the so-called business district of Porto. The Faculty offers an excellent view to the river Douro, and next to the Faculty of Architecture, whose building was designed by one of the most famous Portuguese architects, Álvaro Siza – winner of the Pritzker Prize (1992), the Royal Gold Medal (2009), the UIA Gold Medal (2011) and the Golden Lion for lifetime achievement (2012). The Faculty is located in an impressive building equipped with excellent academic, social and accommodation facilities. They are situated within a short walk to several hotels and restaurants and to the worldwidely famous Casa da Música.

Porto is an attractive city and we are proud of its reputation for hospitality. It is Portugal's second largest city, and offers a wide variety of tourist attractions. Besides its worldwide reputation for hospitality, for its breath-taking landscapes, and for its renowned architecture, the city is famous for culture, shopping, food and the internationally famous Port. The Port cellars will certainly attract the interest of many participants, but ever since Porto was the European Capital of Culture in 2001, the city regained its place among the cultural capitals of Europe. So much so that it has received the Best European Destination award several consecutive years. It has several theatres, museums and art galleries, as well as a throbbing nightlife.

Like in the safest cities in the world, caution is recommended especially if you travel by yourself, and late in the evening. However, Porto is considered to be safe, and local public transports are safe, comfortable and unexpensive.

At the moment, wearing face masks in most places is not compulsory. The exception is public transport (including e.g. taxi) and health facilities.

## Local Transportation

Porto is served by a new network of light rail (metro) and a comprehensive bus network, each with its own ticketing system. However, the ANDANTE is the ticket that allows you to travel in Metro do Porto, as well as in the bus network (STCP). ANDANTE tickets can be purchased in every ANDANTE shop, as well as on the machines in Metro stops. When you buy a ticket, you need to buy a number of 'titles' (journeys), for a certain number of zones. Upon purchase of a ticket with 10 titles, you will be offered another title. This is a paper ticket that is rechargeable with any kind of travel title. One ticket per person is required which can only contain one type of title (it cannot have a Z2 title and also a Z3 title). When travelling with this ticket you must pay attention to the zone where your journey starts (the zone where you validate your ticket, i.e. where you touch it at the beginning of your journey) and the zone where it ends. For example, with a Z2 title you can travel between the zone where you made your validation and the zones attached to that initial zone; with a Z3 title you can travel between the zone where you made your validation, the zones attached to that initial zone and the zones attached to these latter zones; and so forth. Each Metro stop is equipped with a map that allows you to calculate the number of zones.

### Andante Tour Ticket

The Tour Ticket is also a regular title, non-rechargeable, suitable for visitors to Porto. These titles give access to the whole ANDANTE network (Metro and bus) and allow you to travel as many times as you like. You only need to choose the number of days you wish travel.

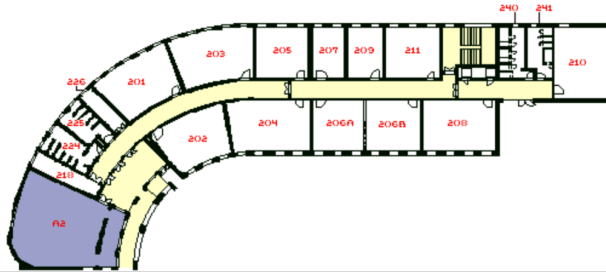
ANDANTE TOUR tickets can be purchased at ANDANTE shops, STCP and CP Porto sale spots. This ticket it is non-rechargeable.

Info: <http://www.metrodoporto.pt/>

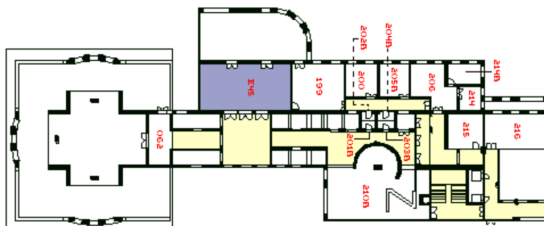




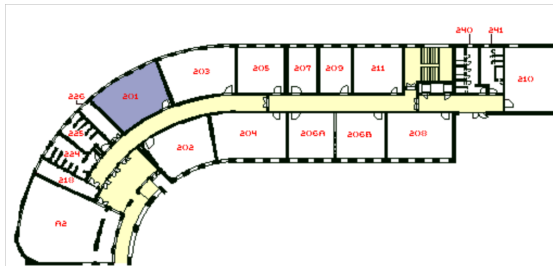
Auditorium 2 (A2) - Second floor  
Auditorium 1 (A1) - First floor



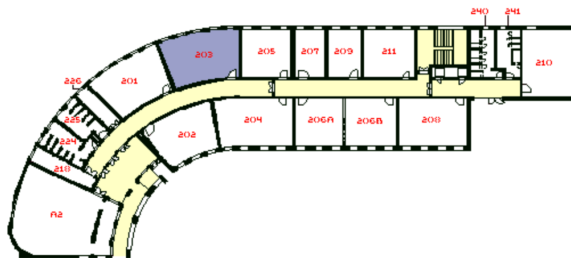
Sala de Reuniões 1 (SR1)  
Sala de Reuniões 2 (SR2)



Sala 201 (201)



Sala 203 (203)



## Practical Information

### Internet Access

Wi-Fi Internet access is available free of charge for Eduroam users. If you're not an Eduroam user, you can connect to the wifi network **eventosflup** using the password **school2022**. If the log in page does not open automatically, please type the following address in your browser: <http://uportowifiguest.up.pt>. Conference participants can also have access to computer rooms (upon request and when available).

### ATM/Cash Machines

Conference delegates can find an ATM/cash machine in the Faculty facilities. There are plenty of other cash machines nearby.

### Toilets

You can find different signage for toilets in Portugal, from most creative visual elements to simple text. In the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the signage used is "WC Senhoras" for ladies and "WC Homens" for men.

### Faculty Café and Restaurant

Conference participants have access to the Faculty Bar, located on the ground floor (-1) of the Faculty building. The bar serves food, drinks and snacks all day, and offers a pleasant student environment.

The Faculty also has a restaurant ('cantina'), which is located by the main building, on the left handside.

### Lunches

Conference delegates will be served lunches and refreshments during the conference. Signs will show you the way.

## **Social Media**

Please add [@IAFLLPorto2022](#) to your Twitter account, and use the hashtag [#IAFLLPorto2022](#) to 'tweet' about the hottest conference events.

If you wish to follow us on Facebook, visit the page: [/IAFLL Porto 2022](#).

## **Social Activities**

The Organising Committee of the 4th European Conference of the International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics is working on some social activities so that the conference delegates can experience the thrills of being a 'tripeiro', in addition to experiencing a great scientific programme. For the evening of 20 July, we have planned a visit to Livraria Lello, which is often described as one of the oldest bookshops in the world. The Organising team will buy the tickets in advance for you so that you will not have to queue to go in.

Conference delegates staying in Porto in the afternoon of 21 July, just after the conference is over, will have the opportunity to go on a group visit to one of our favourite Port cellars, Ramos Pinto. The tour will take place at 16:00.

## Alternative suggestions

Some of the most historical events of Porto are related to the river, and the city definitely owes a significant part of its character to the river Douro; some of the most decisive battles were fought in the river, and the traditional 'Rebelos' were the boats used to bring the wine produced in the inner part of the country to mature in the cellars in Porto.

Although Port accounts for a significant part of the city's renown, it is also famous for its bridges (6 overall), two of which were engineered by Théophile Seyrig, whilst working as a partner of Gustave Eiffel: D. Maria Pia bridge and Luiz I bridge.

It is said that the best way to admire the city is from the river – or alternatively from Vila Nova de Gaia, on the south bank of the Douro. If you don't want to miss this opportunity, we recommend a river cruise in the afternoon of 21 July. Several options are available from the different tour operators that offer the best view to Porto. Some alternatives include lunch on board.

If you need some help in contacting the operators please let us know and we will do our best to assist you.

If you have some time to spend in Porto and need some suggestions to travel around, let us know and we help you choose the destination that suits you most.



# Plenaries



## **Presidential Address:**

### **Isabel Picornell**

*IAFLL – International Association of Forensic and Legal Linguistics*

***“There can only be one possible meaning” – linguistic experts and evidence in court***

## **Plenary 1:**

### **Janet Ainsworth**

*Seattle University*

***When Lies Don’t Count as False: The Linguistically Curious World of Common-law Defamation***

## **Plenary 2:**

### **Karen MacAuliffe**

*University of Birmingham*

***So What? From observations about language use to a new understanding of (EU) Law: rigour in law and language research design***

## **Plenary 3:**

### **Lúisa Neto**

*INA & Faculty of Law of the University of Porto*

***Connecting the dots: Public Administration, Legal Language, Transparency and Citizens***

## **Plenary 4:**

### **Ricardo Jorge Dinis-Oliveira**

*APCF, TOXRUN-IUCS-CESPU & FMUP*

***Pitfalls of bibliometrics and scientific research integrity: the perspective of an editor in chief of forensic journals***

## **Plenary 5:**

### **Malcolm Coulthard**

*Aston University*

***Rigour and Transparency in Forensic Linguistics Case Work***

## **Abstracts**

## **Parallel Sessions**

## **Aafke Diepeveen**

*University of South-Eastern Norway*

### ***A summarized police version of events: Transformation of the suspect's account in the investigative interview***

In investigative interviews, police investigators are tasked with eliciting, administering and documenting a suspect's account of his version of events. This paper presents a conversation analytic study of audio-recorded interview data from Norway, exploring the transformation of suspects' accounts in interaction during the investigative interview. The analysis shows that as the suspect tells his version of events, this story is altered and shaped along the way in several ways. One practice employed by police officers is to produce formulations, which 'translate' the suspect's story into a legally relevant one (Ferraz de Almeida & Drew 2020), often removing the interviewing officer's role, ascribing intention and suggesting causal relations (Edwards 2008; Van Charldorp 2014). Transformation of the suspect's account is also accomplished through reported speech and removing or negotiating over detail. This happens in interaction, and the analysis shows how suspects may respond to, challenge or accept police officers' contributions and the ongoing construction of a particular version of events. The findings in this study contribute to knowledge about the way in which the suspect's story is transformed into a summarized police version of events, and thus how official accounts are produced in interviews. This has further implications for the role and evidential value of suspects' accounts in criminal proceedings and the legal system.

#### References:

- van Charldorp, T. C. (2014) "What happened?" From talk to text in police interrogations. *Language & Communication*, 36, pp. 7-24.
- Edwards, D. (2008) Intentionality and mens rea in police interrogations: The production of actions as crimes. *Intercultural Pragmatics*, 5(2), pp. 177-199.
- Ferraz de Almeida, F. and Drew, P. (2020) The fabric of law-in-action: 'formulating' the suspect's account during police interviews in England. *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*, 27(1), pp. 35-58.

## **Alison May**

*University of Leeds*

### ***The perils of self-advocacy - a lesson on perspective and linguistic disadvantage from the historical courtroom***

In recent times, it is recognised that the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 led to a steep rise in the number of litigants-in-person (LIPs), 'not [...] through choice but as a result of being unable to access legal aid' (Justice Committee, 2015). At the same time there have been reports of an exodus of prosecution and defence counsel, due to rates of pay 'below the minimum wage' (Ames, 2021) increasing LIPs. Looking at an 18th century case we explore some of the risks of self-advocacy and consider the perspective this produces for finders-of-fact and the lessons that can be learned from the historical courtroom for LIPs. In 1733 Sarah Malcolm was convicted of murder at the Old Bailey and sentenced to death. The crime was made more shocking because it struck at the heart of the Inns of Court; the three female victims lay murdered in their beds in a top-floor Inner Temple apartment, and the defendant was employed by the Inner Temple as a laundress and by barrister John Kerrel of King's Bench Walk as his maid. In this paper we view the narrative from three main perspectives: the Old Bailey trial record, the Ordinary of Newgate's Account, and a posthumously published pamphlet authored by the convict as she awaited execution. In the heavily prosecution-focused trial culture of the 18th century, she embarks on defending herself, arguing, in a risky strategy, that the blood found on her clothing was 'nothing but the free Gift of Nature': menstruation. The Ordinary of Newgate describes her as 'a most obdur'd, impenitent Sinner', while her own account, she 'here declare[s] is true': that she is responsible for the 'unhappy act of robbing' but is innocent of murder. I explore whether she was a victim of the perils of self-advocacy.

