

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE 8TH GENERAL ILLA CONFERENCE

**The Changing Landscapes of Language and Law:
History, Theory and Practice**

30 June – 2 July 2027

University of Naples Federico II, Naples, Italy

Preceded by the **6th ILLA Focus Conference on Forensic Linguistics: Language as Evidence**
(29 June 2027)

About the Conference

We are delighted to invite submissions to the **8th General Conference of the International Language and Law Association (ILLA)**, to be held at the University of Naples Federico II from 30 June to 2 July 2027. The General Conference will be preceded, on 29 June, by the **6th ILLA Focus Conference on Forensic Linguistics: Language as Evidence**.

The relationship between language and law is complex, multifaceted, and constantly evolving. It unfolds across a wide range of dimensions, such as legal interpretation, legal translation, forensic linguistics, institutional communication, and the construction of normative frameworks, and has taken different forms over time, shaped by historical developments, theoretical paradigms, and practical applications.

This conference explores the dynamic interplay between language and law along multiple axes. Diachronic perspectives and future-oriented approaches are brought into dialogue: from the linguistic analysis of ancient and pre-modern legal texts to emerging developments driven by technological advances, particularly artificial intelligence, which is reshaping both legal theory and practice, specialized translation, and multilingual legal communication. A further key axis concerns the relationship between theoretical reflection and practical analysis. We conceive these dimensions not as separate, but as intersecting and mutually enriching.

Contributions are welcome from the philosophy of law, legal argumentation, forensic linguistics (within the specific focus conference), legal translation, discourse analysis, and all fields at the intersection of language and law. We particularly encourage work that bridges theory and practice and explores innovative or interdisciplinary approaches.

PhD students and early-career researchers are warmly encouraged to submit proposals to the thematic areas. Contributions based on ongoing research projects and work in progress are also welcome. The thematic sessions are intended to provide a constructive setting for discussion and feedback among colleagues working on related topics.

Topics of Interest

- AI and legal decision-making, automation, and accountability
 - Comparative and cross-cultural perspectives on language and law
 - Digital communication and new legal genres
 - Discourse, pragmatics, and rhetoric in legal contexts
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- Disinformation and hate speech
- Historical and diachronic perspectives on language and law, including the analysis of ancient and pre-modern legal texts
- Hybrid forms between legal, administrative, and public discourse
- The impact of artificial intelligence on legal practice and legal linguistics
- Language in the courtroom
- Language, power, and ideology in legal systems
- Legal drafting, plain language movements, and accessibility of legal texts
- Multilingualism, legal translation, and interpreting in legal settings
- The relationship between theory and practice in legal and linguistic analysis
- Specialized translation, legal terminology and translation theory
- Theoretical approaches to legal language, legal interpretation, and legal argumentation
- The transformation of professional practices through AI

Types of Contributions

We invite two types of contributions:

1. **Individual papers for thematic areas**

Oral presentations of 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes of discussion, submitted to one of the conference thematic areas.

2. **Panel proposals**

Proposals for conference panels within the framework of a thematic area or one of the conference topics of interest, submitted by the panel chair.

Thematic Areas

Individual papers should address issues within one of the following thematic areas:

1. **Courtroom Interaction in the Digital Age**

Coordinator: Magdalena Szczyrbak (Jagiellonian University, Kraków)

2. **Disinformation and Hate Speech**

Coordinator: Victoria Guillén Nieto (University of Alicante)

3. **Language, Law and Legal Documentation in Historical Perspective**

Coordinators: Elisa D'Argenio (University Ca' Foscari Venice) / Paolo Greco (University of Naples Federico II)

4. **Language of Legislation (and its historical development)**

Coordinator: Salvatore Marino (University of Naples Federico II)

5. **Law, Language and Social Justice**

Coordinator: Frances Olsen (UCLA)

6. **Legal Rhetoric and Argumentation in Changing Institutional Contexts**

Coordinators: Stanisław Goźdz-Roszkowski (University of Lodz) / Paulina Nowak-Korcz (University of Lodz)

7. Legal Translation and Interpreting

Coordinators: Fabrizio Gallai (IULM, Milan) / Katia Peruzzo (University of Trieste)

8. LLLLM: Law, Language, and Large Language Models

Coordinators: Katharina Isabel Schmidt (Max Planck Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht Hamburg) & Dieter Stein (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf)

9. The Role of Humans and AI in Legal Communication

Coordinators: Karin Luttermann (University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt) / Jan Engberg (University of Aarhus)

