

CV – Pierpaolo Di Carlo

This is an abridged version of my academic CV. A full version of it can be found at [this link](#).

Personal details

- Surname (including previous surnames): Di Carlo
- First names: Pierpaolo
- Citizenship: Italian
- Email: pierpaol@buffalo.edu (primary), pierpaolodicarlo@gmail.com
- Researcher ID: ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8986-6745>
- Date of the CV: 08.23.2024

Degrees

Doctorate in Linguistics

- **November, 9 2009:** PhD in Linguistics (major subject Anthropological Linguistics), obtained at the “Doctoral School in Linguistics of the University of Florence”; Florence, Italy. Contact: dottorato@unifi.it
 - Dissertation title: “The Kalasha of the Hindu-Kush. Linguistic and anthropological research”
 - Evaluation: “Excellent” (winner of the 2010 Firenze University Press Award “Best PhD thesis in the Humanities”)
 - Supervisor: Alberto Nocentini

BA & MA degree (enrolled pre-1999 EU University reform)

- **October, 28 2002:** BA & MA degree (4 years + thesis) in Classics with Major in Prehistoric Archaeology, obtained at the University of Florence; Florence, Italy. Contact: scuola@st-umaform.unifi.it
 - Thesis title: “The Indo-European problem between linguistics and archaeology: the *status quaestionis* through the most recent pluridisciplinary contributions”
 - Evaluation: 110/100 *cum laude*
 - Supervisors: Fabio Martini (Prehistoric Archaeology), Alberto Nocentini (Historical Comparative Linguistics).

Title of Docent:

- **Habilitation as Associate Professor in Linguistics**, received on December, 23 2013. The title—Italian “Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale”—is given by

the Ministry of University and of Scientific Research. The existence of my habilitation can be checked at this URL:

<https://abilitazione.cineca.it/ministero.php/public/esitoAbilitati/settore/10%252FG1/fascia/2>

Other education, professional competences/qualifications or supplementary training

- 11-23 August 2024, **“Form-meaning mismatches in spoken and visual communication”**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, University of Göttingen.
- 3-4 January 2019, Professional Workshop **“Reproducible Research in Linguistics”**, Linguistic Society of America, LSA Meeting (New York City)
- 23-28 March 2011, **“THATCamp, workshops in the Digital Humanities”**, European University Institute and Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale (Florence, Italy)
- 20-31 August 2007, **Summer School on Documenting Endangered Iranian Languages**, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics at Nijmegen / Volkswagen Foundation & University of Kiel (Kiel, Germany)
- 20-28 March 2006, **Leipzig Spring School on Linguistic Diversity (LSSLD06)**, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Leipzig, Germany).
- 2-6 September 2005, **Advanced course in language sciences**, Società Italiana di Glottologia (San Daniele del Friuli, Italy)

Language skills

- Native language: Italian
- Other language skills (self-assessed using the Europass guidelines):
 - English (C2)
 - French (reading C2, listening C1, speaking B2)
 - Spanish (reading C1, listening B2, speaking B1)
 - Cameroon Pidgin English (everyday communication)
 - Kalasha (basic communication)
 - Portuguese (basic communication)

Current employment

- October, 1 2021 – December 31, 2024 (end date is negotiable). Research Associate Professor (Postdoctoral Associate until May, 31 2024) at the Department of Linguistics, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (0.6 FTE). The position is funded through a U.S. NSF-funded research project entitled “A comparative study of the impact of displacement on multilingualism and language endangerment” (BCS#2109620) of which I am *de*

facto co-PI with Jeff Good. I work remotely, mostly from Italy and Cameroon, and work in Buffalo for a limited amount of time every year.

