

# Dr. DAVIDE CASTIGLIONE

Vilnius University  
University street 5, 01122, Vilnius (LT)  
[davide.castiglione@flf.vu.lt](mailto:davide.castiglione@flf.vu.lt)  
<https://davidecastiglione.com/>  
ORCID: 0000-0003-4948-3165

## RESEARCH STATEMENT

Since my PhD project, my work has pioneered the study of difficulty and obscurity in poetry. More recently, I have written on imagery, wisdom and empathy. As a **stylistician**, my leading question is not so much what literary works mean but how they mean and what impact they have on readers. My long-term pursuit is to advance stylistics, aesthetics and poetics by developing models and methods to investigate **literary effects**. To do so, I draw on research across **various disciplines**, from semiotics and literary studies to applied linguistics and cognitive science.

## CURRENT POSITIONS

Sept 2022-present

**Associate Professor of Stylistics**, Vilnius University

Courses taught: Anglo-American Poetry, Creative Writing, Introduction to Psycholinguistics, Lexicology&Lexicography, Stylistics

## PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Sept 2020-Aug 2022

**Postdoctoral Fellow in Stylistics and Poetics**, Vilnius University

Project title: Verbal to mental: the image in poetic discourse  
Project Nr. 09.3.3-LMT-K-712-19-0204. Mentor: Prof. Irina Melnikova

Sept-2016-Aug 2022

**Assistant Professor of English Philology**, Vilnius University

2014-2016

**Part-time Lecturer**, The University of Nottingham, UK  
De Montfort University, Leicester, UK  
Middlesex University, London, UK

Courses taught: Stylistics, Language and Psychology

2010-2011

**Teacher of English**, FOR.AL Professional Institute, Valenza, Italy

## EDUCATION

2011-2016

**PhD** in English stylistics, **University of Nottingham**, UK

Thesis: Difficulty in Poetry: A Linguistic and Empirical Perspective  
Supervisor: Prof. Violeta Sotirova

2008-2010

**MA** in English and Spanish, **University of Pavia**, Italy

Dissertation: Translating Poetry: Sereni and Williams (First-Class)

2004-2007

**BA** in English and Spanish, **University of Pavia**, Italy

## PUBLICATIONS

308 citations (H-Index: 5)  
Google Scholar

92 citations (H-Index: 4)  
Research Gate

62 citations (H-Index: 4)  
Scopus

### Monographs

1. Castiglione, D. (2019). *Difficulty in Poetry: A Stylistic Model*. Palgrave, London.

### Peer-reviewed articles

1. Castiglione, D. (in press). Principles of ... stylistics: The centrality of *Principles of Literary Criticism* to a theory of stylistics. *Language and Literature*. (DOI: 10.1177/09639470261455989)
2. Castiglione, D. (2022). Sapienziale. Forme e usi della sentenza nella poesia italiana contemporanea [Full of wisdom: Forms and uses of maxims in contemporary Italian poetry]. *Polisemie*, 3, 41–80.
3. Castiglione, D. (2020). Nel mondo sensibile: Focus descrittivo ed empatia nella poesia italiana contemporanea [In the sensible world: Descriptive focus and empathy in contemporary Italian poetry]. *Enthymema*, 25, 423–444.
4. Castiglione, D. (2017). Difficult poetry processing: Reading times and the narrativity hypothesis. *Language and Literature*, 26(2), 99–121.
5. Castiglione, D. (2013). The semantics of difficult poems: Deriving a checklist of linguistic phenomena. *Journal of Literary Semantics*, 42(1), 115–140.
6. Castiglione, D. (2013). Sereni e il processo traduttivo: Analisi sincronica e diacronica di una versione da Williams [Sereni and the translation process: A synchronic and diachronic analysis of a poem by Williams]. *Strumenti Critici*, 28(2), 267–288.

