FRANCESCA RAFFI

Associate Professor of English Language and Translation
Department of Humanities, University of Macerata, Italy

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023-present | Associate Professor of English Language and Translation

Department of Humanities, University of Macerata, Italy

2019-present | Honorary Fellow

Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Liverpool, UK

EDUCATION

2016 | PhD in English for Special Purposes

University of Naples Federico II

2011 | MA in Modern Languages for International Communication and Cooperation

University of Macerata | 110/110 cum laude

2009 | BA in Linguistic Mediation

University of Macerata | 110/110 cum laude

RESEARCH PROFILE

My research lies at the intersection of translation studies, digital technologies, and accessibility. My current work focuses on linguistic and sensory accessibility to media, live performance, and cultural heritage; artificial intelligence and emerging technologies in translation and language education; and audiovisual translation, retranslation, and reception.

Within these areas, I am particularly interested in AI-mediated language practice, prompting for translation, translator education and translation competence, digital competences, audiovisual and intersemiotic translation, audience reception, and the design and evaluation of accessible cultural experiences.

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATIONS

2023-2026 | Universally Inclusive Technologies to Practice English (UNITE)

Research Unit Coordinator, University of Macerata | PRIN 2022

University of Bologna | University of Macerata | University of Naples L'Orientale | Collaboration with CAST (US) within the UniMC research unit

2025 | Scientific Collaboration

Guide Inclusive | Fondazione Teatro Comunale di Modena Pavarotti-Freni | University of Macerata

2024 | Scientific Collaboration

Progetto PASS | Fondazione Arturo Toscanini, Parma | University of Macerata

2024 | SAIS 2.0 Marche: Sensibilizzazione, Accessibilità e Indipendenza delle Persone Sorde

Research Team Member | ENS Marche

2022-2023 | UPSKILLS: UPgrading the SKIlls of Linguistics and Language Students

Research Team Member | Erasmus+

2019-2020 | Precedent Phenomena in Testing and Enhancing Cultural Competence of Future Translators

Research Team Member | Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia

2018-2019 | Accessibility to Media and Audiences: Development of a Flexible System for Feedback Collection and Reception Studies

Research Team Member | University of Macerata

2017-2022 | Subtitling and Language Learning

Research Team Member | University of Liverpool, UK

2017-2018 | Inclusion in Theatre Communication: Strategies and Recommendations

Research Team Member | Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia

2016-2017 | Reflecting Theatre Communication in Specific Modalities for the Deaf and the Blind

Research Team Member | Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia

2014-2016 | Full Access to Cultural Spaces (FACS)

Research Team Member | International Research Project

2023-2025 | Sferisterio Inclusivo

Scientific Collaboration | University of Macerata | Comune di Macerata | EU NextGenerationEU / Ministry of Culture

2022-2023 | Scientific Collaboration on Accessibility and Inclusion

University of Macerata | AsLiCo / Teatro Sociale di Como

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

My public engagement activities focus on the development of accessibility programmes for live performance and cultural institutions, as well as on training and knowledge exchange in cultural accessibility.

Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano

Accessibility programme for live performances

Arena per Tutti

Fondazione Arena di Verona

Tutti per Puccini

Fondazione Festival Pucciniano, Torre del Lago

Monteverdi Festival

Fondazione Teatro Ponchielli, Cremona

InclusivOpera

Macerata Opera Festival | Associazione Arena Sferisterio, Macerata

Villa Museo Giacomo Puccini

Accessibility programme for the museum and cultural heritage | Fondazione Simonetta Puccini

Piemonte dal Vivo

Training and knowledge exchange in cultural accessibility

Oltre il sipario

AMAT, Associazione Marchigiana Attività Teatrali

ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC ROLES

2026 | Member of the Evaluation Committee for a Full Professorship

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia

Regional Coordinator, Marche

Italian Association of English Studies (AIA)

