



9th International Conference on Figurative Thought and Language

Blending Minds and Machines: Figurative Language, Creativity, AI, and Computational Linguistics

University of Valencia, Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication, September 9-11, 2026

PROGRAMME

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE at IULMA (Interuniversity Institute of Applied Modern Languages of the Valencian Community):

Andreea Rosca (**Convenor**), Maria-Josep Cuenca, Montserrat Esbrí Blasco, Inmaculada Garnes Tarazona, Cristina María Tello-Barbé, Sofía Zakhir Puig

Wednesday, 9th September 2026				
9:00 – 10:00	Registration desk opens. The registration desk is in front of the Salón de Actos (ground floor).			
10:00 – 10:30	CONFERENCE OPENING - SALÓN DE ACTOS Dr. María Rosa Álvarez Sellers (Dean of the Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication); Dr. Ferran Robles Sabater (IULMA Director, University of Valencia); Dr. Miguel Martínez, (Head of the Department of English and German Studies); Dr. Angeliki Athanasiadou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece, and founder of the FTL conference series); Dr. Andreea Rosca (Conference Convenor and Head of CLaRe)			
10:30 – 11:30	PLENARY TALK - SALÓN DE ACTOS BODO WINTER (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom) <i>From birds to words: Metaphor, metonymy, and iconicity in sensory language</i> Chair: Angeliki Athanasiadou			
11:30 – 12:00	BRUNCH at the cafeteria on the ground floor			
	SALÓN DE ACTOS	SALÓN DE GRADOS	ESPAI CULTURAL	SALA DE JUNTAS
	Chairs: Angeliki Athanasiadou & Herbert L. Colston	Chair: Sofia Zakhir	Chair: Montserrat Esbrí	Chair: Andreea Rosca
	THEMATIC PANEL: How to Conceptualize Communicative Ironies	Topic: Figuration and artificial intelligence	Topic: Multimodal figuration and digital media	Topic: Figuration and cognitive development (acquisition, processing, comprehension)
12:00 – 12:30	Mingjian Xiang <i>Mixed but not messy: When irony meets allegory in an early Daoist text</i>	Doaa K. Riziq <i>Proverbial Challenges: A Comparative Analysis of AI and Human Interpretations of Proverbs in English and Jordanian Arabic</i>	Svitlana Shurma <i>Land as Metaphor, Land as Symbol in Ukrainian Fighters' TikTok Videos</i>	Ana Werkmann Horvat, Yoolim Kim, Marc Allasonnière-Tang & Adam C. Roberts <i>'Which is fixed—the cost or the shelf?' Examining processing of conventional metaphorical meanings in L2 English speakers</i>

12:30 – 13:00	Lydia N.C. Chan, Stephen Skalicky & Anna Siyanova-Chanturia <i>Capturing L1 and L2 irony processing through action-dynamics: Insights from mouse-tracking</i>	Lin Xue <i>The Cognitive Logic of Metaphor in Mind-Machine Fusion: A Study on Semantic Representation in Artificial Intelligence</i>	Izabela Kraśnicka <i>I've had it up to here! Multimodal messages from a Construction Grammar perspective</i>	Simone Löhndorf <i>Making the Abstract Tangible: Reification in the Development of Metaphor Production</i>
13:00 – 13:30	Inés Lozano-Palacio & Francisco José Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez <i>A Cognitive-Pragmatic Model of Sarcasm: Scenario Clashes, Chained Schemas, and Attitudinal Functions</i>	Sripathi Sripada, Jayashree Anand Gajjam & Anupama Ryali <i>Overcoming Literal Bias of LLMs in Literary Analysis: A Multilingual Neuro-Symbolic AI Approach Grounded in the Function of Word (FoW) Ontology of Classical Indian Poetics</i>	Izabela Kraśnicka & Jakub Pstrąg <i>The application of Construction Grammar to multimodal messages analysis: the “before it was cool” and “we have X at home” constructions</i>	Caroline Girardi Ferrari <i>Figurative language comprehension throughout lifespan: a cross-linguistic study in Brazilian Portuguese and British English</i>
13:30 – 14:45	LUNCH BREAK			
	SALÓN DE ACTOS	SALÓN DE GRADOS	ESPAI CULTURAL	SALA DE JUNTAS
	Chairs: Angeliki Athanasiadou & Herbert L. Colston	Chair: Maria Josep Cuenca	Chair: Inma Garnes Tarazona	Chair: Andreea Rosca
	THEMATIC PANEL: How to Conceptualize Communicative Ironies	Topic: Figuration and artificial intelligence	Topic: Multimodal figuration and digital media	Topic: Figuration and cognitive development (acquisition, processing, comprehension)
15:00 – 15:30	Angeliki Athanasiadou <i>The grounding of realities in verbal irony expression: the case of counterfactual irony</i>	Alec Sánchez-Montero, Gemma Bel-Enguix & Sergio-Luis Ojeda-Trueba <i>Qualitative Analysis of LLM</i>	Julia Ostanina-Olsewska & Aleksandra Majdzińska-Koczorowicz	Caroline Girardi Ferrari <i>Methodological challenges in the cross-linguistic adaptation of figurative</i>