### Book chapters

1. Drūkteinytė, G., & Castiglione, D. (in press). Nonsense strategies in the Lithuanian translation of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*: A stylistic investigation. In I. A. C. Noletto, L. Ribeiro Araújo, & A. P. Soares Jr. (Eds.), *Stylistic approaches to global speculative fiction: Narratology, multimodality, and translation*. Palgrave Macmillan.
2. Castiglione, D. (in press). From pre-modernist to modernist obscurity: A stylistic account. In A. Federici & S. Stefanato (Eds.), *Crossing boundaries: Literary and linguistic approaches to modernism*. Palgrave Macmillan.
3. Castiglione, D. (2026). Poetry: Stylistic aspects. In H. Nesi & P. Milin (Eds.), *International encyclopedia of language and linguistics* (3rd ed.). Elsevier.
4. Castiglione, D. (2024). Nelle lenti d'ingrandimento dei paragoni. Conflitto concettuale, trasgressione categoriale e ridefinizione metaforica in Annino. In D. Castiglione & M. Ortore (Eds.), *Sempre vi lascio indietro col vento. Poetica e stile in Annino* (pp. 87–107). Società Editrice Fiorentina (SEF).
5. Castiglione, D., & Ortore, M. (2024). Introduzione. In D. Castiglione & M. Ortore (Eds.), *Sempre vi lascio indietro col vento. Poetica e stile in Annino* (pp. vii–xix). Società Editrice Fiorentina (SEF).
6. Castiglione, D. (2021). Maria Pia Quintavalla fra *Lettere giovani* (1990) e *Il cantare* (1991). In S. Stroppa (Ed.), *La poesia italiana degli anni Ottanta. Esordi e conferme* (Vol. 4, pp. 171–194). Pensa MultiMedia.
7. van Peer, W., Sopčák, P., Castiglione, D., Fialho, O., Jacobs, A. M., & Hakemulder, F. (2021). Foregrounding. In D. Kuiken & A. M. Jacobs (Eds.), *Handbook of empirical literary studies* (pp. 145–176). De Gruyter.
8. Castiglione, D. (2020). The stylistic construction of verbal imagery in poetry. In J. Piątkowska & G. Zeldowicz (Eds.), *Znaki czy nie znaki?* [Signs or not signs?] (Vol. 3, pp. 43–79). University of Warsaw Press.

## Articles in preparation

1. Castiglione, D. & Spėčiūtė U. Transitivity revisited: Case studies from women's poetry.
2. Castiglione, D. Verbal image identification procedure.

## Book reviews (academic)

1. Castiglione, D. (in press). Review of *The language of contemporary poetry: A framework for poetic analysis* by L. Jeffries. *Language and Literature*.
2. Castiglione, D. (2024). Review of *Experiencing poetry: A guidebook to psychopoetics* by W. van Peer & A. Chesnokova. *Language and Literature*, 33(4), 272–276.
3. Castiglione, D. (2018). Review of *Facing loss and death: Narrative and eventfulness in lyric poetry* by P. Hühn, B. Goerke, H. du Plooy, & S. Schenk-Haupt. *Language and Literature*, 27(2), 142–145.
4. Castiglione, D. (2017). Review of *On voice in poetry: The work of animation* by D. Nowell Smith. *Language and Literature*, 26(3), 268–271.

## Other critical writings (Italian, non-peer-reviewed)

Over **150** short critical essays, book reviews, and interviews, mostly on Italian poetry.

Complete archive: <https://davidecastiglione.com/critica/>

## Creative writing

### Poetry collections in Italian

1. Castiglione, D. (2022), *Doveri di una costruzione*, Massa, Industria&Letteratura.
2. Castiglione, D. (2017), *Non di fortuna*, Ancona, Italic Pequod.
3. Castiglione, D. (2010), *Per ogni frazione*, Udine, Campanotto.

### Poetry selections in English

1. Castiglione, D. (2026), [Survival Instinct and other poems](#). Versopolis.
2. Castiglione, D. (2024), [March 2020 and other poems](#). The Antonym Online.

## DIGITAL RESEARCH OUTPUTS

1. Verbal Images in Literature Database (VILD) (since 2023)  
<https://ideas-block.com/projects/verbal-images/>  
VILD is a resource helping to identify recurring patterns of vivid or sensorial literary language. It hosts 94 verbal images manually annotated for stylistic information. For more information, access the link above.

## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2025	Science Promotion Fund for conference participation support (€ 978)
2023	Science Promotion Fund for conference participation support (€ 800)
2022 (Nov)	Nominee, Lithuanian Young Academy of Science
2020-2022	European Social Fund & Lithuanian Research Council (salary and research funding)
2020 (May)	Poetry prize for unpublished poems in Italian
2018 (Dec)	Vilnius University Rector's Award for Young Scholars (€ 1500)
2018 (Oct)	Poetry prize for unpublished poems in Italian (€ 1000)
2018 (Jul)	PALA (Poetics and Linguistics Association) Prize for Best Article by a Newcomer
2011-2014	EU Research Excellence Scholarship (tuition, salary, Nottingham, UK)
2013 (Jul)	Bursary from PALA (Poetics and Linguistics Association)

- 2011 (Aug) Bursary from the Hungarian Scholarship Board (Pécs, room and board, 3 weeks)
- 2011 (Jul) Award for best MA thesis (University of Pavia, Italy) (€ 600)
- 2009 (Aug) Bursary at St. John's College (Cambridge, UK, room and board, 1 month)
- 2004-2009 Admission at Ghislieri College (Pavia, Italy, room and board)

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (2025-2012)

- 2025 (Dec) Frontalità della voce e voicing della discontinuità in *Sciarra amara* (1977) di Iolanda Insana. *Addio Bel Repertorio Symposium*. University of Udine, Italy.
- 2025 (Jul) Foregrounding and AI: Imitating Christina Rossetti's style through ChatGPT-processed checklists. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, Aston University, UK.
- 2025 (Jun) Teasing intelligence: Mimetic and structural complexity in poetry. *Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) conference, along with the 15th Annual Lotman Days "Creativity – Complexity – Intelligence"*, Tallinn, Estonia.
- 2024 (May) Difficulty or obscurity? Settling a long-standing issue in modernist poetry. *Crossing Boundaries: Literary and Linguistic Intersections in Modernist Studies*, Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy.
- 2024 (Apr) The Verbal Images in Literature Database (VILD). *International Association of Literary Semantics (IALS)*, University of Kent, UK.
- 2023 (Dec) Sereni e Campo traduttori di Williams: rilievi stilistici da "Lamento della vedova in primavera". *Vittorio Sereni: poesia, prosa, traduzione, editoria*, University of Milan, Italy.
- 2023 (Jul) Nature as agent, target and source in Cristina Annino's poetry. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, University of Bologna (Bertinoro), Italy.
- 2022 (Jul) A stylistic pictorial model to analyse verbal imagery. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, Aix-Marseille University, Aix-en-Provence, France.
- 2022 (Jan) Towards a verbal imagery stylistic-phenomenological analysis (VISPA). Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic (invited speaker).
- 2021 (Nov) Perceptual salience in verbal images discussed by literary critics. *Nord Association of Semiotic Studies (NASS) conference*, Vilnius University, Lithuania.
- 2021 (Oct) Towards a verbal image identification procedure (VIIP). *International Association of Literary Semantics (IALS)*, Vilnius University, Lithuania (online).
- 2021 (Sept) [La poesia degli anni '70 in Italia: costruttivismo vs. espressivismo](#). *PoesiaEuropa Poetry Festival*, Polvese Island, Perugia, Italy (invited speaker).
- 2021 (Apr) [Sapienziale. Sentenze nella poesia italiana contemporanea](#). *Twenty-Twenty Extended Conference*, University of Warwick, UK (online).
- 2020 (Nov) [Descrivere da critico, valutare da poeta](#). *I poeti-critici seminar series*. Aix-Marseille University, France (online, invited speaker).
- 2020 (Oct) The pragmatics of poetic difficulty. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile (online, invited speaker).
- 2020 (Feb) Poetic difficulty vs. obscurity: a new conceptualization. *Philosophical seminars*. Vilnius University, Lithuania (invited speaker).
- 2019 (Apr) Shooting distance and resolution in the verbal image frame. *International Association of Literary Semantics (IALS)*, Reykjavík, Iceland.
- 2018 (Apr) Inter-authorial translation variants: a stylistic case study. University of Warsaw, Poland (invited speaker).

