CISPELS II
University of Bologna, January 19–21, 2023
Call for Papers

GRAMMAR AND GRAMMARS

The second edition of the CISPELS national congress will take place on January 19–21, 2023 at the University of Bologna, Department of the Arts. This conference is part of the scientific outreach from the CISPELS which in the past saw a first edition of the national congress, held at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" in September 2018 (https://cispels.altervista.org/congressi/), and five editions of the summer school on the history of linguistic and semiotic thought (Stresa 2016–2019, Verona 2022) (https://cispels.altervista.org/scuole-estive/). The conference has two main objectives:

- o creating a map of current research in the history of linguistic ideas by involving colleagues from the scientific societies which compose the core of the CISPELS and also young researchers, from Italy and abroad;
- o promoting a stimulating and enthralling scientific debate on issues, authors, works, traditions, and methods within the broader framework of the history of linguistic and semiotic ideas.

The thematic focus of the conference is "grammar and grammars".

The notion of "grammar" is central to the history of linguistic, semiotic, and philosophical thought, as well as to the history of language and of semiotic systems. The plural form "grammars" has to be taken not only as a reference to linguistic plurality, but first and foremost with regard to the several notions of "grammar" that characterize the several disciplines that constitute the CISPELS. The history of grammar is midway between linguistic and extra-linguistic dimensions. On the one hand, with regard to one of its scientific meanings, grammar is a component of language along with other components (phonology, lexicon, etc.), so that the history of grammar is a component of the history of linguistics. On the other hand, the history of grammar goes beyond the linguistic boundaries because there have been "non-linguistic" conceptions of grammar, whose proper dimension is the logical analysis of thought or reasoning rather than the linguistic analysis of phrases and sentences. "Grammar" is highly polysemic: the term can refer to language competence as well as to the teaching of morpho-syntactic regularities in a natural language; it can also denote a linguistic theory, which is a model of representation of linguistic competence; finally, it indicates a systematic description of the regularities of a language in the form of a book. Such multiple levels of meaning are mirrored by the different labels that "grammar" may receive: (in alphabetical order) categorial, cognitive, comparative, contrastive, descriptive, philosophical, formal, functional, general, generative, historical, logical, narrative, normative, particular, rational, speculative, universal, valential, to name only a few. We can also mention case grammar, dependency grammar and in a wider sense grammars of thought, of sight, of imagination, and of several forms of artistic expression (painting, photography, cinema, among others.). Thanks to this polysemy, the notion of "grammar" becomes an ideal starting point for scholarly discussion and cooperation concerning the problems and methods of historical analysis within the broader framework of language sciences.

Proposals which address these issues with reference to any area, tradition, period, or author belonging to the history of linguistic and semiotic ideas are welcome. Abstracts of a maximum of 300 words plus a list of references should be submitted by September 15, 2022 to francesco.bellucci4@unibo.it. Proposals will be evaluated by the scientific board.

Below, a list of possible topics (albeit not exhaustive) can be found:

- History of grammatical metalanguage
- Classical problems in grammatical theory
- Classical works in the history of linguistics and semiotics
- Grammar and linguistic change
- Grammatical and notional categories in linguistic history
- Grammar teaching through history
- Pedagogical and theoretical grammars
- History of languages and grammars
- Logical and philosophical grammars through history

Important dates
Submission deadline: **September 15, 2022**
Notification of acceptance: **September 30, 2022**

Boards
Organizing board: Costantino Marmo, Francesco Bellucci, Claudia Appolloni
Scientific board: CISPELS steering committee: https://cispels.altervista.org/direttivo/