

PIERA MARGUTTI

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INTRODUCTION

Piera Margutti is Associate Professor of Glottology and Linguistics at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Department of Linguistic and Cultural Studies, where she teaches General Linguistics in the undergraduate degree programme LCE and Conversation Analysis in the postgraduate degree programme LITRAM.

Her research interests focus primarily on the study of spoken language in interactional settings through the theoretical lens of Conversation Analysis, with a focus on the relationship between grammar and the construction of social action, including from a cross-linguistic perspective.

Her work covers both ordinary and institutional interaction contexts. In ordinary settings, she has analysed face-to-face convivial interactions with Italian and Italo-Australian speakers across three generations with mixed linguistic repertoires (Italian, English, and dialect), telephone calls among family members, friends and acquaintances in both Italian and English family groups. Phenomena studied include: answer questions, word searches, teasing, identity and spontaneous translation in interactions between native and non-native speakers, and apologies in English and invitations in Italian.

In institutional contexts, she has explored interaction between pupils and teachers in primary school classrooms and medical interaction in various settings: specialised centres for prosthetic implants and rehabilitation pathways, cancer treatment pathways, and peer support groups with patients, former patients, and family members. Phenomena studied include: pupils' pragmatic competence and the management of interaction in whole-class plenary lessons, doctor/patient asymmetry, the doctor's questions, patients' contributions, word searches, and normative aspects.

EDUCATION

Piera Margutti graduated from the University of Bologna. In 2005 she obtained her PhD from the University of York (UK), with a dissertation in Conversation Analysis on the topic "Classroom Interaction in an Italian Primary School: Instructional Sequences in Pedagogic Settings", supervised by Prof. Paul Drew. She completed her training by attending Advanced Courses in Conversation Analysis at the University of San Diego and the University of Los Angeles (UCLA).

After a period as a post-doctoral research fellow, she was a researcher from 2007 to 2014 at the University for Foreigners of Perugia and has been Associate Professor from 2014 to the present. In 2018 she moved to the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY AND RESEARCH

From 2000 to the present she has conducted and participated in research projects on the following topics:

1. Classroom interaction

A topic she began investigating during her doctoral period, continued through projects conducted during her post-doctoral fellowship. Drawing on data recorded in primary and lower secondary schools, she has investigated how teachers elicit, organise, and regulate pupils' participation through questions, response assessments, reprimands, and other actions. The topic of classroom discipline management was addressed in a project conducted in collaboration with Fritjöf Sahlström (Associate Professor, Education, Uppsala University, Sweden), Liisa Tainio (Applied Science Education, University of Helsinki, Finland), and Arja Piirainen-Marsh (Department of Languages, University of Jyväskylä, Finland), whose results were published in a special issue of *Linguistics & Education*.

On these topics, she has conducted and completed as PI (in 2026) a PRIN project (2022 funding) together with 3 other units, entitled "Children's interactional competence at school: conversational social norms, participation forms and language structures".

2. Interaction in medical contexts

A first project, conducted in collaboration with Renata Galatolo (University of Bologna), entitled "The management of communication with traumatised patients at the INAIL Prosthetic Centre in Vigorso di Budrio (Bologna)", was set in first specialist consultations and examined the forms of interactional and discursive asymmetry between doctor and patient and the construction of the prescription. In the medical field, she collected data at the Advisory Centre for Foreign Women and their Children in Forlì, during her post-doctoral fellowship. In 2020–21 she participated in an interdisciplinary FAR-Mission research project entitled "C.ON-2020 (Oncological Communication): a pilot study on forms of doctor-patient communication in oncology" with colleague Elisa Rossi (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia), funded with university research funds. Subsequently, from 2022, she conducted a second project (FAR Mission-Oriented line, FOMO) as PI, dedicated to interaction between doctors and patients in oncology/breast surgery: IES-22 ("Informative, Effective and Supportive: doctor-patient communication in oncology"). She also participated in a third project with departmental funding, investigating the construction of support in peer support groups among oncology patients.

3. Interaction in ordinary contexts

A first line of research is based on a corpus of video data from convivial gatherings between native Italian speakers and Italo-Australians in Melbourne (Australia), within the framework of the University for Foreigners of Perugia project "Observatory Project on Italian spoken by Italian emigrants in Australia", in which she investigated phenomena such as word searches, teasing, forms of spontaneous translation, and reference to membership categories for oneself and one's interlocutors.

She has also collected a very large corpus of audio data from family telephone conversations among family members, friends and acquaintances, from which she derived a collection of invitation cases, published as a special issue in the *Journal of Pragmatics*. This study is part of a broader project she conducted, in which the production of invitations in telephone calls among family members, friends and acquaintances was analysed in seven languages (Italian, French, Finnish, English, Farsi, Mandarin Chinese, Greek). The project involved Renata Galatolo (University of Bologna); Véronique Traverso (University of Lyon, France); Lisa Tainio and Sarah Routarinne (University of Helsinki, Finland); Paul Drew (University of York, UK); Elwys De Stefani (University of Leuven, Belgium); Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm (The Ohio State University, US); Guodong Tu (Wuhan University, China); Spyridoula Bella and Amalia Moser (University of Athens, Greece). The project addressed cross-linguistic and cultural aspects in the study of authentic oral data.

The interest in the comparative dimension also led to her participation in a study on silence in different languages with Shoji Takano (Hokusei Gakuen University, Sapporo, Japan), conducted by Felicia Roberts (Purdue University, Indiana, US): "The perception of silence as an indication of dispreferred response in Italian, English and Japanese", published in *Discourse Studies*.

Since 2024 she has been part of an international research project funded by the Villa Vigoni Research Centre, entitled "At the Frontiers of Spoken Language: Reformulation Practices and Word Searches in a Cross-Linguistic and Multimodal Perspective", and of a COST network (OC-2025-1-28784 Recognizing Overlooked Competences and Key-skills in Childhood and Adolescence), to which she was invited to join as an expert in classroom interaction and children's pragmatic competence.

SCIENTIFIC ROLES

She serves as a reviewer for the following journals: *ROLSI* (Research on Language and Social Interaction), *Journal of Pragmatics*, *Discourse Processes*, *Discourse Studies*, *Language and Education*, *Linguistics and Education*, *Applied Linguistics*, *Patient Counselling and Education* (PEC).

Member of the International Society of Conversation Analysis (ISCA) since 2013.

Member of the Scientific Committee of ICCA-2018, Loughborough, 11–15 July 2018.

Member of the inter-university Centre AIM (Analysis of Interaction and Mediation) for the study of spoken communication, at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

Member of the Editorial and Scientific Board of the international journal *Ricerche di Pedagogia e Didattica* (Journal of Theories and Research in Education), <https://rpd.unibo.it>, University of Bologna.

OTHER

She has served two terms as Quality Assurance Officer for the Department. She is a member of the Departmental Teaching Committee. She chairs the Commission for the Italian Language Proficiency Examination for non-EU students residing abroad.