

LINGUA GENIALE



Leonardo Da Vinci, Studies of two sedges c.1510-15. Pen and ink. Royal Collection Trusts

Language, Creativity and the Art of Making Meaning

An event organised by Italian Studies, The University of Sydney, in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute Sydney

Date: 21 October 2026

Time: 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Venue: John Woolley Building, Woolley Common Room (A20.04.N480)

The University of Sydney

Please note that building works are currently taking place at the entrance to the building.

About the Event

The 2026 edition of the **Settimana della Lingua Italiana nel Mondo** celebrates the theme **Lingua Geniale**, exploring language as a source of invention, creativity and cultural expression. Bringing together three scholars and writers from diverse fields, this event examines how language shapes ways of seeing, understanding and creating the world around us. Through perspectives ranging from Renaissance art to contemporary poetry and fiction, the speakers will reflect on the creative possibilities that emerge when language, thought, nature and artistic practice meet.

This event will be conducted in both Italian and English.

Speakers

Laura Crippa

Poetry as Making with Language

Dr Laura Crippa teaches Italian language and literature at various cultural institutions in Sydney. She completed a PhD in Italian Studies in Lugano in 2024 and has published numerous critical essays and a monograph on the poet Giovanni Pascoli. A keen botanist, she is devoted to exploring the relationship between culture, literature and science. In 2026, she published her debut collection of poetry, *Alfa privativo*.

Laura Imai Messina

Listening to Words: Language, Sensibility and Creative Writing

Laura Imai Messina is the author of the internationally bestselling novel *Quel che affidiamo al vento* (2020), as well as several other novels, including *Le vite nascoste dei colori* (2021) *Tutti gli indirizzi perduti* (2024) and *Le parole della pioggia* (2025), published by Einaudi. She lives in Japan, where she teaches at universities, writes for newspapers, and collaborates with the Japanese national broadcaster NHK.

Caroline Paganussi

Leonardo's Explorations: Between the Human Body and Landscape

Dr Caroline Paganussi is an art historian of medieval and early modern Italy and the Iberian world, working at the intersection of visual culture, religious life and intellectual history. Her research focuses on gender and sexuality, materiality, and the ways artworks shape, and are shaped by, social and environmental change. She teaches Art History at the University of Sydney.