

Dr. DAVIDE CASTIGLIONE

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RESEARCH PROFILE

I am Associate Professor of **Stylistics** at Vilnius University. My monograph, *Difficulty in Poetry: A Stylistic Model* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), develops a linguistic and cognitive model of **poetic difficulty**, while my subsequent work explores **imagery**, **wisdom** and **empathy**. I am currently working on a **meta-framework** where all these effects (and more) are associated to specific checklists compiled from previous research and charted in a coherent whole. Drawing on stylistics, cognitive poetics, semiotics, psycholinguistics and literary theory, my work is **interdisciplinary** in nature. My publications on **contemporary Italian poetry** position me to undertake comparative and contrastive studies of poetic style across English and Italian. I am also a **practicing poet** with three books published, which gives me an insider's understanding of style and creativity.

APPOINTMENTS

- Sept 2022–present **Associate Professor of Stylistics**, Vilnius University
Courses taught: Anglo-American Poetry, Creative Writing, Introduction to Psycholinguistics, Lexicology&Lexicography, Stylistics
- 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. Degree awarded: July 2016.
- 2008–2010 **MA in Foreign languages**, University of Pavia, Italy
Dissertation: *Translating Poetry: Sereni and Williams* (First-Class)
- 2004–2007 **BA in Foreign languages**, University of Pavia, Italy

CITATION METRICS

331 citations (H-Index: 5)
Google Scholar*

71 citations (H-Index: 5)
Scopus*

109 citations (H-Index: 5)
Research Gate*

*Retrieved on 30/09/2026

COMPLETE PUBLICATIONS

Monographs (in English)

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

Edited volumes (in Italian)

Castiglione, D. & Ortore, M. (Eds.) (2024). *Sempre vi lascio indietro col vento. Poetica e stile in Annino*. Società Editrice Fiorentina (SEF).

Peer-reviewed articles (in English)

1. Castiglione, D. (2026b). Principles of ... stylistics: The centrality of *Principles of Literary Criticism* to a theory of stylistics. *Language and Literature*. (<https://doi.org/10.1177/09639470261455989>)
2. Castiglione, D. (2017). Difficult poetry processing: Reading times and the narrativity hypothesis. *Language and Literature*, 26(2), 99–121. (<https://doi.org/10.1177/0963947017704726>)
3. Castiglione, D. (2013). The semantics of difficult poems: Deriving a checklist of linguistic phenomena. *Journal of Literary Semantics*, 42(1), 115–140. (DOI:10.1515/jls-2013-000)

Peer-reviewed articles (in Italian)

1. 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. (<https://doi.org/10.31273/polisemie.v3.890>)
2. 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. (<https://doi.org/10.13130/2037-2426/13690>)
3. 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. (DOI: 10.1419/73557).

Book & encyclopedia chapters (in English)

1. Castiglione, D. (2026a). Poetry: Stylistic Aspects. In: Nesi, H., Milin, P. (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 3e. Vol 11., pp. 191–204. UK: Elsevier. (DOI: [10.1016/B978-0-323-95504-1.01223-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-95504-1.01223-0))
2. 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 Arajúio, & A. P. Soares Jr. (Eds.), *Stylistic approaches to global speculative fiction: Narratology, multimodality, and translation*. Palgrave Macmillan.
3. 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.
4. 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. (DOI: [10.1515/9783110645958-007](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110645958-007))

- 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. (DOI: [10.31338/uw.9788323543800](https://doi.org/10.31338/uw.9788323543800))

Book & encyclopedia chapters (in Italian)

- 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).
- 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).
- 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.

Academic book reviews (in English)

- Castiglione, D. (2026). Review of *The language of contemporary poetry: A framework for poetic analysis* by L. Jeffries. *Language and Literature*. (<https://doi.org/10.1177/09639470261492180>)
- Castiglione, D. (2024). Review of *Experiencing poetry: A guidebook to psychopoetics* by W. van Peer & A. Chesnokova. *Language and Literature*, 33(4), 272–276. (<https://doi.org/10.1177/09639470241287597>)
- 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. (<https://doi.org/10.1177/0963947018773167>)
- Castiglione, D. (2017). Review of *On voice in poetry: The work of animation* by D. Nowell Smith. *Language and Literature*, 26(3), 268–271. (<https://doi.org/10.1177/0963947017718992>)

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

Over **150** short critical essays, book reviews, reflections and interviews, mostly on Italian poetry. Complete archive here: <https://davidecastiglione.com/critica/>

Creative and literary writing

Poetry collections in Italian

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

Poetry selections in English

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

DIGITAL RESEARCH OUTPUT

Verbal Images in Literature Database (VILD) (since Nov 2023)

<https://ideas-block.com/projects/verbal-images/>

Open digital resource containing 94 verbal images annotated for stylistic and contextual information. It is designed to further theoretical and analytical work on sensorial literary language, enhancing retrievability and reproducibility. For more information, access the link above.