## **Andrea Mojedano Batel**

*Aston University*

## **Neus Alberich Buera**

*Aston University*

### ***Idiolectal style across genres and time: Stance markers and discourse markers as idiolect-identifying features in Mexican Spanish***

The idea of authorship attribution is based on two assumptions: that every language user has a unique linguistic style, or 'idiolect', and that features characteristic of that style will recur with a relatively stable frequency (Coulthard et al., 2011). The term 'idiolect' is well-known in linguistics, yet there is a large gap between knowledge of the concept and empirical data of the phenomenon (Barlow, 2013). In order to fill part of this lacuna, we carry out a corpus-based investigation of some aspects of lexical/syntactic idiolectal variation in Spanish, with a focus on stance markers and discourse markers. The present study, first of its kind dealing with Spanish data, analyzes authentic, sociolinguistically dynamic data produced by nine academics working in a university in Mexico City, in different media and contexts, and for different purposes and audiences. These data come from different communication channels (email, Whatsapp texts), genres (formal and informal speech, Whatsapp texts to friends and family, and work emails), and contexts (information exchange with family and friends versus professional contexts). Using word n-grams as the basic classification feature, we identified patterns of within-author and between-author variability. Results suggest that stance markers and discourse markers are two linguistic features where idiolectal style seems to be stable across contexts and genres for some speakers. Additionally, our findings point to idiolectal patterns being consistent for at least one year, and sometimes more.

## **Andrea Nini**

*The University of Manchester*

### ***Using the likelihood ratio framework in real authorship identification casework: The General Impostors with Writeprints method***

The likelihood ratio framework is an ideal way for an expert witness to present their evidence in court because it reflects their duty of expressing the strength of evidence

in favour of a certain hypothesis (Morrison, 2009). Recent research by Ishihara (2021) demonstrates how this approach can be applied to authorship identification. In this talk I will describe the application of this framework to a real-life authorship identification case involving text messages. The method adopted is a special type of the General Impostors method, the state-of-the-art method for authorship verification problems (Koppel and Winter, 2014). The drawback of this method as applied in computer science is that it is dependent on dynamic feature sets, such as character 4-grams. These features are difficult to interpret and sensitive to topic and register variation. Instead, I will show how a manually curated static feature set, similar to a writeprint (Abbasi and Chen, 2008), can lead to equally excellent performance while limiting the capturing of confounding information. I will conclude by arguing that the move to the likelihood ratio framework for forensic authorship identification is not a goal in the distant future but a reality that should be adopted now.

References:

- Abbasi, A. and Chen, H. (2008) Writeprints : A stylometric approach to identity-level identification and similarity detection in cyberspace, In ACM Transactions on Information Systems, New York, NY, USA.
- Ishihara, S. (2021) Score-based likelihood ratios for linguistic text evidence with a bag-of-words model, Forensic Science International, Elsevier, 327, p. 110980.
- Koppel, M. and Winter, Y. (2014) Determining if two documents are written by the same author, Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology, 65(1), pp. 178–187.
- Morrison, G. S. (2009) Forensic voice comparison and the paradigm shift, Science and Justice, 49(4), pp. 298–308.

## **Andriana Maria Korasidi**

*National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

## **George Mikros**

*Hamad Bin Khalifa University*

### ***From Radicalization to Terrorism: Determining violent and not-violent Greek political groups' language borderlines using Topic Modeling and Machine Learning methods***

As the notion of violence reveals a multitude of nuances and meanings, it remains a contested concept. Concerning terrorism, it's been said before that there should be a distinction between radicalization that leads to violence and radicalization that does



not (Schuurman, 2020). In Greece several political non-conformist anarchist groups have been formed, performing activistic and destructive actions (such as damaging public or private property, squatting party offices, throwing flyers, etc.) without engaging in operations resulting in death and human abuse. On the other hand, other groups of the same ideology have been responsible for repeated terrorist attacks, such as murders, abductions, and bombings. In this paper, we attempt to analyze the manifestos and announcements of two Greek organizations that engage in terrorist violence and compare them to two other political groups who share similar rhetoric and belong to the same historical and social context but act subsequently in a pretty different way. Recent research has demonstrated that distant reading method and quantitative text analysis provide scientifically rigorous and valid means of exploring the relationship between violent words and violent actions (Smith, 2004; 2008). For our study, we used the Greek version of LIWC to investigate whether the psychological characteristics of groups' rhetoric might predict different outcomes. We applied topic modeling techniques to yield logically identifiable thematic categories that imply threat and violence. Based on our results, we then trained word embeddings on our data using a widespread implementation developed at Google known as (Mikolov et al.,2013), that uses a shallow neural network to map tokens from a vocabulary to a real-valued vector (Kim, 2014). Our preliminary findings show that even though all four groups share a common ideological background, there are warning behaviors and predictors of targeted violence in terrorist groups derived from the use of specific linguistic indicators.

## **Andriana Maria Korasidi**

*National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

## **George Mikros**

*Hamad Bin Khalifa University*

### ***Where Edges meet: Identifying ideological and emotional commonalities in far-left and far-right terrorist Greek groups based on a corpus-driven analysis***

Even though terrorism in Greece has been mainly committed by far-left revolutionary organizations and anarchist groups, far-right groups' attacks have risen to prominence since 2012. Most of the groups of either wing claim responsibility for

their actions and provide their ideological and theoretical guiding in proclamations and online announcements usually published on blogs. Concerning the Greek case, there are no previous quantitative linguistic studies conducted on both left- and right-wing terrorism and, more specifically, on the psychological dimensions correlated to violence and the significant semantic categories that imply extremism tracked through the linguistic production of the groups. Based on the hypothesis derived from previous research, radical extremist groups' language presents similar dimensions, even if they are ideologically opposed. Terrorist texts present a linguistic feature set that is psychologically meaningful. In this research, we use a balanced dataset of six different corpora consisting of texts signed both by far-right and far-left Greek terrorist groups to attempt a cross-ideological and cross-linguistic comparative analysis of significant semantic and lexical features and identify ideational and emotive commonalities and differences in their content. To provide insights about authors from a psychological standpoint, we used the Greek version of LIWC (Stamou, Mikros, Varlokosta, 2021). This computerized word counting tool identifies and counts words in psychology-relevant categories across multiple text files. We analyzed the distribution of semantic word clusters, so-called "topics," in our corpora by implementing topic modeling techniques and other concept-visualization methods (word and collocation clouds, Multidimensional Scaling on vocabulary, etc.). Preliminary results indicate the existence of specific psychological and ideological dimensions aligned with the "terrorist mind" that seems to be shared in both left and right terrorist groups and differentiate them from the general population. They also demonstrate unique features of each group due to the variety of means and motives.

## **Annelise De Vries**

*Akademia*

### ***Law on language: AfriForum vs Malema at "Kill the farmer" hate speech trial***

In October 2020, AfriForum, a civil rights organization in South Africa, lodged a complaint of hate speech against Julius Malema, leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), a political party in South Africa. This comes after supporters of the EFF sang "Kill the Boer, Kill the Farmer" (in isiZulu, Dubul'ibhunu) outside a court where

the murder trial of a white farmer took place. In 2011 Malema was convicted of hate speech for singing this chant. Although South Africa is one of Africa's most democratic countries, racial conflict between white people (in this context "white" refers to boer/"farmer") and black people is an everyday phenomenon. During testimony in the hearing of the most recent court case (AfriForum vs EFF in February 2022), Malema testified that the term Dubul'ibhunu was not an order, and the word "farmer" didn't refer to an individual, but rather to a form of protest against a system that is continuing unofficial apartheid practices. Thus, Dubul'ibhunu should be regarded as metaphorical language. AfriForum argued that the singing of this song could not simply be dismissed as metaphorical language because it could encourage people to commit murder, as could have possibly been the case with the murder trial mentioned above. This paper provides a linguistic analysis of the utterances that may be deemed as hate speech by Malema and members of the EFF, as well as Malema's testimony in the hearing in the ongoing court case. Data was collected by using the documentation research method and analysed by the pragmasemantic approach. Since one of the mentioned cases is still ongoing, only preliminary findings can be made. In these findings, the researcher agrees with the court ruling in 2011 that Malema is guilty of hate speech for singing a song that includes lyrics that encourage people to shoot white farmers.

## **Annina Heini**

*Aston University*

## **Krzysztof Kredens**

*Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Aston University*

## **Piotr Pezik**

*Aston University*

### ***Cross-genre individual variation in language use: A study of 112 idiolects***

The idea of authorship attribution is based on two assumptions: (i) that some language users have unique linguistic styles, or quantifiable 'idiolects', and (ii) that features characteristic of those styles are likely to recur with a relatively stable frequency in an individual's linguistic output. Studies of individual linguistic variation show a tendency to use sociolinguistically homogenous data focusing on one genre and the few existing cross-genre studies are typically limited to two

genres e.g. (Kestemont et al. 2012; Stamatatos 2013). The study reported in this paper takes a different approach: one hundred and twelve participants have shared with us natural language samples from six discourse types. We have collected emails, text messages, university essays, oral interview data, oral image description data, and digital data of Google search behaviour. Each participant's dataset thus comprises a wide range of genres but also of communication channels, contexts, and language input modes. The individual datasets consist of roughly 10,000 words each, amounting to a total corpus size of over a million words. Using stylometric classification tools, we have measured within-author and between-author variability and obtained results indicating very low levels of individual stability across genres. We will offer a sociolinguistically-based interpretation of the results and discuss their implications for forensic authorship analysis.

References:

- Kestemont, M., Luyckx, K., Daelemans, W. and Crombez, T., 2012. Cross-genre authorship verification using unmasking. *English Studies*, 93(3), pp.340-356.
- Stamatatos, E., 2013. On the robustness of authorship attribution based on character n-gram features. *Journal of Law and Policy*, 21(2), pp.421-439.

## **Carmen Rosa Caldas-Coulthard**

*Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina*

## **Malcolm Coulthard**

*Aston University*

### ***Two Case Reports***

In this presentation, we will report in this paper, although with some anonymisation of participants, two cases which are still ongoing. 1- In the first case an online professional gamer is being sued for \$700,000 dollars for allegedly disparaging the reputation of the company for which he used to work. The linguistic evidence is short translated and decontextualised extracts taken from a live webinar which the host characterised as a "chat". We will use concepts from Speech Act theory, Hymesian sociolinguistics and Conversation Analysis to challenge a Plaintiff's claim that the extracts are instances of intentional disparagement. Our commentary, taking into consideration the wider context and the surrounding linguistic co-text will show that the claimed meanings have been assigned erroneously. 2 - In the second case, which

is an appeal against conviction, we will use a form of authorship analysis to support a claim of bias on the part of the judge. Following Love and Grant we find it useful to regard a written text as the product of up to four distinct types of authorship, even though a single author can for a given text fulfil all four roles alone: the 'declarative' author who signs the text and takes responsibility for its content; 'the executive' author, who is responsible for creating the original draft of the text; the 'revisory' author who edits the executive author's text and the 'precursory' author who has produced earlier text which has been incorporated by the executive and/or revisory author(s). We will exemplify how these concepts were applied to question the impartiality of a judge by showing that the judge had plagiarised significant portions of the Prosecution's written accusation.

