

International Conference

**Variation in the Teaching of Arabic:
Grammar and Lexicon**



15–16 March 2023

IULM University, via Carlo Bo 1, Milan (Italy)

Conference Hall *Sala dei 146*, Building 6

Supported by:

IULM University, Milan
Università Roma Tre
The American University in Cairo
The American University in Dubai

Convener:

Manuela E.B. Giolfo
(Department of Humanities, School of Interpreting and Translation, IULM University)

Conference Webpage: <http://arabicgrammarlexicon.iulm.it/>

Conference Description

The conference will focus on diachronic variation in the teaching of Arabic as a foreign or second language, as well as on variation in contemporary Arabic (MSA and spoken dialects) and how the latter is best addressed in the teaching of Arabic. The conference will feature discussions on the role of grammar in teaching contemporary Arabic and on the role of corpus linguistics in deriving the lexicon of contemporary Arabic. The findings and implications of these discussions will be focused on teaching Arabic as a foreign or second language.

The conference will be held to commemorate the publication of the volume *Teaching and Learning Arabic Grammar: Theory, Practice and Research*, eds. Kassem M. Wahba, Zeinab A.M. Taha, and Manuela E.B. Giolfo (Routledge, December 2022). It also marks the initial phase of the three-year PRIN research project “A Lexical Corpus-based Model of Contemporary Written Arabic” (Giuliano Lancioni, Università Roma Tre; Ouafae Nahli, CNR Pisa; Manuela E.B. Giolfo, Università IULM, Milano).

Conference language: *English and Arabic*

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Participants

- Mahmoud Alashiri, *Qatar University* (Qatar)
Noor Alkaseer, *International University of Languages and Media IULM Milan* (Italy)
Geri Atassanova, *The Ohio State University* (United States of America)
Leon Yousif Barkho, *University of Sharjah* (United Arab Emirates)
Luca F. Battanta, *International University of Languages and Media IULM Milan* (Italy)
Chahrazed Benyounes, *University of the Brothers Mentouri Constantine 1* (Algeria)
Marta Campanelli, *Roma Tre University* (Italy)
Hristina Chobanova, *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* (Bulgaria)
Farida El Keiy, *The University of Cambridge* (United Kingdom)
Andrea Facchin, *Ca' Foscari University of Venice* (Italy)
Laila Familiar, *New York University in Abu Dhabi* (United Arab Emirates)
Wael Farouq, *Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan* (Italy)
Jonathan Featherstone, *University of Glasgow* (United Kingdom)
Manuela E.B. Giolfo, *International University of Languages and Media IULM Milan* (Italy)
Marco A. Golfetto, *Università degli Studi di Milano* (Italy)
Shuwen Ju, *Shanghai International Studies University* (China)
Saoussan Khalil, *The University of Cambridge* (United Kingdom)
Ruba Khamam, *University of Leeds* (United Kingdom)
Giuliano Lancioni, *Roma Tre University* (Italy)
Magdalena Lewicka, *Foreign Language Academy, Torun* (Poland)
Letizia Lombezzi, *University of Siena* (Italy)
Vicente Martí Tormo, *International University of Languages and Media IULM Milan* (Italy)
Amira Mills, *King's College London* (United Kingdom)
Ghiath Rammo, *Roma Tre University* (Italy)
Karin Christina Ryding, *Georgetown University* (United States of America)
Federico Salvaggio, *University of Udine* (Italy)
Iman A. Soliman, *The American University in Cairo* (Egypt)
Rasha K. Soliman, *University of Leeds* (United Kingdom)
Zeinab A.M. Taha, *The American University in Cairo* (Egypt)
Hanada Taha Thomure, *Zayed University* (United Arab Emirates)
Masato Tominaga, *Tokyo University of Foreign Studies* (Japan)
Kassem M. Wahba, *The American University in Dubai* (United Arab Emirates)

Keynote Speakers

Zeinab A.M. Taha, The American University in Cairo
Kassem M. Wahba, The American University in Dubai
Manuela E.B. Giolfo, IULM University Milan
Giuliano Lancioni, Roma Tre University

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Conference Hall Sala dei 146, Building IULM 6 (ground floor), via Carlo Bo 7

09:00: Registration

09:30: Opening of the Symposium

Giovanna Rocca, *Prorector for Research, Director of the Department of Humanities, IULM University - Milan*

Karin Christina Ryding, *Professor Emerita of Arabic linguistics in the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University - Washington, DC*

Manuela E.B. Giolfo, *Department of Humanities, School of Interpreting and Translation, IULM University - Milan*

Session I (Chair: Manuela E.B. Giolfo)

- ❖ 10:00: *Keynote Speech - Zeinab A.M. Taha*, The American University in Cairo (Egypt), “Variation in Modern Written Arabic: corpus-based analysis of syntactic and lexical items”

10:45: Coffee Break

Session II (Chair: Giuliano Lancioni)