		<i>Analogical Blindness in Spanish Popular Science Metaphors</i>	<i>From Children's Illustrations to Internet Humor: Multimodal Metaphor and Meme Recontextualization in Kicia Kocia Images</i>	<i>language comprehension instruments: reflections based on a case from Brazilian Portuguese into British English</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Stephen Skalicky, Lydia N.C. Chan & Mahnaz Aliyar <i>Assessment of ironic contrast in visual, non-verbal irony</i>	Lorena Bort Mir and Mohammad Saeid Miri <i>Evaluating FILMIP-AI: A Comparison of Human and MLLM-Assisted Filmic Metaphor Identification</i>	Marco Casentini & Michele Mannoni <i>Chinese speakers TIME gestures in videotapes: What naturally occurring data reveal</i>	Lena Wieland & Ingo Reich <i>Familiarity and Literal Plausibility, Not Transparency, Drive Idiom Comprehension in Adult Readers With Low Literacy Skills in Easy German</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Zoi Matsouka <i>Isn't It Ironic? Or Sarcastic? Or Both? A Study on the Nature of Irony and Sarcasm in Greek Communication</i>	Marta Kwaśniewska <i>AI and ecology: climate metaphors in texts generated by LLMs</i>	Laura Hidalgo Downing <i>Creative metaphoric framing in multimodal non-commercial advertisements on substance use</i>	David O'Reilly <i>Bulldozing with idioms: Figuration in the conversation topic changes of elementary-to-intermediate Japanese learners of English</i>
16:30 – 17:00	VALENCIAN TIGER NUT MILK AND FARTONS (SWEET BREAD)			
17:00 – 18:00	PLENARY TALK - SALÓN DE ACTOS MANUELA ROMANO MOZO (Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain) <i>Metaphor for social change and hope</i> Chair: Andreea Rosca			
19:00 – 20:00	Guided walking tour of Valencia city centre (approx. 1 hour)			

Thursday, 10th September 2026					
	SALÓN DE GRADOS	SALÓN DE ACTOS	ESPAI CULTURAL	SALA DE JUNTAS	
	Chair: Andreea Rosca	Chair: Sofia Zakhir	Chair:	Chair:	
	Topic: Cross-linguistic perspectives on figurative meaning	Topic: Figuration across discourse types	Topic: Figuration across discourse types	Topic: Diachronic, sociocultural, and cross-linguistic perspectives on figuration	
9:30 – 10:00	Masaki Yasuhara <i>Transitive Anticausatives and Figurative Agency in English and Japanese</i>	Dorota Miller <i>Metaphor, Animacy, and Ecological Sensibility in Robert Macfarlane's Is a River Alive?</i>	Marcin Kuczok <i>The shades of shadow in John Henry Newman's "Parochial and Plain Sermons" (1834-1843) in light of cognitive semantics</i>	Sirma Kostadinova <i>Behind the Blue Veil: Cultural Conceptualisations of the Lotus in Persian Verse</i>	
10:00 – 11:00	PLENARY TALK - SALÓN DE ACTOS SMARANDA MURESAN (Barnard College, Columbia University, United States) <i>Through the AI Lens: From Metaphors to Creative Writing</i> Chair: Andreea Rosca				
11:00 – 11:30	BRUNCH at the cafeteria on the ground floor				
	SALÓN DE GRADOS	SALÓN DE ACTOS	ESPAI CULTURAL	SALA DE JUNTAS	AULA X
	Chairs: Angeliki Athanasiadou & Herbert L. Colston	Chair: Inma Garnes	Chair: Montserrat Esbrí	Chair: Maria Josep Cuenca	Chair: Cristina Tello