Board Member

I-LanD Interuniversity Research Centre

2021-present | Editorial Board Member

BRIDGE: Trends and Traditions in Translation and Interpreting Studies | Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia

2019-present | Editorial Board Member

ECHO: Rivista Interdisciplinare di Comunicazione, Linguaggi, Culture, Società | University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Coordinator, University Working Group on AI Guidelines

University of Macerata

Department Delegate for Student Orientation, Schools and Tutoring

Department of Humanities, University of Macerata

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2025 | Gianluca Spina Award, Accessibility Section

Digital Innovation in Culture Observatory, Politecnico di Milano | Awarded for OperaInclusiva

2021 | Premio Inclusione 3.0

University of Macerata

2020-2024 | Chartered Linguist

Chartered Institute of Linguists, UK

2019 | START Macerata Award

2018 | Premio Inclusione 3.0

University of Macerata

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2026. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. Design Manual for Accessibility and the Inclusive Use of Cultural Heritage. Rome: Edizioni Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, 490 pp. ISBN 978-88-8080-859-6.

2020. Raffi, F. The Retranslation of Italian Cinema Classics: Antonioni, De Sica, Fellini and Rossellini in the UK from the 1950s to the 2010s. Rome: Aracne Editrice, 212 pp. ISBN 978-88-255-3327-9.

Edited volumes and special issues

2025. Ferraresi, A., Mongibello, A., Raffi, F. & Bibauw, S. (eds). AI and Foreign Language Learning: Bridging Classroom Practice and Research. Journal of Applied Linguistics and Languages in Educational Digital Settings, 2, 1-237.

2024. Raffi, F., Perez, E. & Martinkovič, M. (eds). Paratexts as a Valid Component of (Re)translations. BRIDGE: Trends and Traditions in Translation and Interpreting Studies, 5, 1-97.

2022. De Luca, Y., De Mita, G. & Raffi, F. (eds). Metafore del viaggio: testi, identità, generi in movimento. ECHO, 4, 1-210.

2021. Carbonara, L. & Raffi, F. (eds). Traduzione è Accessibilità. Tradurre le immagini in suono e il suono in segno. Lingue e Linguaggi, 1-298.

2019. Castagnoli, S. & Raffi, F. (eds). On the Move: Constructing, Rethinking, Narrating Identities. Mediazioni, 25, 1-200.

2017. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. (eds). Languaging Diversity Volume 3: Language(s) and Power. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 267 pp. ISBN 9781527503816.

Journal articles

2025. Ferraresi, A., Mongibello, F., Raffi, F. & Bibauw, S. AI and Foreign Language Learning: Bridging Classroom Practice and Research. Introduction to the Special Issue. Journal of Applied Linguistics and Languages in Educational Digital Settings, 2, 7-12.

2025. Raffi, F. Digital innovation in EFL through inclusive AI: The University of Macerata case study within the UNITE project. BRIDGE: Trends and Traditions in Translation and Interpreting Studies, 6, 97-104.

2025. Raffi, F. Learner Perceptions and Interactional Features in ChatGPT-Mediated EFL Practice: A Comparative Study Across Proficiency Levels. Journal of Applied Linguistics and Languages in Educational Digital Settings, 2, 131-152.

2025. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. Accessibility goes digital: Exploring access before, during and after opera performances. Mediazioni, 46, 82-100.

2025. Fedeli, L. & Raffi, F. Digital Innovation in English Language Teaching: The Role of AI Chatbots for Social Sustainability. The Journal of Language and Teaching Technology, 7, 35-45.

2025. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. Translation as a process of mediation: framing accessibility, inclusion, participation and belonging across cultures. Cultus, 18, 39-58.

2024. Raffi, F., Perez, E. & Martinkovič, M. Introduction: Paratexts as a valid component of (re)translations. BRIDGE: Trends and Traditions in Translation and Interpreting Studies, 5, 1-5.