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

Competitive funded research projects

- 2020–22 **Postdoctoral Fellowship** (No. 09.3.3-LMT-K-712-19-0204)
 Project title: Verbal to Mental: The Image in Poetic Discourse
 Funding body: European Social Fund & Lithuanian Research Council
 Amount awarded: € 66,420.48 (salary for 24 months + research costs)
- 2011–14 **EU Research Excellence Scholarship** (tuition, salary, Nottingham, UK)
 Funding body: European Social Fund & Arts & Humanities Research Council
 Project title: Difficulty in poetry (PhD thesis proposal)
 Amount awarded: £ 27,000 (500 monthly salary + tuition fees for 36 months)

Grants & bursaries

- 2025 Science Promotion Fund for conference participation support (€ 978)
 2023 Science Promotion Fund for conference participation support (€ 800)
 Jul 2013 Bursary from PALA (Poetics and Linguistics Association)
 Aug 2011 Bursary from the Hungarian Scholarship Board (Pécs, room and board, 3 weeks)
 Aug 2009 Bursary at St. John's College (Cambridge, UK, room and board, 1 month)
 2004–2009 Admission at Ghislieri College (Pavia, Italy, room and board for 60 months)

Awards & nominations

- Nov 2022 Nominee, Lithuanian Young Academy of Science
 May 2020 Poetry prize for unpublished poems in Italian (€ 600)
 Dec 2018 Vilnius University Rector's Award for Young Scholars (€ 1500)
 Oct 2018 Poetry prize for unpublished poems in Italian (€ 1000)
 Jul 2018 PALA (Poetics and Linguistics Association) Prize for Best Article by a Newcomer
 Jul 2011 Award for best MA thesis (University of Pavia, Italy) (€ 600)

LEADERSHIP & MENTORING

- 2024–current **President** of [LAUTE](#) (Lithuanian Association of University Teachers of English)
- 2023–current **Secretary** of the International Association of Literary Semantics, [IALS](#)
- 2023–current **Founder and leader** of the [Stylistics Reading Group](#) at Vilnius University
- Feb–Apr 2026 **Committee member** of [ESSE](#) (European Society for the Study of English) Bursary for Research Trips and Book and Resource Grants schemes
- May 2025–26 **Mentor** of doctoral candidate Adrián Castro (University of Granada) as part of the Arqus Alliance mentorship scheme
- 2026–current **Mentor** of the LMT-funded post-doctoral project "Imagining Wholeness: Literary Representations of Health and Wellbeing in Late Medieval Italy", by Aistė Kiltinavičiūtė
- 2024–26 **Mentor** of the LMT-funded post-doctoral project "Sensing and Perceiving according to Dante Alighieri: Synesthesia and Multisensory Perception in Medieval Italian Literature", by Aistė Kiltinavičiūtė.
- 2013–15 **Co-founder** of the [Stylistics & Discourse Analysis Reading Group](#) at the University of Nottingham (the group is still active).

NETWORKING & ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2023-current **Member** of the editorial or scientific board of:
Respectus Philologicus (since 2024)
Polisemie (since 2023)
Configurazioni (since 2023)
- 2022-current **Peer reviewer** for the publishers:
Palgrave Macmillan
Bloomsbury
- 2022-25 **Member** and **secondary proposer** of the COST-Action project “Collaboration, Open Science, Replication and Equality in Empirical Literary Studies”
- Oct 2021 **Host** of the 9th IALS conference “A Game of Theories” (Vilnius University)
- Mar 2018 **PhD external examiner** at Huddersfield University, UK
- 2017–current **Peer reviewer** for the journals (frequent collaborations underlined):
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|---|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Configurazioni</i> | <u><i>Respectus Philologicus</i></u> |
| <i>English Language Research Journal</i> | <i>Philosophies</i> |
| <i>Estrema</i> | <i>Polisemie</i> |
| <u><i>Journal of Literary Semantics</i></u> | <i>Scientific Study of Literature</i> |
| <i>Kalbotyra</i> | <i>Textual Practice</i> |
| <u><i>Language and Literature</i></u> | |
- 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)
Empathetic Narrative Techniques in Louise Glück’s Mythological Retellings (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)
- Former/current **member** of the 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