	THEMATIC PANEL: How to Conceptualize Communicative Ironies	Topic: Figuration in morphology, lexis, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics	Topic: Multimodal figuration and digital media	Topic: Figurative language in teaching and learning	Topic: Figuration across discourse types: politics
11:30 – 12:00	Kais A. Kadhim <i>Translating Irony in Arabic Media Texts: An Analysis of English Versions</i>	Ieva Stasiūnaitė <i>On the Meaning of the Lithuanian PO 'UNDER': A Cognitive Perspective</i>	Yifei Zhu <i>Drinking as Entering an Idealized Experience: An Experience-Oriented Perspective on Structural Metaphor in Chinese Alcohol Advertising</i>	Okoa Simile <i>Figurative Language and Student Engagement: A Study of Metonymy in Language Teaching</i>	Jakub Pstrağ <i>Their metaphors in our lives.” The Conceptual Metaphors of Polish Presidential Candidates in the 2025 Pre-Election Television Debates: A Cognitive Linguistic Analysis</i>
12:00 – 12:30	Evangelos Tsigaridas <i>Beyond the Mirror: Cognitive Operations and Ironic Representation of Narcissus</i>	Joost van de Weijer, Carita Paradis, Caroline Willners & Simone Löhndorf <i>Evaluation and figurative meanings of antonyms = true</i>	Peipei Jin <i>Toward a Metaphor- Based Multimodal Dictionary of Traditional Chinese Medicine Terms: Starting from Xiang- Thinking and Chinese Characters</i>	Empar Yahui Liu Zhou <i>Cognición figurativa en entornos híbridos de aprendizaje inicial de L2: ciudad, cartografía digital e inteligencia artificial como ecologías distribuidas</i>	Vilma Linkevičiūtė <i>Conceptual Reshaping of Political Identity: Donald Trump’s Case</i>
			Topic: Emotion, Cognition and Metaphor		
12:30 – 13:00	Maria Karali	Cristina Zimbroianu &		Paula Amoros-Marco & José Belda-Medina	Sabina Tabacaru

	<i>(Fuzzy) Sets and the multi-faceted nature of Irony: A Quest into Categorization</i>	Javier Herrero-Ruiz <i>Reframing Conceptual Mappings: Intra- and Inter-Mapping Dynamics in Cognitive Linguistics</i>	Khalid Elasri & Abdelhakim Boubekri <i>Conceptual Metaphors of Basic Emotions in English and Berber: Exploring Universal Patterns and Cultural Nuances in Emotional Expression</i>	<i>Figurative Language Learning through Multimodal Digital Storytelling in Inclusive EFL Contexts</i>	<i>Metaphors of male ideologies: Comparison between incel and far-right discourses</i>
13:00 – 13:30	Herbert Colston <i>Is Irony Cognitively Embodied?</i>	Shrija Tiwary & Sanjukta Ghosh <i>Perceiving Time through Sensory Modalities: A Cognitive Semantic Analysis of Synesthetic Metaphors in Hindi Lyrics</i>	Yelena Yerznkyan & Diana Movsisyan <i>Emotion as a catalyst of meaning: Cognitive metaphor and figurative conceptualization in verbs of understanding</i>	Lacey Okonski, Marlene Johansson Falck & Ljiljana Saric <i>The Development of the Embodied Scenes Approach and Future Applications in a Croatian Context</i>	Miguel Ángel Campos <i>Metaphor and Legitimation in Institutional Communication: Framing Digital Threats for Public Understanding</i>
13:30 – 14:45	LUNCH BREAK				
	SALÓN DE GRADOS	SALÓN DE ACTOS	ESPAI CULTURAL	SALA DE JUNTAS	AULA X
	Chairs: Angeliki Athanasiadou & Herbert L. Colston	Chair: Maria Josep Cuenca	Chair: Montserrat Esbrí	Chair: Andreea Rosca	Chair: Cristina Tello
	THEMATIC PANEL: How to Conceptualize	Topic: Figuration and artificial intelligence	Topic: Emotion, Cognition and Metaphor	Topic: Figurative language in teaching and learning	Topic: Figuration across discourse types