2023. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. Collaborative Media Accessibility: Insights from Media Accessibility Experts. I-LanD Journal, 1, 34-52.

2023. Di Giovanni, E., Raffi, F. & Fryer, L. Collaborative Media Accessibility: Actors on the Collaborative Stage. I-LanD Journal, 1, 3-11.

2023. Raffi, F. Accessibility and reception studies at the Macerata Opera Festival. Translation and Translanguaging in Multilingual Contexts, 9, 400-421.

2022. De Luca, Y., De Mita, G. & Raffi, F. Metafore del viaggio: testi, identità, generi in movimento. ECHO, 4, 1-4.

2022. Di Giovanni, E., Luchetti, M., Raffi, F. & Turrini, A. Exploring how accessible cultural practices impact on community development: The case of InclusivOpera at the Macerata Opera Festival in Italy. Local Development & Society, 1, 1-14.

2022. Raffi, F. Paratexts and retranslation. The journey of The Lord of the Rings in Italy from 1967 to 2020. trans-kom, 15, 44-62.

2022. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. Inclusive Theatres as Boosters of Wellbeing: Concepts and Practices. Journal of Audiovisual Translation, 5, 166-185.

2022. Raffi, F. Linguistic variation in Italian neorealist cinema. A multimodal analysis of subtitling. Cogent Arts & Humanities, 9, 1-17.

2022. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. Inclusive theatre-making: translation, accessibility and beyond. inTRAlinea, 1, 1-5.

2021. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. Intersemiotic transcreation: the life and afterlife of Giuseppe Verdi's Macbeth. Open Journal of Humanities, 7, 133-155.

2021. Raffi, F. La valutazione dell'esperienza del pubblico. Accessibilità e studi di ricezione al Macerata Opera Festival. Lingue e Linguaggi, 43, 33-64.

2020. Raffi, F. Resubtitling Italian Cinema Classics: Case Studies of De Sica's Ladri di Biciclette (1948) and Fellini's La Strada (1954). The Translator, Special Issue, 1-16.

2020. Raffi, F. The impact of Italian dubbing on viewers' immersive experience: An audience reception study. Online Journal of Communication and Media Technologies, 10(3), 1-13.

2019. Castagnoli, S. & Raffi, F. On the Move: Constructing, Rethinking, Narrating Identities. Mediazioni, 25, 1-5.

2019. Raffi, F. Linguistic Diversity in Italian Migration Films: A Case Study of Segre's Io sono Li. Mediazioni, 25, 1-25.

2018. Raffi, F. Translating Migrants: Lost voices in the Italian Documentary Film Come il Peso dell'Acqua and its English Subtitles. InVerbis, 8(1), 121-140.

2018. Raffi, F. Retranslation as Resubtitling. The Case Study of Federico Fellini's La Strada. Status Quaestionis, 15, 86-110.

2017. Raffi, F. Translating and retranslating Italian cinema across time: Fellini in the UK and in the US. Altre Modernità, 17, 200-218.

2017. Raffi, F. Full Access to Cultural Spaces (FACS): Mapping and Evaluating Museum Access Services Using Mobile Eye-Tracking Technology. Ars Aeterna, 9, 18-38.

Book chapters and conference contributions

2025. Fedeli, L. & Raffi, F. Exploring Student Engagement and Perceptions in EFL Using AI-Powered Chatbots. In 7th International Conference Higher Education Learning Methodologies and Technologies Online, Book of Abstracts, 235-236. Rome: Studium.

2025. Raffi, F. & Fedeli, L. Fostering Inclusive AI in Mediterranean Higher Education: A Case Study on Chatbot-Mediated EFL Instruction. In Responsible Artificial Intelligence for Enhancing Digital Cooperation in the Mediterranean Higher Education, 57-60. Rome: UNIMED.

2024. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. Media Accessibility Specialists. In Handbook of the Language Industry, 295-320. Berlin: De Gruyter.