- Nov/Jan 25/26 **Tutor & course coordinator** of Creative Writing for displaced Palestinians (online) for the Hope and Healing Project run by Durham University, UK.
- Feb 2024 **Guest speaker** at social event with a speech on writing in times of crisis.
- May 2022 **Curator** of “L’italiano dei poeti”: an Italian poetry festival in Lithuania.
- 2020–23 **Judge** for [VILIPO](#) (Vilnius International Project Olympiad, creative writing).
- 2018–20 **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.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (2026-2012)

Invited talks

- Dec 2025 Frontalità della voce e voicing della discontinuità in *Sciarra amara* (1977) di Iolanda Insana. *Addio Bel Repertorio Symposium*. University of Udine, Italy.
- Dec 2023 Sereni e Campo traduttori di Williams: rilievi stilistici da "Lamento della vedova in primavera". *Vittorio Sereni: poesia, prosa, traduzione, editoria*, University of Milan, Italy.
- Jan 2022 Towards a verbal imagery stylistic-phenomenological analysis (VISPA). Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Sept 2021 [La poesia degli anni '70 in Italia: costruttivismo vs. espressivismo](#). *PoesiaEuropa Poetry Festival*, Polvese Island, Perugia, Italy.
- Nov 2020 [Descrivere da critico, valutare da poeta](#). *I poeti-critici seminar series*. Aix-Marseille University, France (online).
- Oct 2020 The pragmatics of poetic difficulty. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile (online).
- Feb 2020 Poetic difficulty vs. obscurity: a new conceptualization. *Philosophical seminars*. Vilnius University, Lithuania.
- Apr 2018 Inter-authorial translation variants: a stylistic case study. University of Warsaw, Poland.
- Mar 2018 A processing and language-based typology of difficulty. University of Huddersfield, UK.
- Mar 2016 Reference and deixis in difficult poems. De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.

Contributed talks

- Aug 2026 Towards a meta-framework for stylistics? *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, Uppsala University, Sweden.
- Jul 2026 Capturing literary meaning(s): testing competing models from linguistics. *Meaning and Knowledge Representation (MKR)*, Vilnius University, Lithuania.
- Jul 2025 Foregrounding and AI: Imitating Christina Rossetti's style through ChatGPT-processed checklists. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, Aston University, UK.
- Jun 2025 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.
- May 2024 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.
- Apr 2024 The Verbal Images in Literature Database (VILD). *International Association of Literary Semantics (IALS)*, University of Kent, UK.
- Jul 2023 Nature as agent, target and source in Cristina Annino's poetry. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, University of Bologna (Bertinoro), Italy.
- Jul 2022 A stylistic pictorial model to analyse verbal imagery. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, Aix-Marseille University, Aix-en-Provence, France.
- Nov 2021 Perceptual salience in verbal images discussed by literary critics. *Nord Association of Semiotic Studies (NASS) conference*, Vilnius University, Lithuania.
- Oct 2021 Towards a verbal image identification procedure (VIIP). *International Association of Literary Semantics (IALS)*, Vilnius University, Lithuania (online).
- Apr 2021 [Sapienziale. Sentenze nella poesia italiana contemporanea](#). *Twenty-Twenty Extended*

Conference, University of Warwick, UK (online).

- Apr 2019 Shooting distance and resolution in the verbal image frame. *International Association of Literary Semantics (IALS)*, Reykjavík, Iceland.
- Jul 2016 Towards a typology of thwarted representation in poetry. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, Cagliari, Italy.
- Jul 2014 Reading lines, reading times: A psycholinguistic approach to difficult poetry processing. *International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature and Media (IGEL)*, Turin, Italy.
- Jul 2014 Has style survived stylistics? Plea for a theoretically autonomous stylistics. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, Maribor, Slovenia.
- Aug 2013 Testing the channel of (mis)communication in difficult poems. *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*, Heidelberg, Germany.
- Jun 2013 Sereni and the translation process: analysis of a translation from W. C. Williams. *Centenary Conference on Vittorio Sereni*, University of Reading, UK.
- Jun 2012 Difficult poetry: deriving and testing a stylistic checklist. *Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics and Language Teaching*, Lancaster University, UK.

LANGUAGES

Italian	English	Lithuanian	Spanish	Hungarian
Native	C2 (near native)	B1 (intermediate)	B1 (intermediate)	A1 (beginner)