	Communicative Ironies				
15:00 – 15:30	Beata Kopecka & Paulina Mormol-Fura <i>When humour meets critique: A cognitive perspective on irony in multimodal politically-themed T-shirt designs</i>	Goran Schmidt & Ivana Marinić <i>Let's talk about the way we talk about AI: Metaphors shaping our perception about artificial intelligence</i>	Mónica Penalva-Sanz <i>Emotional metaphors and pragmatic inference in private digital communication: An empirical study</i>	Matemane Lekganyane & Joanne Lombard <i>Figuration as Pedagogy: A cross-cultural reading of the teacher figure in Sepedi and Afrikaans poetry</i>	Goran Milić <i>Figurative Framing in Hybrid Quality Press: Clickbait Strategies in the Digital and Print Headlines of The New York Times</i>
				Topic: Diachronic, sociocultural, and cross-linguistic perspectives on figuration	
15:30 – 16:00	Kyriaki Kallianou <i>The if not-construction and its ironic impact</i>	Monowar Hossain, Nishat Raihan & Hakim Arif <i>Could you figure out beyond English? Bangla Figurative Pragmatics in Humans and AI</i>	Songqiao Xie & Napoleon Katsos <i>Metonymy beyond reference: how nominal metonymy carries speaker's attitude</i>	Maisarah Almirabi <i>Cultural Diversity and Heart Metaphor in Arabic: A Cross-National Corpus Investigation</i>	Jennifer Foley <i>The metaphorical representation of social media and mental health in the press and online health blogs</i>
16:00 – 16:30	M^a Sandra Peña-Cervel & Carla Ovejas-Ramírez	Draženka Molnar & Vlatka Ivić	Songqiao Xie & Napoleon Katsos <i>Nominal metonymy</i>	Lahlou Mohammed & Darkaoui Soufi El Habib	Sofia Zakhir Puig

	<i>Ironbole: Hyperbolic irony encoded through lexical blending from a Cognitive-Linguistic perspective</i>	<i>Figurative Names Across Minds and Machines: A Cognitive Study of Translating Onomastic Phraseological Units</i>	<i>beyond reference: Attitudinal meaning and neurodiversity</i>	<i>Where is Tomorrow? Mapping the Spatality of the Future in the Moroccan Mind: The Front-Back Axis</i>	<i>The Clock Is Ticking: A Comparative Analysis of Temporal Metaphors in Institutional and Activist Climate Communication</i>
16:30 – 17:00		Shuping Huang <i>Figurative Thought in Internet Memes</i>	Augusto Soares da Silva <i>Love, sex, machine, and suffering in European and Brazilian Portuguese: A multifactorial usage-feature and metaphorical profile analysis</i>	Maria Karali <i>Symbolic deixis and logical inferencing</i>	Virginija Masiulionytė, Jurga Cibulskienė & Inesa Šeškauskienė <i>Evaluation through metaphor. A political conflict in media and in AI-generated texts</i>
17:00 – 17:30	VALENCIAN TIGER NUT MILK AND FARTONS (SWEET BREAD)				
17:30 – 18:30	PLENARY TALK - SALÓN DE ACTOS SANDRA PEÑA CERVEL (University of La Rioja, Spain) <i>The evaluative dimension of lexical blending</i> Chair: Andreea Rosca				
21:00	CONFERENCE DINNER Hotel Silken Puerta de Valencia- Avinguda del Cardenal Benlloch, 28				