2024. Biasini, R. & Raffi, F. Audiovisual Translation in Language Learning and Teaching: The Learn Italian with Subtitles Project at the University of Liverpool (UK). In The Art of Teaching Italian, 118-134. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

2023. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. The Worlds and Words of Macbeth: From Shakespeare to a Contemporary Opera Stage. In When I Use a Word, it Means Just What I Choose it to Mean - Neither More Nor Less, 61-82. Rome: Roma Tre Press.

2023. Raffi, F. Italian films in the UK from the 1940s to the 1950s: Studying translation and retranslation practices through non-film materials. In Thinking Out of the Box in English Linguistics, Language Teaching, Translation and Terminology, 465-481. Padua: Padova University Press.

2023. Biasini, R. & Raffi, F. For an interdisciplinary approach in language learning: Exploring the use of subtitling in the Italian language classroom. In Italian as a Foreign Language: Teaching and Acquisition in Higher Education, 233-250. Delaware: Vernon Press.

2021. Raffi, F. From Silent to Sound Cinema And Beyond: A Historical Journey Through Audiovisual Retranslation. In Audiovisual Translation as Trans-Creation, 31-64. Rome: Universitalia.

2021. Raffi, F. Fellini's Le Notti di Cabiria: How is Dialect vs. Standard Italian Rendered in English Subtitles? In Recent Trends in Translation Studies: An Anglo-Italian Perspective, 275-291. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

2019. Raffi, F. On-screen texts and their dynamic functions from conventionality to creativity: Love & Friendship as a case study. In Worlds of Words: Complexity, Creativity, and Conventionality in English Language, Literature and Culture, Vol. I Language, 159-174. Pisa: Pisa University Press.

2018. Raffi, F. The Translation and Reception of Identity and Cultural Diversity: Gomorrah - The Series in the UK as a Case Study. In Identité, Diversité et Langue, Entre Ponts et Murs / Identity and Language Diversity, Between Walls and Bridges, 495-513. Naples: Loffredo.

2017. Raffi, F. Gomorrah The Series Flies to the UK: How is Gomorrah's World Rendered in English Subtitles? In Transnational Subjects, Linguistic Encounters, 179-193. Naples: Liguori.

2017. Raffi, F. Language-Power Intersections in the Translation of Post-War Italian Cinema: Fellini's Le Notti di Cabiria as Case Study. In Languaging Diversity Volume 3: Language(s) and Power, 156-187. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

2016. Raffi, F. Subtitling and Dubbing Italian Cinema in the UK During the Post-war Period. In Audiovisual Translation: Dubbing and Subtitling in the Central European Context, 63-74. Nitra: Constantine the Philosopher University.

2016. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. Mapping Dynamic Environments: Eye-tracking Glasses and Research in Accessibility. Berlin: ICWE GmbH, p. 1.

2014. Di Giovanni, E. & Raffi, F. Full Access to Cultural Spaces (FACS), Stage One: A Survey of Access Services Across European Museums. Berlin: ICWE GmbH, p. 84.

Reviews

2021. Raffi, F. Review of Elena Di Giovanni, La traduzione audiovisiva e i suoi pubblici. Studi di ricezione. BRIDGE: Trends and Traditions in Translation and Interpreting Studies, 1, 132-133.

INVITED TALKS, LECTURES AND TRAINING

2026 | "Audience Development and Impact Assessment for Accessible Live Performance"

International Training Course, Creative Europe project WE WANT MORE! | ATER Fondazione, Cattolica, Italy

2025 | "Access to Culture Goes Digital: An Overview of Technologies and Strategies"

School of Advanced Education The Digital Turn and Intercultural Societies: Ethics, Accessibility, and Democracy | "G. Leopardi" School of Advanced Studies, University of Macerata

2024 | "New Issues in Translation Studies and Practice"

I-LanD Seminar Series, University of Naples L'Orientale

2024 | "AI and Inclusion"