## **Cheima Bouchrara**

*University of Surrey*

### ***"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury": Uncovering discursive and linguistic patterns in closing arguments in US criminal trials***

In a courtroom setting, language is a crucial aspect of the trial process. It is a major tool to present and summarise the case, question witnesses and persuade the judge or jury of the defendants' guilt or innocence from the alleged charges. Although courtroom discourse has been subjected to linguistic and discursive analyses, most of the research such as Drew (1992), Matoesian (1993) and Cotterill (2004) focused on witness examination and very few studies have examined the language of lawyers in closing arguments (Rosulek, 2009). At the same time, the adversarial nature of the Anglo-American criminal justice system highlights the significance of the linguistic skills during closing arguments, a trial phase in which the opposing lawyers speak directly to the jury. Indeed, in their closing statements, lawyers aim to persuade the jurors that their version of events is more plausible than that of the opposing council in order for them to return a favourable verdict. This presentation is drawn from a study that seeks to offer a systematic account of the linguistic cues of persuasion in closing arguments. Based on a combination of corpus linguistic and discourse analytical approaches, this presentation will focus on exploring selected lexical cues and how they contribute to building the lawyers' persuasive strategies. Examples will

be drawn from a data set of 50 American criminal trials looking at both prosecution and defence closing arguments.

## **Christin Kirchhuel**

*Soundscape Voice Evidence*

## **Georgina Brown**

*Lancaster University*

## **Paul Foulkes**

*The University of York*

### ***Demonstrating rigour and transparency as a sole practitioner in forensic speech science***

One way in which a forensic analyst can incorporate rigour and transparency into their casework practice is by engaging with proficiency testing. In the UK, some forensic disciplines, e.g., fingerprint comparison, drug testing, crime scene investigation, have well-established proficiency testing schemes, and it is expected that practitioners in these areas take regular proficiency tests in order to meet regulatory requirements. Other disciplines, including forensic speech science, do not have the benefit of such schemes, despite, so far, falling under the same regulatory framework. There are organisations who advertise that they assist providers and disciplines in conducting proficiency testing. However, from experience of contacting these organisations to explore developing a proficiency test for forensic speech analysis, there is little enthusiasm for the prospect. These organisations have responded to say they do not have the resource or knowledge base to develop a proficiency test for forensic speech analysis. It would seem that providing proficiency tests for small forensic disciplines is not considered financially viable. Forensic speech science turns out to be “too niche” and so it is currently down to active members of the forensic speech science community to pave a way to proficiency testing. This paper reports on how one forensic speech analysis provider in the UK has gone about constructing and carrying out a proficiency test. This paper offers reflections from the three key perspectives involved in the conduct of the test: the test co-ordinator, the test-taker and the external reviewer. The reflections raise questions around the practicalities and feasibility of carrying out this seemingly straightforward exercise. The overall aim of the paper is to provide an honest account

of carrying out a proficiency test within the context of a “niche” forensic discipline. This account includes some solutions to proficiency testing as well as words of warning.

## **Conceição Carapinha**

*CELGA-ILTEC Faculdade de Letras Universidade de Coimbra*

### ***A repetição de perguntas em Tribunal [Question repetition in Court]<sup>1</sup>***

Diferentes estudos, de distintos quadros teóricos (Análise Conversacional; Análise Crítica do Discurso; Pragmática Histórica; Linguística Forense, entre outros), reconhecem à pergunta o poder de orientar e controlar o conteúdo e a forma da resposta, em Tribunal; contudo, a repetição de perguntas, enquanto estratégia comunicativa, e o seu impacto nas respostas do inquirido não têm sido alvo de grande atenção. O presente trabalho pretende analisar sequências de pergunta-resposta, com quatro ou mais intervenções, que envolvem a repetição (total ou parcial) de perguntas anteriores e a resposta dada a cada uma delas, avaliando os objetivos interacionais destas perguntas e o modo como as respostas refletem (ou não) um contexto institucional em mudança, a que não é alheio o desequilíbrio de poderes. Partindo de um enfoque pragmático, coadjuvado pela metodologia da Análise Conversacional, e baseando-se em dados autênticos colhidos em Tribunais portugueses, este estudo visa (i) elencar as funções pragmáticas destas repetições e, ao avaliar qual o seu impacto nas respostas dos inquiridos, (ii) identificar a forma das respostas, bem como (iii) identificar o grau de consistência entre essas respostas. Os resultados sugerem que os profissionais exploram esta estratégia para cumprir objetivos de natureza institucional, ao passo que a interpretação, distinta, que dela é feita pelos leigos é condicionada pelo contexto de poder que enquadra a interação. Esta investigação permite, assim, uma melhor compreensão dos objetivos comunicativos dos dois grupos de interlocutores que interagem em Tribunal.

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Andrews, S., Lamb, M., and Lyon, T. (2015). The effects of question repetition on responses when prosecutors and defense attorneys question children alleging sexual abuse in court. *Law and Human Behavior*, 39 (6), 559-570.

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<sup>1</sup> The speaker will present in Portuguese, but the slides will be suitable for an English-speaking audience.

Mortensen, S. S. (2020). A question of control? Forms and functions of courtroom questioning in two different adversarial trial systems. *Scandinavian Studies in Language*, 11 (1), 239-278.

## **Dakota Wing**

*York University*

### ***From opinion to fact: 'Beliefs' and subjective descriptors in Canadian police reports***

Policing textbooks, such as 'Just the Facts' (Biggs 2015) make clear that only facts should be included in the production of police reports. Indeed, Yu and monas (2020) report that police officers state that they should avoid opinions and only include facts. However, they note that officers struggled in explaining what initially appeared to be a clear dichotomy between fact and opinion. Drawing on a corpus of Canadian police reports, this talk expands on this reported observation, presenting an investigation into explicit ways that officers do impose opinions and subjective positions on the matters they are reporting on. Officers are found to use subjective cognitive predicates, such as what they "believe" (opposed to other experiential verbs of evidentiality, such as 'see', 'hear', 'smell', etc. or reporting verbs), and subjective descriptors of the events and observations (qualifying adjectives and adverbs). These are primarily found to assess veracity and suspects' understanding of cautions, and to justify police actions (e.g., arrests and use of force). Once an officer finalizes and submits a police report, it becomes an official record of the case and is often referred to at various stages throughout the criminal justice system. Since police reports are often viewed by personnel in the criminal justice system (e.g., lawyers, judges, juries) as "the principal 'objective' source of facts" of criminal activities and arrests (Fisher 1993, see also Ericson 1981), any subjectivity becomes materialized as the official record, potentially impacting legal decisions. This study demonstrates that how officers should write police reports is not necessarily how officers do write police reports, adding to the literature identifying various forms of subjective positioning in police reports (e.g., Benson & Drew 1978, Canning 2021, Fisher 1993, Seawright 2012, Tjaden & Thoennes 2002, Winkelmann & Shearer-Creman, 2004), while focusing on a Canadian context.



## **Dana Roemling**

*University of Birmingham*

### ***The Potential of NLP Methods in Dialect Classification for Forensic Geolinguistic Profiling***

Natural Language Processing (NLP) is the application of computational tools to the processing of large amounts of language data, e.g. in machine translation. One task that has received somewhat limited attention in NLP research is dialect classification, identifying the linguistic variety of a word or text by applying methods ranging from neural networks to statistical modelling (Zampieri et al., 2020). In forensic linguistics, the parallel task is geolinguistic profiling, which is the process of inferring location information about the author of a text. Generally, this is based on careful qualitative analysis as in the 'devil's strip' ransom case where the author was linked to Akron, Ohio (Shuy, 2001). However, recently there has been growing interest in developing computational approaches to geolinguistic profiling, i.e. when researchers are interested in the location of social media posts (Hovy & Purschke, 2018). Thus, in this talk I will give an introduction into the state of the art in dialect classification in NLP, focusing on the current best practices, limitations and application in a forensic context. I will then present my research in this area, working with a corpus of 16.8 million German social media posts from the platform Jodel (Hovy & Purschke, 2018). Specifically, I have mapped grammatical and lexical alternations in this data, to demonstrate that there is an underlying regional signal that can be used as the basis for profiling. Finally, I will consider the potential for future research in this area.

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## **Elisabeth Carter**

*Kingston University*

### ***“I can see from our records that you are an existing customer”:* examining the manipulation of social, ethical and interactional imperatives that compel compliance in fraudulent communications**

Using a discourse analytic framework and a range of empirical fraud communications as data, this research examines the ways in which fraudsters harness and exploit interactional norms to extort money from their victims. By adapting theories of compliance from criminology and human rights, overlaid with rhetoric in the tradition of oral persuasion as effective strategies of manipulation, this innovative forensic linguistic research examines the presence and use of macro (societal) and micro (individual) pressures in scam interaction. It reveals how the manipulation of social, ethical and interactional imperatives compel and normalise a routine of compliance from fraud victims in a way that is persuasive, highly effective and difficult for targets to detect; driving them to become active participants in their own exploitation without causing them alarm. This research reveals deficiencies in and suggests changes to the representations of victims and criminals in academic and counter fraud literature, prevention and awareness-raising tools, and criminal justice strategy. It has practical implications in driving changes to the overarching negative narratives of blame in relation to fraud victimhood, and the potential to have a positive impact in individuals' decision-making in relation to reporting this crime.

## **Elyse Methven**

*University of Technology Sydney*

### ***The discursive legitimization of coercive police powers during the COVID-19 pandemic***

Several countries have placed police officers in charge of policies aimed at suppressing the transmission of COVID-19. While scholarly attention has been paid to the legitimacy of a law enforcement response to the pandemic, less attention has been paid to the discursive techniques used by state officials to legitimise pandemic policing practices. This article examines the role that discourse has played in

rationalising a law enforcement approach to the Covid-19 pandemic. Using Australia as a case study, I conduct a critical analysis of the language of policing officials in press conferences, interviews, and media releases to identify discursive strategies of authorization; moral evaluation and rationalization, as defined in van Leeuwen's analytical framework of legitimation. I argue that the use of discursive techniques to depict punitive sanctions as desirable and effective, and public health rules as clear and of equal application to all, naturalised a coercive response to public health measures. The desirability of this police-led approach is deconstructed by drawing on resistant discourses to show how the state legislated, communicated and policed public health orders in an unclear and unequal fashion that undermined the rule of law.

## **Eugenia San Segundo**

UNED

## **Victoria Marrero Aguiar**

UNED

### ***Earwitness identification accuracy: the 'other accent' effect in a forensic voice parade experiment***

In earwitness evidence, voice parades are constructed as a type of recognition task that victims and witnesses do after crimes witnessed or suffered in dark or dimly lit places. In short, in all those cases in which the visual clue does not work, but the key to finding the suspect is the voice, understanding that there has been some type of verbal exchange or communication between the victim and the aggressor. There are several factors that must be taken into account when designing a voice parade, for example: how many voices should be presented as distractors and how long these should be; how similar they must be to each other and how to measure this similarity; but also how it affects the fact that the victim is not familiar with the language or with the regional accent of the voice to be recognized. In this investigation we have designed a five-person target present voice parade with female voices from Canary Islands in Spain. The aim was to test whether speaking the same regional accent of the speakers making up the stimuli of the voice parade affects performance. In the listening experiment, 83 Spanish-speaking participants of different origin took part. Overall accuracy was quite high (around 80% of the

participants correctly identified the target voice). Besides finding out whether listeners who are familiar with the target accent perform better than those unfamiliar with the accent, we aim to break down the results into participants with and without studies in Linguistics and participants with and without musical training.

## **Fleur van der Houwen**

*Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

## **Guusje Jol**

*University of Utrecht*

### ***A study of juvenile court proceedings: 'school' as an interactional resource***

Juveniles form a special group in the judicial system and normally court proceedings are held behind closed doors. Several international treaties and agreements acknowledge the special status of juvenile offenders. They emphasize that legal professionals have special obligations regarding their rehabilitation. In the Netherlands, this can also be found in the juvenile criminal code and it differs between juveniles and adults in terms of the objectives to be reached by sanctions. For adults, the objectives are both preventing others from criminal behavior and preventing the suspects themselves from repeating criminal behavior. In the case of juveniles, the emphasis is on the latter. For young offenders, school and career prospects are an important factor in rehabilitation. Drawing on insights from conversation analysis this study examines 5 criminal trials with young offenders as well as footage from a documentary about juvenile courts, we find that participants in the courtroom orient to the suspect's school situation as an interactional resource to position themselves. Judges refer to the school situation based on what is reported in the case file and negotiate with what the suspect tells the court during the proceedings. Suspects argue that they 'want to go to school' and attempt to persuade the court. Furthermore, we find that, given that there is a clear stake in convincing the judge that the juvenile suspect wants to go to school, such statements or pleas are vulnerable to be heard as informed only by stake.