Friday, 11th September 2026					
	SALÓN DE ACTOS	SALÓN DE GRADOS	ESPAI CULTURAL	SALA DE JUNTAS	
	Chair:	Chair: Andreea Rosca	Chair: Sofia Zakhir	Chair:	
	Topic: Figuration across discourse types	Topic: Figuration across discourse types	Topic: Diachronic, sociocultural, and cross-linguistic perspectives on figuration	Topic: Figuration and artificial intelligence	
9:30 – 10:00	Macarena Palma Gutiérrez <i>From x-phemisms to meaning-making: Cognitive operations and lexical creativity in drag discourse</i>	Xu Yifan <i>Metaphorical Imagery Construction and Cultural Rhetorical Strategies in Han Diao Guang Guang Opera Lyrics</i>	Kigel Tali <i>Figurative Color Metaphors of Money: Diachronic, Sociocultural, and Cross-Linguistic Perspectives</i>	Kei Sakaguchi <i>Metaphor as a Test Case for the Boundary between Linguistic and Cognitive Frames: sweet, bitter, amai, and nigai in English and Japanese</i>	
10:00 – 11:00	PLENARY TALK - SALÓN DE ACTOS TONY VEALE (University College Dublin, Ireland) <i>The Parallax View: Mining Subjective Humour from Ironic Frame Collapse</i> Chair: Andreea Rosca				
11:00 – 11:30	BRUNCH at the cafeteria on the ground floor				
	SALÓN DE ACTOS	SALÓN DE GRADOS	ESPAI CULTURAL	SALA DE JUNTAS	AULA 104
	Chair: Cristina Tello	Chair: Inma Garnes	Chair: Grzegorz Drożdż	Chair: Sofia Zakhir	Chair: Andreea Rosca
	Topic: Figuration across discourse types	Topic: Figuration in morphology, lexis, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics	Topic: Figuration in morphology, lexis, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics	Topic: Corpus-based, experimental, and statistical approaches to figuration	Topic: Figuration and grammatical constructions, categories, and parts of speech

11:30 – 12:00	Daban Hamad Ameen <i>Polarity and Metaphor: A Corpus Study of Holocaust Oral Histories</i>	Antonio Jesús Tinedo Rodríguez <i>Modelado cognitivo y discursos de odio: blending léxico en el discurso incel</i>	Markus Egg <i>What proper names can reveal about paragons</i>	Maite Taboada, Romina Hashemi & Amber Rynearson <i>Metaphor identification is source domain identification</i>	Beate Hampe <i>Construction networks and figurativity. Elaborating on the notion of ‘idiom set’</i>
12:00 – 12:30	Dovilė Vengalienė <i>Metaphorical Storytelling and Humanization in Lithuanian Social Advertising: A Case Study</i>	Isabel Balteiro <i>Borrowing Minds, Not Just Words: Figurative Thought in English–Spanish Lexical Innovation</i>	Barbara Taraszka-Drożdż & Grzegorz Drożdż <i>From vegetables to colours: A cross-linguistic study</i>	Nina Julich-Warpakowski <i>Individual differences in the perception of metaphoricity. The influence of domain knowledge</i>	Roberta Mastrofini <i>Cognitive mechanisms for linguistic classification: the case of English Light Noun Classifiers</i>
12:30 – 13:00	Bianca Martin <i>“[Like] having my ovaries wrapped in barbwire” – An Exploratory Contrastive Study of Cognitive Metaphors Used by Patients with Endometriosis in France and in Quebec</i>	Ana Mansilla Pérez <i>Creatividad y productividad de los snowclones en la fraseología contrastiva alemán-español</i>	Grzegorz Drożdż <i>Active zone and its conceptual neighbourhood: On competing terms in cognitive linguistics</i>	Bálint József Ugrin & Ágnes Lukács <i>From Collocation to Idiom: Modelling Entrenchment of Adjective–Noun Constructions Using Association Measures</i>	Carey Benom & Young-min Oh <i>Construal, Frame, Metaphor: A Taxonomy of Conceptual Variation in Creative Idiom Use</i>
13:00 – 13:30	Lorena Bort-Mir & Inés Lozano-Palacio METATEA: <i>An exploration of</i>	Ignasi Navarro i Ferrando & Montserrat Esbrí-Blasco <i>From image-schemas to mental spaces: The</i>	Ya Sun <i>An Integrated Framework for Creative Metaphor</i>	Daniela Katunar & Janja Culig Suknaic Weather in <i>figurative thought</i>	Elena Gavruseva (online talk) <i>Lexical creativity in advanced L2 English:</i>