Department of Interpreting and Translation, University of Bologna at Forlì

2024 | "Accessibilità e inclusione per la musica dal vivo, tra ricerca e prassi"

Fondazione Arturo Toscanini, Parma

2023 | "Accessibility to Cultural Spaces: Training and Good Practices"

Translating Europe Workshop / EMT Train the Trainer Summer School, University of Vienna and European Commission Directorate-General for Translation

2023 | "Audio Description: From Theory to Practice"

University of Naples L'Orientale

2022 | "Ensuring that UPSKILLS Materials Are Accessible"

UPSKILLS Erasmus+ Transnational Project Meeting

2022 | "Formazione e professioni dell'accessibilità audiovisiva e artistico-culturale"

University of Siena

2021 | "From Silent to Sound Cinema and Beyond: A Historical Journey Through Audiovisual Retranslation"

University of Rome Tor Vergata

2021 | "Audio Description: Experience and Practice"

Summer School in Audiovisual Translation, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia

2021 | "La Traduzione Specializzata: Tecnologie, Strumenti, Competenze"

University of Calabria

2021 | "Inclusive Theatres and Their Audiences: Feedback Collection and Analysis"

University of Palermo, with Elena Di Giovanni

2019 | "An Introduction to Audiovisual Translation"

University of Liverpool, UK

2018 | "Audiovisual Translation and Language Learning" / "Audiovisual Translation and Language Teaching"

University of Liverpool, UK

2017 | "Audio Description for Cinema and Live Events"

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia

2016 | "Audio Description for Theatre and Opera"

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia

CONFERENCE AND ACADEMIC EVENT ORGANISATION

2025 | Accessibility to Media, Entertainment and Cultural Heritage: Histories, Paradigms and Revolutions

Scientific Committee | University of Macerata

2026 | Artificial Intelligence in English Language and Translation: Bridging Research and Practice

Seminar Coordinator and Moderator | I-LanD Interuniversity Research Centre, University of Macerata

2024 | Accessibilità: strumenti, tecnologie e buone pratiche per una reale inclusione

University of Macerata

2023 | Accessibility to Media, Arts, and Culture

Seminar Series | University of Macerata

2022 | Macerata Festival of the Humanities: Sustainable Humanities

Organising Committee | University of Macerata

2019 | AIA Pre-Conference Symposium for Early-Career Researchers

Organising Committee and Language Area Representative | University of Padua

2016 | Languaging Diversity 2016: Language(s) and Power

Organising Committee | University of Macerata

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2014-present | University of Macerata

English Language and Translation | Tools and Technologies for Specialised Translation | English for Academic Purposes, Doctoral School | Teacher Training: English Culture and Language Teaching | Teacher Training: Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)

2017-present | University of Liverpool, UK

Teaching and teacher training in audiovisual translation, Italian-English translation, interpreting and language learning

2021 | University of Bergamo, Italy

Summer School in Audiovisual Translation

2020/21-2021/22 | Instituto Superior de Estudios Lingüísticos y Traducción, Seville, Spain

Postgraduate teaching in accessibility of communication and cultural content, with a focus on audio description for the performing arts

2016/17 | Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia

Audiovisual Translation and Media Accessibility for BA and MA students in Translation and Interpreting

DOCTORAL AND THESIS SUPERVISION

2021/22-present | PhD Supervisor

Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Liverpool, UK

2015/16-present | BA and MA Dissertation Supervision

University of Macerata

Supervision in English language and translation, specialised translation and translation technologies, audiovisual translation and accessibility, retranslation and reception, and related areas.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND RESEARCH CENTRE AFFILIATIONS

2026-present | Member

CEIDIM, Research Centre for Innovation, Digitalisation, Internationalisation and Management | University of Macerata

Member

Italian Association of English Studies (AIA)

Member

Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)

Member

European Association for Studies in Screen Translation (ESIST)