### ***A pragma-stylistic approach to crosslinguistic authorship***

While first quantitative approaches to crosslinguistic authorship have shown promising results, e.g., for the text types of essays (Juola et al. 2019), qualitative studies seem to be lacking behind. However, it is likely that features captured by stylistic analyses will be transferred between languages, especially languages as closely related as German and English. Moreover, Fobbe (2019) points out that for authorship analyses of specific forensic text types, such as extortion letters, not only the analysis of superficial features of style are useful, but also an analysis of pragmatic stylistic features and strategies. Another text type that is becoming more and more relevant for forensic analysis are digital discourses, including instant messaging chats. Though such discourses surely have less predetermined communicative goals and therefore a wider range of expected speech acts, it is argued that the most frequent speech acts, such as greetings, thanking, or requests, are likely to show idiosyncratic features in their realisation, not only within one language of production, but also crosslinguistically. Therefore, the pragmatic stylistic features represented in instant messages of three German native speakers are compared in their German and English conversations with friends in order to explore the extent and stability of such a transfer. Not only are communicative strategies analysed, but also their internal structure and their modifiers, especially their combination with emoji, to determine intra-author variation within one and across two languages.

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## **Helen Newsome**

*Aston University*

## **Tim Grant**

*Aston University*

### ***Power as Resource in Online Criminal Interactions***

The correlation between language and power has been the subject of much study in fields such as linguistics, psychology, and anthropology (Bourdieu 1982; Kacewicz et al. 2014; Watts 2003). Such studies often demonstrate that power differences seen in the real world (such as at work, in education, in medical settings, in the family, as well as more widely in society) are often reflected in our language use. However, the advent of anonymous computer mediated communication (CMC) has complicated this. Unlike face-to-face interaction, CMC offers the possibility of identity play and in theory enables users to construct new, often anonymous, identities which may differ substantially from offline lives and identities (Danet 1998). To date, the linguistic performance of power in anonymous online interactions has received relatively little scholarly attention, and to date no studies have sought to examine the linguistic performance of power in criminal and dark web fora. In this paper we propose a new theory in which power is a set of resources that individuals can draw upon in a given interaction. We test this approach across three fora from the clear web and dark web to identify and tag power resources in community interactions. Through this analysis, we contrast the distributions of power at a community level across the three fora. Further to this, we identify a small set of individuals who draw upon multiple power resources and contrast these with those who draw upon few power resources. We draw conclusions for investigative analyses of dark web fora.

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## **James Tompkinson**

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## **Kate Haworth**

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## **Felicity Deamer**

*Aston Institute for Forensic Linguistics*

## **Emma Richardson**

*Aston Institute for Forensic Linguistics*

### ***For The Record: Exploring the link between person perception and the representation of linguistic features in police interview transcripts***

This paper examines whether the representation of linguistic features within police interview transcripts can influence perceptions of the interviewee. Although all police-suspect interviews are recorded in England and Wales, it is more common for a transcript of the interview to be used in court (Haworth, 2018). There are no guidelines for how information should be represented in these police interview transcripts, creating the potential for jurors' judgements of an interviewee to be affected by the representation of linguistic features. Previous work (Deamer et al, forthcoming) has illustrated that a range of differences in judgements of an interviewee occur depending on whether the person making judgements was given a transcript or heard the audio, and highlighted that pauses are a key feature which influences judgements. This paper further focuses on the representation of pauses within police interview transcripts. An experiment was conducted where participants were given a police-suspect interview, either in audio format or in one of a series of transcripts with pauses either excluded or represented in different ways. Participants then answered a series of questions about the interviewee. The experiment facilitates an analysis of differences between judgements depending on which version of the interview participants were given. Results are ongoing and full findings forthcoming, but we expect to illustrate a series of differences in judgements between audio and written versions of the interview, and also between the different versions of the transcripts. These findings will help to inform decisions about how pauses should be represented in police interview transcripts.

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## **Jan Svennevig**

*University of Agder*

## **Pawel Urbanik**

*Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

## **Aafke Diepeveen**

*University of South-Eastern Norway*

### ***Securing understanding of the suspects' rights in investigative interviews***

In the beginning of each investigative interview in Norway, police officers are required to inform suspects about their right to silence and to have an attorney. To do so, Norwegian police do not use a scripted formula such as the Miranda warnings in the USA but leave it to the individual investigator to find the most appropriate and efficient formulation relative to the addressee. The officially recommended way of securing understanding is to (1) present the rights in a way that is understandable for a given suspect and (2) ascertain that they have been understood correctly. There is however no guidance on how to secure and ascertain understanding, especially when the suspect is a second language (L2) speaker. The current paper presents an empirical investigation of 55 authentic police interviews with L2 suspects. Using Conversation Analysis as our method, we examine how the investigators formulate the rights and check the suspects' understanding of them. Preliminary results indicate that there is a large variation between officers. Some merely quote the formulations of the Prosecution instructions, which include several technical terms and complex syntactic constructions. Some use different formulations that seem to be recipient designed by involving more high-frequency words and more contextualized information (as opposed to the general principles in the Prosecution instructions). And interestingly, many investigators start by using a verbatim quote and subsequently reformulate the caution, simplifying and contextualizing it. In this way, they seem to balance the contradictory requirements of both heeding the wording of the law and making it understandable to the L2 speaker. In a very limited



set of cases, the officers check the suspects' understanding, and when they do, it overwhelmingly takes the form of a yes/no question.

## **Juan Antonio Latorre**

*Universidad Complutense de Madrid*

### ***Attribution of authorship of "Arden of Faversham" with the newly designed software ALTXA***

The present investigation has attributed to the Elizabethan play "Arden of Faversham", that was approximately written in 1592 and is still considered anonymous (Elliot and Greatley-Hirsch, 2017), its likeliest authorship with a forensic linguistic analysis in which William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe have been considered as the possible candidates. Given the possibility that the play may have been written in collaboration, each of its scenes has been independently analysed and the results suggest that Christopher Marlowe is more likely than Shakespeare to have written most of them. The presentation will provide an explanation of the distinct methods with which the authorship of the disputed scenes has been analysed, such as n-gram tracing (Grieve et al., 2018) and the Zeta test (Craig and Kinney, 2009). These have been applied with the assistance of the free software ALTXA for text analysis, which has been specifically developed for this project. ALTXA includes a wide range of functionalities that are common in the field of forensic linguistics and presents an accessible interface that seeks to facilitate the work of the linguist and pave the way for the implementation of studies of this nature in educational contexts.

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## **Karien Brits**

*Akademia*

### ***It is not just a name. The orthographic representation of place names: "Kyiv" in Afrikaans as a case in point***

The recent invasion of Russia in Ukraine and the subsequent coverage of the war focused the attention on the transliteration of the Ukrainian spelling of place names in the Western media. Especially in languages that use the Roman alphabet. The hashtag #KyivNotKiev on social media also contributed to the awareness of how the ideological differences are portrayed in the transliteration of place names. The focus of this paper will be on the debate in Afrikaans-speaking communities about the transliteration of names (Russian and Ukrainian) in the Afrikaans media and the social media platforms of the established Afrikaans media houses. Afrikaans is one of the eleven official languages in South Africa and one of the youngest languages in the world. The speakers of this language are acutely aware of the burdens of the past associated with Afrikaans. The Soweto Uprising in 1976 is one of the events that associated Afrikaans with the term "language of the oppressor". However, Afrikaans also has another side – it is also known as the struggle language against Apartheid and the struggle language for linguistic rights. South Africa as part of the BRICS countries, with its divided past – fear and praise for communism and ties with the former USSR, is divided once again with the recent events on former USSR territory. With these different ideological frames in mind, the orthographic representation of a place name like Kyiv and the subsequent debates about transliteration in Afrikaans circles are analysed using the pragmasemantic approach. The aim is to get a better understanding of how the general Afrikaans-speaking community view the importance of (fair) orthographic representation and the underlying basic linguistic rights.

## **Kate Haworth**

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## **Sarah Atkins**

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## **Krzysztof Kredens**

*Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Aston University*

### ***The Ethics of Forensic Language Data***

A key requirement for research in forensic linguistics is access to authentic data. These are often highly sensitive, such as threatening communications, police interviews, or discussions in dark web fora. Without authentic data, we cannot do the type of research required to provide a sound evidence base for expert opinion and analysis for the courts; nor can we train the next generation of forensic linguists. Researchers in FL are increasingly successful at gaining access to such data, particularly through building long-term relationships with practitioners such as the police. Those who undertake casework are also granted unique insider access to highly sensitive data, analysis of which not only forms an essential part of the expert's task, but may sometimes also be drawn upon subsequently to produce academic outputs (e.g. Grant 2013, Kredens and Coulthard 2012). However, with such access comes great responsibility. There are serious and complex questions around data ownership, data protection and confidentiality, which need to be balanced against issues of research integrity and authenticity. Focusing in particular on academic practices regarding data anonymisation (revisiting some of the issues highlighted by Rock 2001), and drawing on our collective experiences of maintaining working relationships with external partners in legal and medical contexts, this paper aims to bring these issues out into the open, spark debate, and trigger a long-overdue critique of our professional practice in data ethics.

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## **Kira Ogburn**

*University of Birmingham*

### ***Appraisal Analysis in Forensic Texts: Challenges and Potential***

Appraisal Analysis is uniquely situated to bridge the gap between linguistic expressions of violent fantasy and the actual psychological intent to commit violence. The notion of encoding psychological positions, such as feelings and values, linguistically is central to the use of Appraisal Analysis, making it a valuable tool for risk assessment. That being said, forensic texts pose particular challenges in applying the system of Appraisal as the system assumes a set of shared societal values which murderers and other types of criminals do not necessarily share. This study explores the challenges of applying Appraisal Analysis to texts where the author's values are outside of societal norms, using writings from Adam Lanza, the perpetrator of the Sandy Hook school shooting in 2012. It also provides an analysis of how Lanza uses the resources in the system of attitude and gives insight into how such analysis can be useful from a risk assessment perspective.

## **Laura Alvarenga Costa Ribeiro**

*Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro*

### **Maria do Carmo Leite de Oliveira**

*Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro*

### ***Discurso de ódio: um estudo de caso de violência contra a mulher em comentários no Instagram [Hate Speech: a case study of violence against women in Instagram comments]<sup>2</sup>***

In this work, we examine, under the light of membership categorization analysis, language practices of a discriminatory nature against women in comments posted on

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<sup>2</sup> The speaker will present in Portuguese, but the slides will be suitable for an English-speaking audience.

Instagram in defense of a martial arts instructor from a narrative told by one of his former female student considered to be an account of sexual abuse. The results demonstrate the crucial role played by categorization as a tool for establishing moral actors based on naturalized beliefs that regard women as unruly and mentally unbalanced beings, perpetuating myths about who can be a victim and who deserves credit. In terms of moral work, men is deified and women is demonized.

## **Lucia Busso**

*Aston University*

### ***Do you really agree to the terms and conditions? A comparative study on legal-lay language comprehensibility in English and Italian***

Legal-lay language (henceforth: LLL) – i.e., the language of legal documents aimed at non-specialists – is not as clear and plain as it should, and this lack of comprehensibility leads to legislative and linguistic problems alike (Benoliel & Becher 2019). This contribution presents the first study of LLL for Italian and English, combining corpus-based with experimental methods. The research explores LLL's comprehensibility in the aforementioned languages, and uses readability scores, Principal Component Analysis of complexity features (Kassambra & Mundt 2020), and an acceptability rating task on native speakers of the two languages. As data, we use CorIELLS (CORpus of Italian and English Legal-lay textS), an ad-hoc compiled specialised corpus of LLL (AUTHOR, forthcoming). For this analysis, we focus on a set of grammatical constructions typical of both Italian and English LLL (Goźdz-Roszkowski & Pontrandolfo 2015; Mori 2019): nominalisations heading PP-attachment chains, modal verbs, reduced participial constructions, and passives. The analysis is still ongoing for Italian, but preliminary results for English suggest that readability scores and human comprehensibility behave similarly, although the former appears to overestimate text difficulty. Moreover, prevalent dimensions of lexico-syntactical complexity suggest that LLL is lexically similar to legal jargon, but less so grammatically.