10. Seeing the Law: Audiovisuality, Metaphor and Crime Narratives in Legal Discourse

Coordinator: Flavia Cavaliere (University of Naples Federico II)

11. Sources of Language and Law: Why Open Access Matters

Coordinators: Hanjo Hamann (EBS Law School, Wiesbaden) / Friedemann Vogel (University of Siegen)

12. Textual Interpretation in Times of Constitutional Crises in the US

Coordinator: Dale Lanard Gronemeier (University of Texas at San Antonio)

13. Varieties of Philosophical and Methodological Approaches in the Research on Law and Language

Coordinators: Paweł Banas (University of Warsaw) / Adam Dyrda (Jagiellonian University, Kraków) / Tomasz Gizbert-Studnicki (Jagiellonian University, Kraków)

Full descriptions of all thematic areas are available on the conference website: www.illa2027.unina.it.

Important Dates

15 October 2026 – Deadline for submission of abstracts

20 November 2026 – Notification of acceptance/rejection

1 December 2026 – Preliminary programme

1 March 2027 – Early bird registration deadline

15 April 2027 – Regular registration deadline

30 April 2027 – Final programme

29 June 2027 – 6th ILLA Focus Conference on Forensic Linguistics

30 June – 2 July 2027 – 8th General ILLA Conference

For registration fees and further information, please visit the conference website: www.illa2027.unina.it.

Submission Instructions

Abstract Submission (Individual Papers)

We invite abstracts for oral presentations (20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussion). Abstracts must be submitted exclusively through the conference [abstract management system](#).

Each abstract must include:

1. Purpose statement
2. Research problem
3. State of the art
4. Hypotheses or research questions

5. Methods, instruments and tools
6. Main conclusions or relevance statement
7. References (up to five)

Maximum length: 500 words, including references.

Abstracts should be anonymized: please do not include any personal information in the abstract text. Author names and affiliations are provided separately in the submission system.

The Language of the conference is English.

All abstracts will go through a blind peer-review process.

Panel Proposals

Panel proposals must be submitted by the panel chair and must contain:

1. Title of the panel
2. Name(s) of the chair(s)
3. Thematic area (or topic of interest) of reference
4. A brief outline (250–500 words) of the theme and purpose of the panel
5. Names of speakers
6. Titles and abstracts for each paper

The panel chair must send all this information to illalanguageandlaw@gmail.com, putting all panel participants in CC.

Note: Authors of individual papers within a panel do not need to submit their abstracts separately following the general guidelines.

6th ILLA Focus Conference on Forensic Linguistics

The General Conference is preceded by the **6th ILLA Focus Conference on Forensic Linguistics: Language as Evidence** to be held on 29 June 2027 at the University of Naples Federico II. The Focus Conference is organized by Victoria Guillén-Nieto (University of Alicante) and Dieter Stein (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf).

Building on the success of previous editions, this focus conference brings together language scientists and legal practitioners around the theme of *Language as Evidence*.

We invite abstract proposals on the full range of inquiry within forensic linguistics, including authorship identification, speaker identification, plagiarism detection, language crimes, cybercrimes, deception and lie detection, and the impact of AI on forensic linguistic tasks. Contributions are also welcome on the role of the language expert in criminal investigations, the linguist as an expert witness in court, communication and interaction between lawyers and language experts, courtroom interaction, admissibility criteria, and ethics.

As in previous editions, the conference also accepts panel proposals. Each panel proposal should include an introduction by the panel organiser justifying the relevance of the topic, together with a minimum of four abstracts. Panel proposals for the Focus Conference should be sent directly to the organisers (victoriaguillenieto@gmail.com and stein@hhu.de) with the subject line: Panel proposal – 6th ILLA Focus Conference on Forensic Linguistics, putting all panel participants in CC.

As a novelty, the Focus Conference also welcomes poster proposals to encourage postgraduate students to present their research in progress. (Common standard size: A0 Paper Size (International Standard); measures 84.1 x 118.9 cm (33.1 x 46.8 inches)).

Individual abstracts for papers or posters for the Focus Conference should be sent directly to the organisers at victoriaguillenieto@gmail.com and stein@hhu.de. Abstracts must be anonymised; the author(s)' name(s) and affiliation(s) should be included in a separate file attached to the same email. Abstracts must be no more than 500 words and follow APA style guidelines.

Conference Format

The conference will be an in-person event. It will consist of plenary sessions and 20-minute presentations in parallel thematic sections.

Further Information

For registration fees, practical information, venue details, and updates, please visit the conference website: www.illa2027.unina.it.

For enquiries, please contact the organizing committee at: illalanguageandlaw@gmail.com.