	<i>metaphors of cognitive and sensory overload in ASD and gifted individuals</i>	<i>COOKING domain in the multi-level view of metaphor</i>	<i>Research: Motivation, Manifestation Type and Pragmatic Function</i>	<i>and language – towards building the Meteorologicon database</i>	<i>Evidence from idioms, remote associates, and lexical proficiency</i>
13:30 – 14:45	LUNCH BREAK				
	SALÓN DE ACTOS	SALÓN DE GRADOS	ESPAI CULTURAL	SALA DE JUNTAS	
	Chair: Grzegorz Drożdż	Chair: Marco Bagli	Chair: Montserrat Esbrí	Chair: Andreea Rosca	
	Topic: Figuration and grammatical constructions, categories, and parts of speech	Topic: Figuration in morphology, lexis, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics	Topic: Humour, irony, sarcasm, and other rhetorical tropes	Topic: Figuration and artificial intelligence	
15:00 – 15:30	Tetsuta Komatsubara <i>Finding constructions involving metonymy: The metonymic a pair of BODY-PARTS construction and its associated situational and evaluative meanings</i>	Marco Bagli & José A. Sánchez Fajardo <i>Why seaweed but not seaherb?: Investigating figurative mechanisms in plant names through an examination of the English morphemes -weed, -wort, -grass, and -herb</i>	María Asunción Barreras Gómez <i>Variation and echoic mechanisms in verbal parody</i>	Ewa Konieczna & Bożena Duda <i>AI vs. human generated annotation of figurative construals for ideological purposes: the case of medical conspiracy discourse</i>	
15:30 – 16:00	Maja Glušac & Ivana Matas Ivanković <i>Semantic Extensions of Croatian Prepositional</i>	Salma Errami Fennane <i>Beyond Structural Constraints: A Cognitive-Discursive</i>	Haruka Nishiyama <i>Humor, Irony, and the Emergence of Social Meaning in a Viral Meme Expression</i>	Songqiao Xie & Xinxin Yan <i>Toward a Unified Annotation Protocol for Figurative Language: A Structured Meta-</i>	

	<i>Phrases with the Preposition u</i>	<i>Approach to Lexical Blends</i>		<i>Review and Methodological Proposal</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Alon Fishman <i>Linguistic infrastructure through the conceptual landscape: How grammar constrains the interpretation of similarity statements</i>	Francisco González García <i>Explaining the productivity and creativity of -splain blends: Towards a usage-based, constructionist approach</i>	Rick Nouwen <i>Hyperbole as super-normality</i>	Monika Prysok <i>AI: a tool, a helper or a god? Artificial Intelligence Metaphors in Popular Science Translation</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Tania Moraru-Zamfir <i>The internal structure of idiomatic expressions. A military English corpus based study</i>	María Asunción Barreras Gómez <i>Conceptual mechanisms behind English lexical blends: a qualitative corpus-based case study</i>	Eleni Seitanidi, Nele Pöldvere & Carita Paradis <i>“He looks older than grandad did even”: exaggerating in British English face-to-face conversation</i>	Ksenija Benčina, Dubravka Vidaković Erdeljić & Draženka Molnar <i>Machines, libraries or mentors: How AI adapts its framing to different users</i>
17:00 – 17:30	VALENCIAN TIGER NUT MILK AND FARTONS (SWEET BREAD)			
17:30 – 18:30	PLENARY TALK - SALÓN DE GRADOS ALEXANDER ONYSKO (Klagenfurt University, Austria) <i>Metaphors of, in, and through AI</i> Chair: Andreea Rosca			
18:30 – 19:00	CLOSING CEREMONY - SALÓN DE GRADOS Dr. Diana María González Pastor, IULMA Secretary, University of Valencia, Dr. Andreea Rosca (Conference Convenor)			

THE VENUE OF THE CONFERENCE: Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication (Avenida de Blasco Ibáñez, 32)

Ground floor: Salón de Actos

First floor of the faculty: Salón de Grados, Sala de Juntas, Espai Cultural