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## **Manfred Herbert**

*Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences*

### ***On the role of English in the post-Brexit European Union***

The paper examines the role of English in the post-Brexit EU from three aspects. From a legal perspective, the role of English has not been changed by Brexit. English remains one of the 24 official languages in the EU. A removal of the most widely spoken language in the EU from the list of official languages, which could only be decided unanimously by the Council of the EU, has never been seriously considered. From an empirical perspective, there is evidence that English is de facto the dominant working language in the institutions (e.g. 95 % of legislative proposals are originally drafted in English). In this respect, there are no indications of any change after Brexit, even if there are some calls for English to be pushed back. From a political perspective, the question of whether the dominance of English at the expense of multilingualism is justified has long been disputed. An important argument against the dominance of English is that it is unfair because native speakers of English have significant advantages over speakers of other languages. This argument is largely invalid after Brexit, with only about 1 % of the EU population speaking English as a native language. English has become almost a neutral language. This „Esperantization“ is a strong argument for making English the de jure lingua franca of the EU, which it has long been de facto. In any case, Brexit should be taken as an opportunity to openly discuss EU language policy in general and the role of English in particular. The EU's current laissez-faire approach to language issues is not satisfactory.

## **Maram Al Rabie**

*University of Leeds*

### ***Cross-genre authorship attribution: The potential of collocational style to cross genres boundaries in Charles Dickens's fiction and non-fiction writing***

Authorship attribution research requires reliable and transparent methods that can be applied in forensic authorship casework. It is widely accepted that the authorial style changes according to a text's genre or register restrictions (Leech and Short, 2005), making text type or genre an important consideration. However, in real forensic cases where a linguistic analysis may contribute to the case resolution, the availability of known and disputed texts of the same type is not guaranteed. This study examines the cross-genre stability of collocational style in a corpus of Charles Dickens's fictional and non-fictional writing. As a prolific writer across several genres (fiction, letters, journalism, etc.) Dickens is a good candidate author on whom to base a study of cross-genre style and his oeuvre is fully accessible via Project Gutenberg. Drawing on the psycholinguistic concepts of lexical priming and collocation (Hoey, 2005; Conklin and Schmitt, 2012) and using a corpus-based approach, a collocational analysis is conducted to explore frequency, exclusivity, directionality, and dispersion (Gries, 2013) patterns of collocation. The statistically significant collocations in both sub-corpora are descriptively analysed to investigate their structural and semantic patterns. Results show that a number of distinctive collocational patterns cross the genres, for example his use of adjectives in noun phrases that describe characters in fiction and people in non-fiction. These patterns show comparable statistical trends and similar structural and semantic patterns across the two sub-corpora. The findings reinforce previous work on Dickens's distinctive collocational style in fiction (Hori, 2004; Mahlberg, 2012) and, importantly for forensic linguistics, demonstrate the potentiality of collocation to cross genre boundaries. These results contribute to the robustness of collocation analysis as part of a toolkit which enables us to attribute texts coming from different genres of an author's output.

## **Mario Crespo Miguel**

*Universidad de Cádiz*

### ***Automatic approach for the semantic analysis and representation of a legal corpus with FrameNet***

FrameNet (Baker et al., 1998) is an on-line resource for English based on frame semantics and supported by corpus evidence (Ruppenhofer et al., 2006). A frame is a data-structure representing a stereotyped situation of reality, which contains words or triggers that evoke those situations. If we focus on a particular domain like "law" and we try to describe it in terms of FrameNet, we would obtain frames representing it like LEGALITY, formed by words like criminal.a, illegal.a or illicit.a or the frame PROHIBITING OR LICENCING with lexical units such as allow.v, prohibit.v, or ban.v. This work presents an automatic corpus-based approach to reuse the FrameNet structure for semantic analysis and representation of Law texts. The current FrameNet ontology contains 1,222 frames and 13,640 triggers. Firstly, we extract all the frames that are statistically significant from the British Law Report Corpus (BLaRC), a British English corpus made up of judicial decisions issued by British courts and tribunals. The corpus consists of 8.5 million words of legal texts published in 2008–2010 (RIZZO & PÉREZ, 2012). In order to do so, we apply a non-parametric (Wilcoxon test) tests for the analysis over term frequencies of the range of frames. In order to make sure that the results obtained are coherent, we will contrast them with a previous manual selection or benchmark of frames related to the law domain. Outcomes will be analysed, and we will look into the possibility of describing the law domain and its terminology according to FrameNet ontology.

## **Mashaël Alamr**

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### ***Authorship Attribution in Najdi Arabic: a corpus-based study of idiolectal style and identity***

This paper reports on an investigation into a synergy of approaches, namely corpus linguistics, stylistics, and computer-mediated discourse (CMD), to address forensic authorship attribution in Najdi Arabic. Forensic linguists approach authorship from a position that a linguistic theory of idiolect (Coulthard 2004) lays the groundwork of



the analysis. The concepts of authorship and idiolect are intertwined and, as Grant (2020: 653) puts it, “[a]ccepting that an idiolect may not be determined by either cognitive capacities or sociolinguistic history, but that each may provide resources and constraints in the creation of a linguistic individual, suggests the possibility of a more unified theory of idiolect.” This study investigates a specialised corpus of 58,005 tweets and 748,348 words by thirteen authors from the central region of Najdi, Saudi Arabia with a reference corpus representing the relevant Najdi population (Larner, 2014; Heydon, 2018). Using Turell’s (2010) concept of idiolectal style as theoretical groundwork, this corpus-based research explores the authors’ idiolects using a stylistic feature set (interrogatives, negatives, and deictic expressions) in two varieties: Modern Standard Arabic and Najdi Arabic. The analysis uses a qualitative, stylistic and stylometric method guided by Bucholtz and Hall’s (2005) identity approach and Herring’s (2007) Faceted Classification Scheme for CMD. Findings are that the authors’ selections from Najdi and MSA variants produce distinctive profiles to create unique identities. The paper concludes with the report of a case simulation with hypothetical ‘suspected’ authors, to test and apply the findings with new data. The findings show that the Najdi Arabic feature set has potential as markers of idiolectal style. The investigation also shows that the triangulated methodology proposed in this research shows promising results that can be considered as a method in forensic authorship casework.

## **Matthew Adegbite**

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### ***Slang and Slurs in Police-Suspect Interrogation Discourse in the Multilingual Nigerian Context***

Slang and slurs are part of the language of an informal register. While Nigerian slang (e.g. ‘obtain’, ‘container’, ‘yawa’) is used by members of particular in-groups to establish group identity, slurs are pejorative expressions (e.g. ‘yahoo-yahoo’, ‘askari’, ‘aboki’) which disparage and demean a person/group or damage their reputation. This study examines interrogation of suspects by the Nigerian police uncovering the interesting finding that this institutional discourse encounter is not immune to slang or slurs. The focus of this paper therefore is an analysis of the strategic discursive deployment of slang and slurs for a range of communicative purposes in police

interrogation both by the police and suspects. 140 minutes of four, audio-recorded interrogation sessions at the Ondo and Ibadan police Area Commands of the Nigerian Police Force form the primary data for this study. All the interrogations were conducted primarily in English and the suspects were 18 years or above. An approach that blends Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough and Wodak, 1997), Communication Accommodation Theory, (Giles, 2016) and Politeness Theory (Brown and Levinson, 1987) is adopted for analysis and discussion. The paper hypothesizes that the motivation for the use of slangs and slurs by the police and suspects are different as they are used to achieve different strategic discourse goals: shaming, name-calling, stereo-typing and exclusive communication. While some suspects (gangsters) use slang for exclusive in-group communication, police interrogators use it as a positive politeness strategy as well as an accommodation (convergence) strategy. Police interrogators and suspects deploy slurs for demeaning, stereotyping and name calling, while only interrogators engage slurs for shaming suspects.

## **Mel Greenlee**

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### ***Linguistic Rituals in Faretta Waivers, Miranda's Close Cousin***

Under United States law, criminal defendants may serve as their own lawyers at trial, but the choice to do so must be "knowing, voluntary and intelligent," made with "eyes wide open." (*Faretta v. California* (1975) 422 U.S. 806, 835.) In theory, judges should thoroughly investigate before accepting a defendant's waiver of counsel. But what questions must judges ask and how searching is their actual inquiry in practice? Adequacy of the court's warning and inquiry becomes particularly fraught when doubts arise concerning a self-represented defendant's mental competence and/or the defendant faces capital charges. On appeal, adequacy of judicial warnings is a frequently disputed issue. (Goldschmidt, J. (2022) *Self-representation: Law, Ethics & Policy*. Lexington Books.). This paper examines judges' warnings to defendants seeking self-representation from capital case court transcripts and appellate pleadings. Analysis of the written waiver forms and court colloquies reveals that waivers are highly complex, with many of the syntactic features known to impair understanding of legal language generally, such as frequent passives, multiple embeddings and specialized vocabulary. (Tiersma, P. M. (1999). *Legal Language*. U.

Chicago Press.). Nevertheless, Faretta jurisprudence may accept written waivers with only minimal responses on the pro-se defendants' part, which judges' oral questioning does little to clarify. Self-represented defendants' confusion during trial underscores their misunderstandings of these warnings. As linguists and legal scholars have shown in administration of Miranda waivers, ritual compliance with prophylactic rules may devolve into formulae recited without laypersons' true comprehension, to their significant peril, as well as to the reliability of the proceedings. (See, e.g., Ainsworth, J. 2010. Curtailing coercion in police interrogation: the failed promise of *Miranda v. Arizona*. *The Routledge handbook of forensic linguistics*, 111-12). Faretta practice in the cases analyzed here shows similar flaws, clouding the view of the layperson and contradicting the ideal of fully informed choice.

## **Natalie Jones**

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### ***Representing realities in Derek Chauvin's criminal trial: Prosecution and defence strategies in opening speeches***

Opening speeches and closing arguments in criminal trials are opportunities for the prosecution and defence to represent their client's reality as they directly address the jury. The opening speech is the 'story construction' stage, where the 'crime story' (Heffer, 2010) is created to convince the jury. It also has a 'crucial role in framing the conflicting narratives constructed by the prosecution and defence' (Cotterill, 2003, p. 6), which is vital for the observations of the jury. It is perhaps unsurprising then, that research has shown how lawyers use techniques to manipulate information and integrate it into their crime narrative. Examples of these techniques include events and/or actors being 'silenced' or 'emphasised' (Felton Rosulek, 2015), using specific lexical choices (Chaemsaitong, 2017) to position actors or the jury, and including reported speech (Chaemsaitong, 2018) to frame information. Utilising the framework of positioning, developed by Davies and Harré (1990), I investigate and compare the prosecution and defence's strategic use of it in the opening speeches of the State of Minnesota v. Derek Michael Chauvin trial, to position key social actors (Chauvin and Floyd) in the crime narrative and also the jury in their observations. The transcripts for the opening speeches are publicly available and accessible online (Rev,

2021), after substantial public interest resulted in a live broadcast of the trial on US television. Using a corpus-based approach that combines qualitative, quantitative, and computational methods, the research examines the use of pronouns, verbs of perception, and nomination and categorisation (van Leeuwen, 2002). I show how lawyers use these linguistic means to position the jury in the opening speech and create contrasting crime narratives, achieving their goals of satisfying the jury that their representation of events is the reality that is most convincing.