- My work includes the following activities:
 - Coordination of all research activities of a team composed of ca. 15 collaborators including Master's and PhD students in Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, and Anthropology enrolled at both US and Cameroonian universities (Yaounde 1, Buea, Bamenda, Dschang, CATUC Bamenda).
 - Collection of linguistic, sociolinguistic, geographic, and ethnographic data in the field in several regions of Cameroon.
 - Data analysis and preparation of scholarly publications and presentations on multilingualism, language contact, and the ethnography of multilingual ecologies, with a specific intention to give visibility to the collaborative work made with other project team members.
 - Development and maintenance of a trusted network of international scholars bridging research institutions of the Global North (e.g. Buffalo, Florence, ELDP) and the Global South (multiple universities in Cameroon and Senegal).
 - Teaching courses—e.g. sociolinguistics, codeswitching, linguistic anthropology, language documentation, macro- and micro-sociolinguistic analyses, research ethics—and training and mentoring students participating in the project.
 - Supervision and co-supervision of Master's and PhD theses in Sociolinguistics, Linguistics, and Anthropology
- Secondary occupations: in Italy, I do a number of secondary activities in which I aim to bring my scholarly knowledge at the service of the greater good. These include:
 - Ethnographic consultancy and linguistic mediation (West Africa Pidgin English) to lawyers and judges of the Court of Florence who deal with cases of asylum seekers from Cameroon and Nigeria.
 - Teaching courses on topics such as cross-cultural communication, anthropology and history of Africa and of Pakistan/Afghanistan, and African languages (essentials of Nigerian Pidgin English) to workers in the sector of the reception of migrants.

Previous work experience

- June 2015 – August 2021. Postdoctoral Associate at the Department of Linguistics, University at Buffalo, SUNY (0.6FTE). The position was funded through two successive U.S. NSF awards: "Language Documentation, Fieldwork Training Models, and Computational Tools for Understanding Linguistic Stability and Change" (2015-2018, BCS#1360763, \$406,186, PI J. Good and J. Chomicki)

and “Socio-Spatial Approaches to the Analysis of Multilingualism” (2018-2021, BCS#1761639, \$444,821, PI J. Good, L. Bian, and J. Chomicki). My day-to-day activities were largely the same as today’s except for the fact that my closest collaborators were computer scientists and geographers. The work in Cameroon and with Cameroonian partners and students was largely the same.

- July 2014 – June 2015. Research Fellow, Department of Humanities, University of Florence (1.0FTE). The position was co-funded by the “Centro Linguistico di Ateneo” (Florence) and the Research Foundation of the State University of New York (Buffalo).
- January 2012 – January 2013. Endangered Languages Documentation Programme Postdoctoral Fellow. SOAS (London) and Department of Linguistics, University at Buffalo, SUNY (1.0 FTE). The position was funded through an Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship I received from ELDP. My project was entitled “Linguistic and ethnographic documentation aimed at identifying loci of cultural and linguistic reproduction in two communities speaking endangered Bantoid languages”. My goals included carrying out long-term fieldwork research for the creation of a documentary corpus allowing to identify key linguistic practices used in two demographically small communities (<1,000 people) settled in rural Cameroon having significant impact on the reproduction of their languages. The output of the project is archived: <https://www.elararchive.org/dk0303>.
- October 2009 – December 2011. Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Linguistics, University at Buffalo, SUNY (1.0FTE). The position was funded through the US NSF award “Towards an areal grammar of Lower Fungom languages” (BCS-0853981), PI Jeff Good. Work was carried out mainly in Buffalo and Cameroon. Duties included:
 - Carrying out long-term linguistic and ethnographic fieldwork aiming to collect data that would allow reconstructing both the peopling process of the Lower Fungom area (North-West Region of Cameroon) and the history of the various languages spoken in the area
 - Preparation of scholarly publications and presentations
- July 2003 – July 2005. Research Fellow, Department of Linguistics, University of Florence (Italy). The position was funded through the award “Linguistic and cultural strands in Italian protohistory” (Directors profs. Alberto Nocentini and Maria Pia Marchese). My research was focused on both the linguistic and cultural aspects of the set of enigmatic stelae from Novilara (North-Picene, VIII-VI BC), including autoptic/epigraphic, philological, comparative, archaeological, and palaeo-ethnographic analyses of the context where the stelae have been found.
- Previous secondary occupation: Between 2015 and 2022, I worked as content writer and strategist for a certified B corp startup company called “Eukinetica: well-being at work” (consultancy work).