- 11:15: **Andrea Facchin**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy), “Arabic language varieties: a variety of teaching and learning methods?”
- 11:45: **Letizia Lombezzi**, University of Siena (Italy), “Accommodating to superdiversity: the way out to the challenges of TAFL?”
- 12:15: **Masato Tominaga**, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (Japan), “Functional Sentence Patterns for teaching and learning Arabic”
- 12:45: **Marco A. Golfetto**, Università degli Studi di Milano (Italy), “Teaching with corpora. developing semantic awareness through historic Arabic corpora”

13:15: Lunch Break

Session III (Chair: Manuela E.B. Giolfo)

- ❖ 14:15: *Keynote Speech - Kassem M. Wahba*, The American University in Dubai (UAE), “Pedagogical Arabic Grammar in Medieval Islam”
- 15:00: **Rasha K. Soliman**, University of Leeds (UK), “Learners’ perception of Arabic grammar”
- 15:30: **Hristina Chobanova**, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria), “Teaching the grammar of Arabic as a foreign language at the beginner level”
- 16:00: **Hanada Taha Thomure**, Zayed University (UAE), “Arabic grammar at the advanced level: a paradigm shift”

16:30: Coffee Break

Session IV (Chair: Giuliano Lancioni)

- 17:00: **Leon Yousif Barkho**, University of Sharjah (UAE), “Generative grammar of newspaper headline writing and the teaching of Arabic as second or foreign language”
- 17:30: **Wael Farouq**, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan (Italy), “Preserving grammatical accuracy within a functional and communicative approach in TAFL”
- 18:00: **Amira Mills**, King’s College London (United Kingdom), “Decolonizing curriculum: lexicon and grammar in Arabic resources”
- 18:30: **Chahrazed Benyounes**, University of the Brothers Mentouri Constantine 1 (Algeria), “Teaching Arabic grammar to speakers of foreign languages: an analytical descriptive reading of the current electronic education”

20:00: Conference Dinner

Thursday, March 16, 2023
Conference Hall Sala dei 146, Building IULM 6 (ground floor), via Carlo Bo 7

Session I (Chair: Zeinab A.M. Taha)

- ❖ 09:00: *Keynote Speech* - **Manuela E.B. Giolfo**, International University of Languages and Media IULM Milan (Italy), “Grammar of spoken Arabic and the teaching of Arabic as a foreign language”
- 09:45: **Federico Salvaggio**, University of Udine (Italy), “Emerging trends in TAFL and the destiny of Arabic grammar”
- 10:15: **Farida El Keiy**, The University of Cambridge (UK), “Teaching Arabic grammar using the integrated approach at the University of Cambridge”

10:45: Coffee Break

Session II (Chair: Kassem M. Wahba)

- 11:15: **Noor Alkaseer** and **Luca F. Battanta**, IULM University - Milan (Italy), “Teaching and learning Arabic through IULM University integrated approach”
- 11:45: **Jonathan Featherstone**, University of Glasgow (UK), “The teaching of a ‘levelled’ dialect in the international environment”
- 12:15: **Ruba Khamam**, University of Leeds (UK), “Embedding civic partnership in Arabic Language curriculum: a spotlight on enhancing learner’s speaking skills in real life situations”
- 12:45: **Vicente Martí Tormo**, IULM University - Milan (Italy), “Non-standard vocabulary in the teaching of Arabic for Finance and Economics? Evidence from a corpus of computer-based communication”

13:15: Lunch Break

Session III (Chair: Zeinab A.M. Taha)

- ❖ 14:15: *Keynote Speech* - **Giuliano Lancioni**, Roma Tre University (Italy), “The role of corpus linguistics in the teaching of Arabic: between variation and standardization”

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- 15:00: **Marta Campanelli**, Roma Tre University (Italy), “The Defence Language Institute corpus of military spoken Arabic: issues in teaching and certification”
- 15:30: **Ghiath Rammo**, Roma Tre University (Italy), “The teaching of non-Arabic languages in the Arab world and the contribution of corpus linguistics: the case of Kurdish”
- 16:00: **Laila Familiar**, New York University in Abu Dhabi (UAE), “Methods and challenges in the design of an Arabic corpus-based frequency dictionary”

16:30: Coffee Break

Session IV (Chair: Kassem M. Wahba)

- 17:00: **Laila Familiar**, New York University in Abu Dhabi (UAE), **Rasha K. Soliman**, University of Leeds (UK), and **Geri Atassanova**, The Ohio State University (USA), “Creating a CEFR Arabic vocabulary profile: a frequency-based multi-dialectal approach”
- 17:30: **Mahmoud Alashiri**, Qatar University (Qatar) and **Magdalena Lewicka**, Foreign Language Academy, Torun (Poland), “Islamic multiword expressions and designing curriculums for Arabic as a second language learners: towards a corpus-based linguistic list”
- 18:00: **Saussan Khalil**, The University of Cambridge (UK), “Bridging the gap between academia and schools”
- 18:30: **Shuwen Ju**, Shanghai International Studies University (China), “The Role of Grammar in Arabic Language Teaching in China”

19:00: Final Discussion

19:30: End of the Symposium