## **Nele Pöldvere**

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### ***How (not) to get away with deception: Metaphorical cues of deception in fake news***

Jayson Blair was fired from The New York Times in the early 2000s for writing news articles that contained intentionally false information, such as not being in the location where the news was reported. Grieve and Woodfield (forthcoming) have even noted that, in many ways, Blair “ushered in the modern era of fake news” (p. 31), a serious threat to today’s democracies. Moreover, the authors found Blair’s fake news articles to be grammatically distinct from his real news articles, a finding that contributes to the growing field of the language of fake news. This study explores further features of this genre through the study of metaphorical language in Blair’s articles. Metaphor (e.g., COVID-19 comes in waves) has been found to vary considerably depending on the discourse community to which the speaker/writer belongs, and conceptual metaphor, in particular (e.g., DISEASE IS A NATURAL DISASTER), reveals a fundamental part of the way people think, reason and imagine (Gibbs, 2017). In this study, we explore the hypothesis that metaphor is more limited in Blair’s fake news articles compared to his real news articles due to the lack of perceptual information in such contexts. In other words, it might be difficult to recount real-life stories without being able to rely on one’s embodied experiences, such as having been in a place that one is writing about. The results of this study can have important implications, not only for the study of the language and psychology of fake news, but also for deception more generally.

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### ***“I’ve asked you a really crap question”: Politeness, face, and rapport-building in remote investigative interviews with witnesses.***

COVID-19 required professions to change their practice, and the England & Wales Criminal Justice System was no exception. Police investigations continued and remote methods became necessary for conducting investigative interviews with suspects and witnesses. The current research-base regarding remote investigative interviewing is, however, scarce, tentative and contradictory. Some research indicates that remote interviewing causes interviewees to feel less safe with long-lasting negative effects (Milne et al., 2020), whereas others suggest the opposite (Hoogesteyn et al., 2020). This paper reports on one work package of a project which seeks to establish whether remote interviews are as effective as face-to-face interviews. Using data collected with experiments involving both face-to-face and remotely conducted mock interviews, we focus here on the linguistic processes by which rapport is built and maintained. Although rapport-building has been shown to

be effective, there is little information in the research on what this means in practice (College of Policing, 2020) and rapport is notoriously difficult to operationalise (Pounds, 2019). In this paper we view rapport through a pragmatic lens, discussing instances of rapport-building in relation to politeness and face. The effects of the lack of physical context on rapport-building are examined, and implications discussed.

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## Nicole Harris

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### ***Diamonds in the Rough: A Multiprong Approach to a Linguistic Analysis of Tiffany & Co. v. Costco Wholesale Corp***

In 2013, Tiffany & Co. sued Costco for trademark infringement and dilution after Costco used the name TIFFANY in some of their in-store point-of-sale signs for diamond engagement rings (Tiffany & Co. v Costco Wholesale Corp., 2013). Costco countered the infringement suit with the argument that they had used the term in good faith as TIFFANY had, according to them, become a generic term for any multiprong solitaire diamond engagement ring. Neither plaintiff nor defendant consulted a linguist during litigation. Using the resources of dictionaries and corpus analysis, this case study examines the strength of the mark TIFFANY to determine if consumers have come to consider it a generic term. The analysis of genericism reveals that consumers overwhelmingly recognize and use TIFFANY as a brand-name identifier rather than as a generic term for a style of engagement ring. In addition, to examine the possibility of consumer confusion resulting from Costco's use of the

mark TIFFANY, a sight, sound, and meaning analysis (Shuy, 2002, 2012) was performed. While consumer confusion is a legal claim, the results indicate that there is significant overlap in linguistic aspects regarding sight, sound, and meaning of the use of TIFFANY by Costco, which could lead to a legal conclusion of consumer confusion possibly resulting in trademark infringement and trademark dilution. This case study uses existing linguistic analytic methods to answer the questions of strength and similarity of marks as well as offers a methodology for linguists to address the possibility of consumer confusion as it relates to trademark dilution.

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### ***When “saying” replaces “doing”: a study of the structure and functions of reported speech in the narratives of child victims of sexual abuse***

Our research explores how child victims of sexual abuse report speech during an investigative interview, and the use they make of it. To do so, sixteen victims aged 6 to 8 were separated in two groups. In the first ( $n = 8$ ), children who reported being forced or manipulated to perform sexual acts towards the perpetrator, called ‘agentive victims’. In the second ( $n = 8$ ), children who did not report having performed such sexual acts, called ‘non-agentive victims’. Contrary to previous studies suggesting that children tend to report their own words to the detriment of those of others, this in the morphosyntactic structure of direct speech, our results show that during an investigative interview, they mainly report the discourse of others to the detriment of their own words. Furthermore, they generally do so in an indirect way. Our analyses also demonstrate that agentive victims report three times more speech than non-agentive victims. While the inclusion of reported speech has been shown to increase the veracity and authenticity of testimonies, we believe that it allows agentive victims to avoid naming certain sexual acts and to justify why they committed it: because the perpetrator asked them to do so. In other words, it suggests that “doing” is replaced by “saying”.

## **Olumide Popoola**

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### ***Automated detection of commercial essay writing***

Commercial essay writing is the business end of the contract cheating - i.e. student assessment outsourcing - spectrum (Lancaster and Clarke, 2016), in which students pay 'essay mills' for original work completed by a dedicated pool of freelance writers. Over the last decade this service has been criminalised in a number of jurisdictions worldwide. Since commercial essay writers are paid to produce original text, this writing is usually undetectable using regular extrinsic or intrinsic plagiarism detection approaches. Stylometric authorship analysis tools have been utilised in contract cheating investigations to validate authorship of an individual student's work with high probability (e.g. Crockett and Best, 2020) but these do not identify characteristics of commercial writing. This research formulates detection of commercial essay writing as a text classification task in order to identify distinctive features of commercial academic writing and build a transparent predictive model. Essay mill company websites were identified using techniques described in Lancaster (2020) and scraped using the Bootstrapping Corpora and Terms procedure (Baroni and Bernardini 2004). For this research a corpus of 500 commercial and 1200 student essays was constructed totalling 4.5m words. A variety of theoretically-based NLP tools covering functional, cognitive and affective linguistic features was deployed through a multivariate data analysis pipeline utilising principal components analysis and logistic regression. The text classification predictive model was built that achieved 84% precision, 72% recall and an F score of 82%. Text inflation strategies (verbosity, padding and repetition) emerged as key indicators of commercial essay writing, with a combination of characteristics reflecting paradoxical quality - e.g. high lexical proficiency combined with poor flow (global coherence) - a secondary indicator. The findings suggest that commercial essay writing has peculiar characteristics and commercial essay writers have a distinct approach that can be detected through writing analysis.



## **Oluwole Sanni**

*University of Warsaw*

### ***Discourse Strategies and Positioning Moves in Selected African Suicide Notes***

African suicide notes aside sharing the textual structures of all suicide notes have an African context, an African audience, and shared African meaning which interpretations is hinged on mutual contextual African beliefs. Using 20 suicide notes written by African suicide completers from different African countries of different age and gender, the present study seeks to investigate the discourse patterns, positioning mechanisms, and the sociolinguistic variables influencing African suicide notes. Furthermore, it seeks to unearth the inherent unique 'African story lines' in the suicide notes. Drawing insights from Positioning Theory and Discourse Analysis, the findings of this study revealed that intensifiers, metaphors, presuppositions, humour-cum-sarcasm, repetition, if conditionals, and specific lexical items and linguistic constructions that express victim-hood or agency are some of the prevalent discourse strategies deployed by African suicide completers. More so, performative, moral, expert, oppressive, and third order positioning(s) are/is utilized in representing and situating themselves and others. The study concludes that African suicide notes are inherently vague for audience without shared African knowledge.

## **Patrick Juola**

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### ***Unreliable (Linguistic) Evidence and the Role of Standards***

One of the jobs of a forensic linguist is to provide evidence. Unfortunately, some forensic sciences rely on "questionable or questioned science" having little empirical support. The American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board (ASB) was established to provide "high quality science-based consensus forensic standards" in a variety of disciplines, including forensic document examination (FDE). These standards and process should be of interest for our community in both common law and civil law jurisdictions. In this paper, the author discusses the ASB FDE model from an insider's perspective. We are familiar with questionable practices that produce

untrustworthy results. Legal experts cannot be expected to have such familiarity. Standards can play a key role in educating judges on the state of the art and help them evaluate proposed evidence for admissibility and weight. Similarly, we know the limitations of our work, but need to express them clearly for others. Standards can also educate students about current best practices and potential improvements. Standards need not specify the exact way to assess evidence (and indeed, this would be bad as it would stifle innovation/improvement), but can play a guiding role in the recognition and exclusion of clearly unacceptable work and in the continued development of high-quality practices. This paper discusses the standards-making process, including the language of standards, the creation and dissemination process, and the role of standards in interpreting forensic evidence, in order to promote a discussion of accountability and accuracy in high-stakes application of FL. Bad forensic science can lead to miscarriages of justice. Drawing up a list of empirically-grounded guard rails and red lines that can mark an analysis as not-to-be-trusted can and will have significant consequences in support of the public good and to improve both rigour and transparency in FL.

## **Patrick Juola**

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## **Alejandro Napolitano Jawerbaum**

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### ***Coauthored Documents Are More Than Mixtures of the Styles of the Component Authors***

Forensic stylistics (McMenamin, 1993; Ainsworth & Juola, 2018) is an important source of evidence about document authorship. By examining the writing style of a questioned document, one can identify characteristic patterns that may or may not match the known writings of a given author. But what happens when the questioned document is multiply authored? A common assumption (citation awaiting clearance) is that the writing style of co-authors is a mixture of the authors' writing style; that is, co-authored writing shares the characteristics of all the authors in some proportion. Only if an unlisted author is also involved would novel features appear. We show that this intuitive idea has deeper implications which can be modelled by the geometric concept of "convex hull" (Preparata and Shamos, 1985). Using coauthored novels,

we then show that this model does not hold. We focus our experiments on the novels of Carmen Mola, a well-known Spanish novelist who was recently discovered to be a collective of three other Spanish authors. We compare the (co-authored) writings of "Mola" against the individual writings of the authors. Using a variety of lexical statistics, we show that Mola's work is substantially different and outside a "mixture" of the three authors. In particular, the lexical statistics of the most frequent words show frequent departure from the coauthors' range, joint work displays contradictory features, and dimensionality reduction puts the joint work "outside the hull." We conclude that the working assumption cannot be supported, and that finding features outside the characteristic set(s) of the co-authors does not indicate the authorial presence of an additional external writer.

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## **Pawel Urbanik**

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### ***When suspects talk when they should not: Early explanations and investigators' interventions in the initial phase of police interviews in Norway***

In the introductory phase of police investigative interviews in Norway suspects must be informed of the accusation and their legal rights. As a consequence, in this stage they are expected not to say anything that could incriminate them, which in practice limits their activity to minimal responses or short answers to questions concerning personal data and the rights. Previous research on this phase has mainly focused on whether and how suspects understand their rights and whether investigators are concerned to secure understanding of warnings (e.g. Cotterill 2000, Pavlenko et al. 2019, Rock 2007). However, what is still unknown is why some suspects say more than expected before officially waiving their right to silence. The present study looks more closely at such cases, attempting to systematically investigate when and why suspects start talking although they should not, and when and how police officers react to suspects' active participation as posing a risk of self-incrimination. By

employing Conversation Analysis, the study examines 55 recordings of police interviews. It first compares cases in which investigators intervene by interrupting suspects in their early explanations with cases where this does not happen. Further, it investigates interactional conditions in which suspects say more than expected and the exact points where investigators orient to suspects' activity as going beyond the normative frame of the initial phase. Variation in the timing of interventions reveals differences in risk assessment and a complex relationship between the procedural and the interactional conduct.