- 2018 (Mar) A processing and language-based typology of difficulty. University of Huddersfield, UK (invited speaker).
- 2016 (Jul) Towards a typology of thwarted representation in poetry. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, Cagliari, Italy.
- 2016 (Mar) Reference and deixis in difficult poems. De Montfort University, Leicester, UK (invited speaker).
- 2014 (Jul) Reading lines, reading times: A psycholinguistic approach to difficult poetry processing. *International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature and Media (IGEL)*, Turin, Italy.
- 2014 (Jul) Has style survived stylistics? Plea for a theoretically autonomous stylistics. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, Maribor, Slovenia.
- 2013 (Aug) Testing the channel of (mis)communication in difficult poems. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, Heidelberg, Germany.
- 2013 (Jun) Sereni and the translation process: analysis of a translation from W. C. Williams. *Centenary Conference on Vittorio Sereni*, University of Reading, UK.
- 2012 (Jun) Difficult poetry: deriving and testing a stylistic checklist. *Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics and Language Teaching*, Lancaster University, UK.

#### LEADERSHIP, NETWORKING & ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

- 2026 (Feb-Apr) **Member** of [ESSE](#) (European Society for the Study of English) Bursary Grant Scheme
- 2025-current **Mentor** of doctoral candidate Adrián Castro (University of Granada) as part of the Arqus Alliance mentorship scheme
- 2024-current **President** of [LAUTE](#) (Lithuanian Association of University Teachers of English)
- 2024-current **Mentor** of Aistė Kiltinavičiūtė's LMT-funded post-doctoral project "Sensing and Perceiving according to Dante Alighieri: Synesthesia and Multisensory Perception in Medieval Italian Literature"
- 2023-current **Member** of the editorial or scientific board of:  
*Respectus Philologicus* (since 2024)  
*Polisemie* (since 2023)  
*Configurazioni* (since 2023)
- 2023-current **Secretary** of the International Association of Literary Semantics, [IALS](#)
- 2023-current **Founder** and **leader** of the [Stylistics Reading Group](#) at Vilnius University
- 2022-current **Peer reviewer** for the publishers:  
*Palgrave Macmillan*  
*Bloomsbury*
- 2022-2025 **Member** and **secondary proposer** of the COST-Action project "Collaboration, Open Science, Replication and Equality in Empirical Literary Studies"
- 2021 (Oct) **Host** of the 9th IALS conference "A Game of Theories" (Vilnius University)
- 2018 (Mar) **PhD external examiner** at Huddersfield University, UK
- 2017-current **Peer reviewer** for the journals (frequent collaborations marked **in bold**):  
*Configurazioni*  
*English Language Research Journal*  
*Estrema*  
***Journal of Literary Semantics***  
*Kalbotyra*  
***Language and Literature***

## ***Respectus Philologicus***

*Philosophies*

*Scientific Study of Literature*

*Textual Practice*

2016-current **Supervisor** of over **40** BA and MA students across various areas of Stylistics, Poetics and Discourse Analysis. Successfully defended theses include:

*Award-winning picture books: a multimodal analysis* (MA)

*ASD mindstyle in three contemporary novels* (MA)

*Gaps as stylistic devices in Joyce's Dubliners* (BA)

*Metaphors in popular science literature* (BA)

*Representation of gender in break-up scenes from movies* (BA)

2013-2015 **Co-founder** of the [Stylistics & Discourse Analysis reading group](#) at the University of Nottingham (the group is still active).

**Former/current member** of the following academic associations (alphabetical order):

ESSE (European Society for the Study of English)

IALS (International Association of Literary Semantics)

IGEL (International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature)

LAUTE (Lithuanian Association of University Teachers of English)

PALA (Poetics and Linguistics Association)

## **OUTREACH & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

2025-2026 (Nov-Jan) **Tutor** of Creative Writing for displaced Palestinians (online) for the Hope and Healing Project run by Durham University, UK.

2024 (Feb) **Guest speaker** at social event with a speech on writing in times of crisis.

2022 (May) **Curator** of "L'italiano dei poeti": an Italian poetry festival in Lithuania.

2020-2023 **Judge** for [VILIPO](#) (Vilnius International Project Olympiad, creative writing).

2018-2020 **Organizer** of culture-related talks for NGO organization [Ideas Block LT](#).

2017-2019 **Convenor** of literary reading group at the Italian Institute of Culture, Vilnius.

2014-2015 **Tutor** for the [Brilliant Club](#) organization, Nottingham, UK

## **LANGUAGES**

<b>Italian</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Lithuanian</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>Hungarian</b>
Native	C2 (near native)	B1 (intermediate)	B1 (intermediate)	A1 (beginner)