

Research Report: Dr Laura Caponetto

Jan 2022 to Apr 2023

Research

I work primarily in social philosophy of language, an emerging sub-discipline that draws together philosophy of language, social philosophy, and feminist philosophy. Its underlying assumption is that words are not 'just words'. Through speech we do things and structure the social world in concrete ways. My research contributes to exploring the world-altering power of words by employing conceptual tools from speech act theory and pragmatics more broadly. This past year I have been working on three strands of research.

i) I have been investigating how to 'undo' speech acts, i.e. the discursive strategies to take back or adjust what one previously did in speaking. I will present the project's major results at the 15th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy next September, where I have been invited to deliver a keynote speech. I discuss part of these results in an essay (titled "Actually, Scratch That!': A Tour Into the Illocutionary Fabric of Retraction"), which is currently under review for publication in a Springer volume edited by Dan Zeman (University of Warsaw). The volume will offer the first book-length examination of retraction in the philosophical literature.

ii) I have been analysing the pragmatics and ethics of sexual communication, with a particular focus on sexual consent and sexual refusal. Part of this analysis is presented in an article (titled "The Pragmatic Structure of Refusal"), which has been accepted for publication in *Synthese*.

iii) I have been looking into how to counter bigoted speech. This has led to an article (titled "Bending as Counterspeech"), co-authored with Bianca Cepollaro (Vita-Salute San Raffaele University), which has recently been published in *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*. At the moment I am finalising the draft of an essay (provisionally titled "The Philosophy of Counter-Language") for a Routledge volume edited by Stefanie Ullmann (University of Cambridge), which will gather contributions from linguists, social psychologists, legal scholars, computer scientists, and philosophers, on the virtues and limits of counterspeech as a way to tackle bigotry both on- and off-line.

Publications

Journal Articles

1. Caponetto, L. (forthcoming), The Pragmatic Structure of Refusal, *Synthese*.
2. Caponetto, L., Cepollaro, B. (2022), Bending as Counterspeech, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10677-022-10334-4>.
3. Caponetto, L. (2022), Accommodated Authority: Broadening the Picture, *Analysis*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/analys/anac049>.

Book Chapters

4. Caponetto, L., Labinaz, P. (forthcoming), Marina Sbisà's Deontic Approach to Speech as Action, in L. Caponetto & P. Labinaz (eds.), *Sbisà on Speech as Action*, London: Palgrave Macmillan.
5. Caponetto, L. (2022), Metafore, in E. Paganini (ed.), *Il primo libro di filosofia del linguaggio e della mente*, Turin: Einaudi, 133-145.
6. Caponetto, L. (2022), Espressivi, in E. Paganini (ed.), *Il primo libro di filosofia del linguaggio e della mente*, Turin: Einaudi, 120-132.

7. Caponetto, L. (2022), Implicature, in E. Paganini (ed.), *Il primo libro di filosofia del linguaggio e della mente*, Turin: Einaudi, 109-119.
8. Caponetto, L. (2022), Atti linguistici, in E. Paganini (ed.), *Il primo libro di filosofia del linguaggio e della mente*, Turin: Einaudi, 97-108.

Edited Volumes & Special Issues of Journals

9. Caponetto, L., Labinaz, P. (forthcoming), *Sbisà on Speech as Action*, London: Palgrave Macmillan.
10. Sacchi, E., Benenti, M., Caponetto, L. (2022), *Phenomenology and Mind*, 22, SI on Mind, Language, and the First-Person Perspective.

Under Review

11. Caponetto, L., San Mauro, L., Venturi, G., How to Make (Mathematical) Assertions with Directives, under review at *Synthese* (accepted with minor revisions).
12. Caponetto, L., Marsili, N., Counterevidentials, under review at the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (accepted with major revisions).
13. Caponetto, L., 'Actually, Scratch That!': A Tour Into the Illocutionary Fabric of Retraction, under review for a Springer Volume on Retraction, ed. by D. Zeman (accepted with minor revisions).

Talks

Keynote & Invited

1. How to Undo Things with Words (provisional title), *Who's Afraid of Philosophy? New Challenges for Contemporary Society*, 15th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy, University of Eastern Piedmont, Alessandria, Sept 7-9, 2023 [upcoming].
2. Atti linguistici e riduzione al silenzio: Filosofia del linguaggio femminista, *Seminario permanente in filosofia, studi di genere, pratiche delle differenze*, Sapienza University of Rome, Apr 19, 2023.
3. Accommodated Authority, *Reading Philosophy Department Colloquium*, University of Reading, Feb 23, 2023 [cancelled due to UCU strike].
4. Accommodated Authority, *Nottingham Research Seminar*, University of Nottingham, Feb 22, 2023 [cancelled due to UCU strike].
5. The Political Power of Uptake, *Join US - Stay with US Doctoral Series*, University of Szczecin, Nov 8, 2022 [online].
6. Il potere politico dell'uptake, *Language, Powers, and Rights*, 27th Conference of the Italian Society for Philosophy of Language, University of Palermo, Sept 22, 2022.
7. Bending as Counterspeech, *The Nature, Role, and Significance of Uptake*, University of Vienna, Sept 15, 2022.
8. Bending as Counterspeech, *Hate Speech, Disinformation, and Counterspeech*, MANCEPT, University of Manchester, Sept 7-8, 2022.
9. Bending as Counterspeech, *Words Workshop*, University of Pittsburgh, Apr 1, 2022 [online].
10. Bending as Counterspeech, *Seminar of the Logic and Philosophy of Science Department*, UNED Madrid, Mar 1, 2022.

Departmental

11. 'Actually, Scratch That!': A Tour Into the Illocutionary Fabric of Retraction, *Philosophy Postdoc Seminar*, University of Cambridge, May 24, 2022.
12. Accommodated Authority: Flipping the (Standard) Picture, *Meaning Reading Group*, University of Cambridge, Mar 16, 2022.

Teaching

Undergraduate Supervisor

- Part IA, Ethics & Political Philosophy (Downing College, St Catharine's College - University of Cambridge)
- Part II, Political Philosophy (St Edmund's College - University of Cambridge)
- Part II, Dissertation on Consent, Autonomy, and Ethical Sex (Fitzwilliam College - University of Cambridge)

Undergraduate Examiner

- Part IA, Meaning (Faculty of Philosophy - University of Cambridge)

Guest Lecturer

- Linguaggio e subordinazione (Advanced Lecture Series), School for Advanced Studies, University of Udine, Apr 13-14, 2023.
- Atti linguistici e ingiustizia sociale (Doctoral Lecture Series), Faculty of Philosophy, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Mar 27-29, 2023.

Academic Service

Event Organization

1. [conference] *Genere e biologia: dal corpo al contesto*, 4th Conference of the Italian Society for Women in Philosophy, University of Turin, Nov 9-10, 2023 [upcoming].
2. [workshop] *Speech Acts: Between Philosophy and Linguistics*, **Newnham College**, University of Cambridge, Oct 27, 2022.
3. [conference] *The True, the Valid and the Normative*, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Sept 20-22, 2022.
4. [roundtable] *Why Philosophy Is Still Inhospitable to Women*, Festival of Arts, Science & Ideas, **Newnham College**, University of Cambridge, Jul 3, 2022.

Tutorial Service & Postgraduate Mentoring

- Assistant Tutor (Undergraduates), **Newnham College** - University of Cambridge.
- Postgraduate Mentor, **Newnham College** - University of Cambridge.