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## **Reshmi Dutta-Flanders**

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### ***Rhetorical questions persuading, countering or simply replying: Linguistics in narrative reports of past guilt***

Rhetoric in philosophy, is a necessary condition for argumentation studies. One popular deduction is that 'rhetoric produce[s] persuasion in the [listener] audience.' However, contrary to the Platonic ideal of reason, the 'function' of rhetoric in Aristotle is not to persuade but to 'observe' the best means to achieve persuasion. If rhetoric is regarded as a craft or art (techne) in so far as it has a goal, and is outside the function of persuasion, then it is necessary to pay close attention to the reality of 'rhetorical functions' for the practical dimension of 'strategic maneuvering'. In a forensic context, if the 'dimension' is about accomplishing some purpose, i.e., to manipulate when countering facts that are related to criminality, then how should the analyst come to such a conclusion? The purpose of this paper is to understand the 'rhetorical function' in open-ended questions for the dimension of manipulation and to establish a rational link between the criminal circumstance pre- and post- conviction when the speaker is performing both as an actor as well as a knower of its past crime. A 'conflation' of actor and knower participant roles in this study is significant for an

offender's vantage point who may be reporting, self-serving or expressing its ideological bias. The rhetorical effort is analysed in participant roles; and then, in the concept of presupposition the reasoning provided by the receiver, such as a case worker when assessing the relevance of offender criminality. I use some narrative reports of offenders' past guilt as a data set for analysis.

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## **Robert Leonard**

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### ***The linguist as expert witness in Miranda comprehension cases***

How can a defendant understand Miranda warnings when the warnings are given by the police using language that the defendant cannot adequately understand? I will discuss several cases in which I served as expert witness. In one, the defendant was mirandized in two languages that he did not understand--English and Russian--and two languages that the purported interpreter did not understand--Uzbek and Tajik. In another, a speaker of an indigenous Mayan language was mirandized in Spanish, and in Spanish of a highly technical register, a fact we established through corpus linguistics. In another, a defendant was mirandized in English, and I demonstrated his English was not adequate to understand the warnings. They countered that he was pretending. But my data came from an undercover recording that documented his speech before he even knew he was under surveillance. I will discuss the difficulties of having the Miranda thrown out even when there is overwhelming evidence that the defendant could never have understood, e.g., technical legal terms being used with a 15-year-old defendant, failure of interpreters, failure to use an interpreter, police who speak "some" of a language acting as interpreters, choice of a language or dialect not understood by the interviewee, and more.

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### ***Exploring variation in a teenager corpus for forensic linguistic profiling***

Minors access electronic devices earlier and for more time than ever before in many societies (Hooft Graafland, 2018: 10-11), often without enough guidance (Hajirnis, 2015). Thus, it is plausible that the number of cases of online abuse involving minors might be rising (cf. den Hamer&Konijn,2015; Vlaanderen et al., 2020). As part of investigations of these and other criminal activities, forensic linguists may be asked to analyze linguistic evidence and identify markers of the authors' most likely age, gender, etc. (Perkins, 2018). However, descriptive literature on the linguistic features of the relevant varieties may not always be available, which can compromise the thoroughness and reliability of linguistic profiling. Through the example of an ongoing doctoral project which explores pragmatic, morphosyntactic and lexical variables in a longitudinal corpus of Catalan adolescent speakers, this communication argues that basic research describing linguistic variation in real-life, comparable interactions is needed to inform linguistic profiling practices. Alongside the strengths and limitations of the quantitative methodology used to analyze the corpus in this study, its main results and applicability to forensic linguistic profiling will be discussed.

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### ***The representation(s) of forensic linguistics in the media: reflections from the community***

Recently, forensic linguistic cases and language 'evidence' have attracted international media attention. Previous research has documented the relative (dis)advantages of media portrayals of forensic science (Hans & Parrotta 2021), most notably, unrealistic expectations of forensic science and the so-called 'CSI Effect' (Shelton et al. 2006). Following the recent 'reflective' turn in forensic linguistics (e.g., Giménez et al. 2020) and discussions within the community (e.g., at conferences, on mailing lists), this project aims to better understand the community's view on media representations of the discipline. In 2021, an online survey about the media portrayal of forensic linguistics gathered 39 international respondents, most of whom hold postgraduate degrees (87%) and have more than five years of experience in the field (59%). Responses show that media coverage of forensic linguistics is generally viewed favourably, as increasing the field's visibility and bringing related benefits such as improved funding opportunities and student recruitment. However, many respondents expressed concerns over the misrepresentation of methods and simplification of results. Respondents also shared their own experiences with the media and their recommendations for moving forwards. This paper reports the full results and sets out potential action(s) to be taken.

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## **Sarah Atkins**

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## **Márton Petykó**

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### ***"This is an extortion note": A rhetorical move-analysis of discourse structure and genre in commercial extortion letters***

Malicious and threatening communications, of which extortion letters are a type, have been a key area of study for forensic linguistics, with investigative applications for understanding their linguistic forms. However, the question of whether extortion letters exhibit sufficient regularity to constitute a 'genre' has remained under-explored, in part because of the difficulty of accessing texts beyond single case studies. Some studies have identified that the form or 'text-type' of extortion letters is only minimally shaped by norms, with writers borrowing from other genres such as business letters but with the texts open to a large degree of individual variation (Fobbe 2011, 2020). However, such studies are often necessarily limited to small datasets. The current study, which draws on the expanding 'Excrow' corpus at the Aston Institute for Forensic Linguistics, analyses a comparatively large series of 39 commercial extortion letters and emails from historic cases in the UK (2008-19), donated by the National Crime Agency. The paper presents an analysis of the 39 written communications, examining patterns through employing Swales' (1981; 1990) move analysis, a framework developed to ascertain conventional discourse structures of a genre through identifying the rhetorical functions of lower-level, discoursal units. Taking the clause as the 'unit' for analysing moves in this study, the research team developed a code set of ten key moves, some of which ('threats',



'demands', described 'consequences') are core functions for the genre, while others may be optional. Notably, the team achieved a high degree of percentage agreement for the initial coding (88% of the codes achieving 75% agreement or above). As well as the forensic applications for this study of extortion letters then, the study also presents a methodological development for move analysis, addressing some of the difficulties in how the communicative 'functions' of moves can be reliably derived and defined in texts.

## **Tanya Karoli Christensen**

*University of Copenhagen*

### ***Urgency and sympathy: Manipulation strategies in sextortion and opioid prescription cons***

The illicit manipulation of other people's actions is known as social engineering, which covers a range of techniques used to make victims perform actions they would have otherwise avoided, sometimes even acting against their own interests (Hadnagy 2010; Atkins & Huang 2013). Much social engineering relies on language and can be executed through communication channels that hide the perpetrator's real identity, such as emails or phone calls. While forensic linguistic studies of verbal manipulation are still rather sparse, several types of fake identity-based scams have been analyzed linguistically, e.g., advance fee or 'Nigerian' scams (Blommaert & Omoniyi 2006), online grooming of children (Chiang & Grant 2017), romance scams (Anesa 2020) and IRS phone scams (Tabron 2016). In this talk, I analyze the strategies of verbal manipulation employed in two real-world cases, each based on extensive fraudulent narratives: One uses real casting agent names to elicit sexually explicit video footage of young girls, the other uses a real social security number to persuade doctors on an on-call GP service to prescribe strong opioids. Each case involves several successful scams and a few failed, which allows a comparison of scammers' manipulation strategies as they adapt to victims' different courses of action.

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## **Tatiana Grieshofer**

*Birmingham City University*

### ***Communicative practices in interpreted remote hearings***

The paper draws on an expert evidence report provided for an appeals case following an immigration tribunals case within a common law jurisdiction (the parties' names and location were anonymised). The case revolved around communicative practices in interpreted remote hearings; the linguistic expertise was required to explore the role and challenges experienced by interpreters and appellants in online settings. The case was fairly unusual as the tribunal aimed to estimate the likelihood of specific communicative challenges happening within remote hearings settings rather than conduct a data- based analysis. The paper briefly discusses the expert witness report prepared by the other party's expert in translation and interpreting and then moves to discuss in more detail the arguments made in the response report written by the author and the role the latter report played in the appeals case. Given the more general and theory- driven nature of the expertise required for the purposes of the case, the report explored wider concepts around the role of interpreters in tribunal hearings and reflected on power relations in physical and virtual court hearings, potential for complications during interaction between appellants and their legal representatives (if they are represented), misconceptions around the criteria for assessing credibility of appellants, and the importance of introducing processes for recording hearings. The paper concludes by discussing the recommendations proposed in the report to improve communicative practices in interpreted remote hearings. The paper shows that linguistic expertise can be used for setting up criteria for the quality assurance of communicative practices and that

there is a clearly defined role for linguists with respect to exploring linguistic principles governing different types of communicative situations.

## **Tatiana Grieshofer**

*Birmingham City University*

### ***Language and emotion in civil and private family proceedings***

The paper explores the role language plays in expressing and exploring emotions as motivating factors behind the stories narrated by the parties in civil and private family proceedings. The paper draws on the interview data (over 100 interviews with lawyers and lay court users) and 40 court observations conducted as part of the ongoing AHRC-funded project Language of DIY Justice: Communication Practices & Processes. The focus of the research is placed on legal-lay interaction in cases where at least one of the parties is not represented by a lawyer. Much of the previous research into self-representation shows that lay court user's narratives overflow with unnecessary information and emotion, sometimes resulting in what could be perceived as powerless speech styles. Emotion, however, plays an important role in law and by allowing self-represented litigants to express the emotion in their stories, legal professionals can identify the core aspects relevant to the legal principles of their cases. The paper starts by discussing the narrativisation boundaries the justice system imposes on court users and the opportunities they have to project their voices; the paper then moves on to categorise the communicative strategies used by unrepresented litigants to express emotions and concludes by exploring the link between language use, the authenticity of the court user's voice and narrativisation in legal settings. Despite the main focus being on self-representation, the discussion is equally pertinent to represented court users in the adversarial or inquisitorial legal systems.

## **Tharwat El-Sakran**

*American University of Sharjah*

### ***International Travellers Need to Be educated on the Local Cultures of some Arab Countries to Avoid Misunderstandings***

Linguists and forensic linguists have tried to shed light on the sensitivity and offensiveness of words and/or language expressions from various linguistic theories such as speech act theory, semantics, discourse analysis, and pragmatics. Unfortunately, no previous study has tried to measure the impact of what is said on the hearers' related persons, be they their brothers, sisters, parents, sons, daughters, or husbands. Hence, with the wide spread on intercultural communication and the global use of English as a lingua franca, it is important to know that some language expressions might be understood as compliments in a specific culture, whereas others might view them as offensive. An instance of this is the English expression: "You have a beautiful mum". Although this could be a positive compliment, it could also be misunderstood and interpreted as an insult in some Arabic cultures, since in some cultural contexts it could imply that the utterer is hinting at some sexual act. Thus, it is the aim of this research to: 1. examine what makes some compliments offensive in a specific Arabic culture, 2. know how they affect related hearers, and 3. offer guidelines as to how profanity of such words and/or expressions is measured. The data for this research will be collected from participants of various Arabic nationalities and different genders by presenting them with situations and requesting them to indicate their reactions to the compliments uttered by others through selecting from several options offered on the survey. In other words, respondents will be asked to say whether they perceive the expressions as compliments or otherwise.

## **Tim Grant**

*Aston University*

### ***The idea of progress in forensic authorship analysis***

Using Robert Nisbet's 1979 essay on *The Idea of Progress in Western civilisation*, I ask what progress ought to look like for research and practice in forensic authorship analysis, and in what sense any progress has been achieved over the last 25 years. I

examine the history, nature and purpose of stylistic and stylometric authorship analysis, and I ask what makes an analysis suitable for use in Court. I examine fundamental linguistic ideas of individuals as authors, and of advances in understanding of forensic evidence in terms of (i) the validation of techniques, (ii) confirmation bias of experts, and of (iii) logical inference by decision-makers in Court, and I ask how this understanding can change research and practice. I propose that the focus needs to shift to validation of protocols for approaching case questions, rather than on validating specific language features or systems, and show how this could be done.

