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Main research interests

Stemmatology
Digital Humanities
Reading and Writing Processes

ILC Seminars

The Institute of Computational Linguistics “A. Zampolli” promotes activities of study and divulgation of the scientific research in the sectors of interest through a series of meetings with a prevailing interdisciplinary nature.

ILC Scientific Committee for Seminars organizes activities broken down into:

- **Study Days** Lessons held by external experts and internal short presentations, prevailing connected to national and international projects ongoing at the Institute. These meetings are open to public, but for logistical reasons the notification of participation is necessary a couple of days early to the address seminari@ilc.cnr.it
- **Thematic Seminars** Seminars on specific themes, prevailing interdisciplinary, and discussion of scientific papers
- **Webinars** Videoconferences with experts. Connection modalities will be described at the moment of the announcement of the events
- **Brown Bags** Informal internal seminars to discuss the critical points of ongoing works (talks, papers, MA and PhD theses, etc.)

Home Page of the Seminars

<http://www.ilc.cnr.it/en/content/seminars>

Scientific Committee

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Stemmatology a bird's eye view

Armin Hoenen

CEDIFOR, Goethe University Frankfurt



Programme

Seminar Room IBF SG 5
Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale
“A. Zampolli”, CNR
Via Moruzzi, 1 - 56124 PISA
6 April 2017 15:00 - 16:00

Introduction (5’)

Angelo Mario Del Grosso

ILC-CNR, Pisa

Stemmatology

a bird’s eye view (45’)

Armin Hoenen

CEDIFOR, Goethe University Frankfurt

Discussion (10’)

Stemmatology a bird’s eye view

Abstract

Stemmatology, the science of establishing the genealogical relationships between manuscript texts is not even 200 years old and has yet already seen tantalizing debates and discourses. Its transition into the digital challenges these shaky grounds once again.

Armin Hoenen, who has just submitted his doctoral thesis on this topic at Frankfurt University will recapitulate this rich history which affects our understanding of historical texts and their transmission profoundly.

After a brief general introduction to the field, the most important debate on stemmatology between neo-Lachmannians and Bedierists will be summarized and enhanced for the first time by brand new research results.

The old classical scholars had just settled their methodological debate to pursue the so-called Lachmannian method where the philologist actively reconstructs stemmatic relationships and an edited text through rigorous analysis of textual variants, conjectures and hermeneutical argument. However, soon, Joseph Bédier appeared and threw arguments at them casting heavy doubts on the applicability of the method.

In the talk, it will be shown how these can be deconstructed at least in parts on the basis of their mathematical underpinnings.

Thereafter, it will be shown how computation has been applied to stemmatology right from the beginning of the commercial availability of computers in the 1950ies. Early computational stemmatology was restricted by memory and processor limits, but in the beginning of the 1990ies a new era started. Since trees of the copy histories of handwritten texts are similar to biological species histories (and to trees of languages) bio-informatic software began to be used in stemmatology.

The three most applied bio-informatic methods were parsimony, split decomposition and neighbour joining. Participants will learn how to quickly compute a stemma based on phylogenetic practice.

The most recent developments comprising algorithms from computer science and philology (SemStem, leitfehler) and first methods in actively reconstructing the archetypical text of a tradition will round up the historical perspective and take participants right into the recent digital stemmatological landscape.

Ultimately, the many new and still open possibilities and paths that have not been pursued so far or just opened up thanks to the digital turn will be highlighted in order to present hopefully fertile grounds for discussions or future elaborations.

References

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