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University of Pisa – Language Centre (CLI)

CLI Pisa Conference – 30th AICLU Seminar

Culture – Languages – Inclusion

Pisa, 27–28 May 2027

Call for Papers

The University of Pisa Language Centre, in collaboration with the Italian Association of University Language Centres (AICLU), is organising the conference entitled 'Culture – Languages – Inclusion' on 27–28 May 2027. The event will host the Association's 30th Seminar, providing an important opportunity for discussion and exchange between the national network of university language centres and the wider community of lecturers and scholars working in the fields of second language (L2) teaching in higher education, language education, intercultural mediation, and inclusion.

University language centres are currently facing transformations that are redefining the landscape of higher education: the internationalisation of universities, student mobility, the spread of digital technologies and artificial intelligence, and the growing emphasis on accessibility and the full participation of students with diverse needs. In this context, language centres are called upon to redefine and expand their roles, complementing traditional language training activities with responsibilities related to intercultural mediation, pedagogical innovation, and the promotion of inclusive learning environments.

Drawing on the experiences developed at the CLI of the University of Pisa and through dialogue with the national network of Language Centres coordinated by AICLU, the conference aims to foster reflection on the practices, models, and perspectives that currently guide the activities of language centres, centred on three key terms—Culture, Languages, Inclusion—which identify broad, interconnected dimensions through which to examine the contribution of Language Centres to the building of open, multilingual, and participatory academic communities.

The conference welcomes theoretical, methodological and empirical contributions, as well as presentations of good practice, relating to the following thematic areas:

1) Culture and Language Mediation

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Christian Fandrych, University of Leipzig

The internationalisation of higher education is placing increasing emphasis on the ability to create spaces for dialogue and interaction among different languages, cultures and value systems. In this context, Language Centres play a strategic role in promoting multilingualism, developing

intercultural competence and fostering linguistic and cultural mediation as a means of promoting participation, inclusion and mutual understanding. Possible topics:

- multilingual and multicultural identities within the student community;
- multilingual education;
- pluralistic approaches to languages and cultures (intercomprehension, translanguaging, DaFne);
- intercultural competence;
- the role of linguistic and cultural mediation in language learning;
- intercultural dialogue in higher education;
- international mobility and language learning;
- artificial intelligence and language mediation;
- translation and interpreting in educational contexts;
- training of linguistic and cultural mediators;
- EMI – *English Medium Instruction*.

2) Languages: Innovation in Second Language Teaching

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Fanny Meunier, UC Louvain; Circle U – European University Alliance

Technological advances and new approaches to learning are profoundly transforming language teaching, requiring the development of innovative, bespoke digital teaching materials. Language Centres provide an ideal environment for methodological experimentation, where innovative teaching approaches, digital tools, and training programmes can be developed to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student population. Possible topics:

- podcast production, gamification, and MOOCs;
- the use of digital tools for language learning (including generative AI and language corpora);
- the promotion of learner autonomy;
- blended, online, and synchronous/asynchronous teaching;
- language learning in academic contexts (ERP – English for Research, Publication and Presentation Purposes; EMI – English Medium Instruction);
- language learning in non-institutional adult education (including online CLI/CLA courses and evening classes);
- the integration of non-formal and informal learning into language teaching;

3) Inclusion and Linguistic Accessibility

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Michele Daloiso, University of Parma

The development of language and communication skills is essential to ensuring full and equal participation in academic, social and civic life. Language Centres are called upon to design environments, tools and pathways that guarantee equal learning opportunities, value diversity, and respond to the needs of students from diverse linguistic, cultural and educational backgrounds. At the same time, they promote interaction among people who communicate in different ways and foster their inclusion. Possible topics:

- inclusion and support for students with specific learning difficulties (SLD) and other special educational needs (SEN);
- accessibility of teaching materials and digital platforms;

- Italian Sign Language (LIS) and communication accessibility;
- artificial intelligence, assistive technologies and linguistic accessibility;
- Universal Design for Learning and the inclusive design of language programmes;
- inclusive practices in language assessment and certification;
- language support for international students and refugees;
- inclusive language, communication accessibility and institutional communication.

How to participate

Speakers will have 15 minutes to present their paper, followed by 5 minutes of discussion.

Paper proposals must include:

- the author's first name and surname, together with their email address (if there are two authors, please list both names and their respective email addresses);
- the title of the presentation;
- an indication of the chosen thematic area from among the three listed above (the Scientific Committee reserves the right, however, to assign the paper to a different thematic area if it deems this appropriate);
- an abstract (approximately 300 words, excluding the bibliography);
- bibliography;
- 3–5 keywords;
- a brief biographical note on the author (or authors).

Timetable

- 20 July – 30 September 2026: submission of paper proposals to the email address aiclu2027@cli.unipi.it.
- By 30 October 2026: notification of the outcome of the review process.
- From 15 November 2026: registration via the conference website.