## **Tomoko Tamura**

*International Christian University*

### ***Police Interpreters in the United States and Their In-Court Testimonies: Sixth- Amendment Hearsay Issue or Fifth-Amendment Accuracy Issue?***

Courts in the United States, as common-law jurisdictions, have long struggled with the hearsay issue of interpreter-mediated police interviews. With a typical interpreter-mediated police interview, a difficult hearsay issue has always arisen when only the officer, and not the interpreter, testifies later in court to what the defendant stated. If the officer is deemed as testifying to what the interpreter told the officer as to what the defendant had stated, the officer's testimony becomes hearsay, which also violates the defendant's Sixth Amendment confrontation right. To circumvent this hearsay obstacle, U.S. courts originally attempted the use of agency law, which in the late 20th century was combined with a legal fiction of language conduit and became the 'agent and/or conduit theory,' now a most dominant case law throughout the U.S. (e.g., U.S. v. Nazemian, 1991, 9th Circuit), which, however, is also applied to problematic, untrained ad hoc interpreters. This Sixth-Amendment hearsay paradigm also presents two equally unacceptable alternatives to professional interpreters: acquiescence of the legal fiction of 'conduit' together with untrained, putative bilinguals, or hearsay branding that deems translation fundamentally unreliable, requiring interpreters' in-court testimonies, while what kind of testimonies are required is never made clear, creating a potential ethical conflict with interpreters' confidentiality and impartiality codes. Based on the result of an empirical investigation of all the relevant U.S. court rulings (228 appellate

cases between 1850 and 2018, 51 federal cases and 177 cases from state courts), the presentation argues that the current Six-Amendment hearsay paradigm should be replaced by the Fifth-Amendment accuracy verification paradigm, with mandatory electronic recording of the entire interviews, which will enable participation of interpreters in the due process as language specialists with professional accountability for their translations and testify as expert witnesses, not as fact witnesses, without compromising their code of confidentiality and impartiality.

## **Ulrike Lohner**

*Heidelberg University*

### ***The Styles of a Threat: Different Writing Styles in German Right- and Left-Wing Extremist Incriminated Texts***

Although most incriminated texts are easily allocated to specific text types – such as threatening messages, defamatory letters, responsibility claims, or position papers – these classifications often rely on non-linguistic but rather pragmatic factors such as the legal definitions of the underlying committed crime of the respective text. Such classifications are highly important for the practical usage of criminal investigations; however, they often conceal the linguistic variation that can occur within one text type (cf. Ehrhardt 2017: 549). This presentation will give an overview on a study that examined the stylistic variation within two opposing text classes: right-wing extremist threats and defamatory letters on the one hand and left-wing extremist responsibility claims and position papers on the other. The corpora, provided by the German Federal Criminal Office, amount to 114 texts (16,642 tokens) and 50 texts (27,029 tokens), respectively. The analysis is based on common and approved methods and parameters used in forensic authorship analysis (i.a. McMenamin 2002, Dern 2009, Coulthard et al. 2021). By means of a semi-automated clustering, which was exclusively developed for this study, all texts were grouped regarding their stylistic features. The resulting style types successfully display the high range of different characteristics potentially appearing within one text type. At the same time, some style types are composed equally of texts from both corpora, despite the contrasting functions and political ideas associated with these two text classes. This shows us that certain linguistic strategies are not so much determined simply by the text type, but by underlying communicative functions that seem to be largely

independent from both the acts of threatening and claiming responsibility as well as right- and left-wing extremist ideologies. These results do not only improve our linguistic understanding of these text types but may enhance future authorship analysis by providing a stylistic reference.

## **Violeta Amélia Magalhães**

*Centro de Linguística da Universidade do Porto*

### ***Legislação, poder e patriarcado: uma análise forense ao direito ao voto das mulheres em Portugal [Legislation, power and patriarchy: a forensic analysis of women's right to vote in Portugal]*<sup>3</sup>**

Neste trabalho propomos uma análise forense de alguns textos legais referentes ao direito ao voto das mulheres em Portugal. O corpus será constituído por excertos dos seguintes documentos: Constituição de 1822, Carta Constitucional de 1826, Constituição de 1838, Constituição de 1911, Constituição de 1933, Constituição de 1976 e respetivas leis eleitorais. Esta escolha prende-se com o facto de, segundo Silva (2016), a Constituição se caracterizar por uma dimensão histórico-cultural, introduzindo um quadro normativo que inevitavelmente reflete um determinado enquadramento político e social. Enquanto género textual, a Constituição espelha um conjunto de valores partilhados numa sociedade. Nesse sentido, é possível, através de uma análise linguística desses textos, identificar algo também verificável na própria prática linguística - interações entre poder, ideologia e género (Lazar 2005). Assim, analisaremos no presente corpus os excertos mais relevantes para uma discussão sobre a capacidade eleitoral das mulheres. A análise linguística seguirá um procedimento data driven, enfatizando-se aspetos como o léxico, alguns traços sintático-semânticos como orações relativas e quantificadores, pressuposições, bem como o extensivo uso do masculino genérico (Carapinha 2018; Matos 2021). A nossa análise evidenciará que, ao longo da História, a legislação eleitoral não se isenta de considerações ideológicas sobre o papel das mulheres na sociedade, verificando-se a sua desigualdade e invisibilidade, confirmadas por uma interligação língua/lei-poder-patriarcado.

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<sup>3</sup> The speaker will present in Portuguese, but the slides will be suitable for an English-speaking audience.

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## **Rui Sousa-Silva**

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## **Cátia Rocha**

*Trofa Saúde Hospital*

### ***"Often we don't come back, or we come back as a different person": an analysis of idiolectal style of suicide-related texts***

The self, through the lenses of Psychology, can be understood as a product of the psychological subject's relationship with their (internal and external) systems. In the context of suicidal thoughts or plans, some authors argue that the individual creates a false self to protect the true self from suffering (Barreto & Tosta, 2017). The conflict arising between the two selves may even reveal two distinct personalities, and these reflect on one's writing. This assumption has implications in forensic contexts, especially where the authorship of a suicide note is disputed. In particular, should idiolectal differences be observed between the suicide note and other texts, one needs to ask whether these are due to management of the two selves or to fabrication by a third party. This study presents an analysis of how the self reflects on language and, consequently, on a writer's idiolect. Our DIY corpus consists of texts written by a patient in psychological treatment after a suicide attempt: (a) the suicide notes; and (b) seven narratives written during the treatment received after the attempted suicide. The analysis draws on previous theoretical studies and methods in forensic authorship analysis to identify relevant idiolectal patterns. We explore established assumptions and discuss the potential and challenges of research into the linguistically-grounded concept of idiolect. The concept of identity negotiation in



interaction (Grant & MacLeod, 2018) will be considered to debate the complexity of the 'suicide note' genre in forensic contexts.

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## **Waldemar Nazarov**

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## **Laurent Gautier**

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### ***The Myth of Homogeneous Legal Languages: a Frame-Semantical Approach***

A legal language is generally considered as a type of specialized language (Cao 2010) aiming at enabling communication between experts of a specific subject-matter (Hoffmann 1993). Whereas most specialist fields constitute homogeneous topics, the area of law must be distinguished depending on the system it is used in. Traditionally, legal terminology is classified by linguistic areas, as it is often structured as any other specialized language that refers to a homogeneous field. This approach has been challenged by comparatists such as De Groot (1999) and legal translation theorists like Šarčević (1997) who contend that the translation of legal texts is not possible without legal comparison when more than one legal system is involved. The myth of the existence of a homogeneous legal language can be refuted through a frame-semantical approach (Fillmore 1976) claiming that terms do not simply entail a lexical meaning but evoke knowledge segments containing encyclopaedical elements necessary for adequate understanding. This is especially crucial for the legal field (Engberg 2021) as, contrary to exact sciences, it is culturally and historically bound. As a form of representing legal terms, the frame-semantic format can demonstrate that the frames surrounding the same legal term differ depending on the legal system. This will be exemplified on the terms *bailiff* (EN), *accusé* (FR) and *Einwilligung* (DE), whose frame elements are different according to the systems, refuting the idea of uniform legal languages.

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## **Yan Chen**

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### ***A corpus-assisted analysis of questioners' pragmatic strategies in defendant examination***

China is undertaking a 'trial-centred' judicial reform. Against this backdrop, the justification for defendant questioning, a well-established stage in Chinese criminal trials where defendants are questioned first by prosecutors, then defence lawyers and judges, is debated by legal experts who criticize the institutional design that renders the questioning stage a formality. This research aims to contribute a linguistic perspective to the discussion by exploring different questioners' aims and strategies during this stage. The data include the transcripts of defendant questioning in 49 Chinese criminal trials extracted from 'China Court Trial Online' (<https://tingshen.court.gov.cn/>) and are examined with the combined approach of corpus linguistics and conversation analysis. The corpus-based analysis yields quantitative results about the breakdown of question types used by the different questioners, and the conversation analytic perspective allows an up-close analysis of the question and response sequences. Apart from presenting a general sketch about question design by different questioners, this research provides a fine-grained analysis of the tag questions in the dataset. Though the quantitative results indicate that different questioners use similar question types, qualitative results show subtle differences among different questioners. In terms of tag questions, judges tend to use them more frequently for clarification while prosecutors mostly use them for double check. The preliminary findings reveal judges as the most authoritative questioner, prosecutors the major one and defence lawyers the least active one. The dominant roles played by prosecutors and judges stimulate thinking about the institutional design of the questioning stage. Hopefully this research will provide linguistic evidence to facilitate its reform. Moreover, the research will enrich the field

of courtroom discourse studies by providing analysis in a context where judges play a substantial role in the questioning.

## Poster Sessions

## **Maite Zaragoza**

*Universitat de Barcelona*

## **Cinta Jiménez**

*Col•legi Diocesa Sagrada Família*

## **Sheila Queralt**

*Laboratorio SQ-Lingüistas Forenses*

## **Jordi Cicres**

*Universitat de Girona*

### ***Applications of forensic linguistics in education: a practical case***

Being forensic linguistics a relatively new discipline, little has been explored about its applications in language learning (see Cicres, 2018). Teachers miss out on a powerful tool of metalinguistic thinking (Zipke, 2007) that could enhance linguistic competence. This poster proposes an innovative activity that merges forensic linguistics with education. This activity aims to encourage students to engage in linguistic learning by strengthening their metalinguistic analysis and co-operative learning skills (Johnson & Johnson, 2009). The activity was designed following breakout gamification and problem-based learning (Barrows, 1996), with a strong narrative and multimodal proofs. Participants were 100 Catalan speaking students from three levels of secondary education (13-16 years old). Grouped together, they compared an unknown (ransom note with magazine letters) with known text samples (WhatsApp conversations, handwritten notes, emails, and a voice message) from four suspects. They had to analyse syntax, orthotypography and dialectal traits and argue who was more likely to be the culprit based on linguistic reasoning. Based upon the implementation of this activity, we can conclude that forensic linguistics provides the education community the opportunity to design motivational and innovative language learning activities that can be adapted to multiple educational levels and specific language aspects.

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## **María Dolores Muñoz**

*Universidad de Cádiz*

## **Mario Crespo**

*Universidad de Cádiz*

## **Mercedes Ramírez**

*Universidad de Cádiz*

### ***Past, Present and Future of Forensic Linguistics at Universidad de Cádiz***

Since the creation of the degree in Linguistics and Applied Languages at the University of Cadiz, the syllabus contains a subject called Forensic Linguistics taught by professor María Dolores Muñoz, but also the degree in Criminology and Security has an optional course named Forensic Linguistics Applied to Crime, taught by professors Mario Crespo and Mercedes Ramírez. These researchers also constitute the Forensic Linguistics Office in the Applied Linguistics Research Institute (ILA) which is the topic of this poster presentation. This institution is focused on research, training, knowledge transfer and services, so the Forensic Linguistics Office has the same purposes. Our research deals with different topics, such as the specialized lexicon of forensic linguistics, computational analysis of legal language, authorship attribution or speaker recognition. Training is aimed at university students with a background in linguistics and/or criminology, mainly in the subjects mentioned before. Knowledge is transferred to society through our colloquiums, which are held biennially and gathers experts who are involved in forensic linguistics tasks from different perspectives. Members and collaborators of our Office also engage in activities of promotion and dissemination of the subject, such as the European Researchers' Night. Finally, we also provide expert witness services or reports on forensic linguistics to those people interested in the forensic analysis of language. The current situation of our office and its future perspectives will be described and discussed in our contribution.

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