Career breaks

My prolonged fieldwork stays in areas of extreme poverty of rural Cameroon, especially in 2010 and 2012, led me to the decision to take a break from academic work from January 2013 to July 2014. In this period, I dedicated myself entirely to social work, volunteering, and social innovation in Tuscany (Italy).

Research funding and grants

As Principal Investigator

- 2012 - Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship grant from the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (UK) with a project entitled "Linguistic and ethnographic documentation aimed at identifying loci of cultural and linguistic reproduction in two communities speaking endangered Bantoid languages". Allocated funds: £42,893.
- 2009 - Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship grant offered by the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (UK) with a project entitled "Ethnographic and Linguistic Documentation of Kalasha Verbal Art". Allocated funds: £81,280. The project was to be hosted at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa (Prof. Pier Marco Bertinetto, Linguistics). Declined for reasons of personal safety (at the time, the area could not be visited by foreigners).

As *de facto* co-Principal Investigator

I significantly contributed to the development, management, and overall coordination of the following projects, which I can thus be legitimately considered to be *de facto* co-PI of.

- 2021 - U.S. NSF grant "A comparative study of the impact of displacement on multilingualism and language endangerment" (BCS#2109620, \$424,540).
- 2018 - U.S. NSF grant "Socio-Spatial Approaches to the Analysis of Multilingualism" (2018-2021, BCS#1761639, \$444,821, PI J. Good, L. Bian, and J. Chomicki).
- 2014 - U.S. NSF grant "Language Documentation, Fieldwork Training Models, and Computational Tools for Understanding Linguistic Stability and Change" (2014-2019, BCS#1360763, \$406,186, PI J. Good and J. Chomicki).
- 2011 – Endangered Archive Programme, British Library (UK), grant "A pilot project to survey the Buea Archives and other potentially endangered archives in western Cameroon" (£10,300, co-PI with Jeff Good). Project URL: <https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP506>

Research output

In my career, I have so far published a total of 52 works and archived one documentary collection at ELAR (Endangered Languages ARchive), with six more works in the process of being published (three coauthored peer-reviewed articles, one authored peer-reviewed article, two book chapters one of which coauthored). Copies of all of my publications, be they in Open Access or as pre-prints, are available in my webpage <https://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~pierpaol/>.

My twelve most important publications—and among the most cited according to Google Scholar—are the following (arranged by discipline or topic, most recent first):

African multilingualism (sociolinguistics)

1. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo. 2016. "Multilingualism, affiliation, and spiritual insecurity. From phenomena to processes in language documentation". *Language Documentation and Conservation, special volume 10* (edited by Mandana Seyfeddinipur): 71–104.
2. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo. 2018. "Toward an understanding of African traditional multilingualism: Ethnography, language ideologies, and the supernatural". *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 254: 139–163. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/ijsl-2018-0037>.
3. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo, Angiachi D. Esene Agwara, and Rachel A. Ojong Diba. 2020. "Multilingualism and the heteroglossia of ideologies in Lower Fungom (Cameroon): Use and attitudes". *Sociolinguistic Studies* 14,3: 321–345. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1558/sols.38799>.
4. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo. 2022. "Reappraising survey tools in the study of multilingualism: Lessons from contexts of small-scale multilingualism". *Journal of Language Contact* 15:376–403.

Linguistics & Ethnography

5. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo. 2011. "Lower Fungom linguistic diversity and its historical development: proposals from a multidisciplinary perspective". *Africana Linguistica* XVII: 39-86. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3406/aflin.2011.994>.
6. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo. 2010. "Take care of the poets! Verbal art performances as key factors in the preservation of Kalasha language and culture". *Anthropological Linguistics* 52,2: 141-159. DOI: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41330794>.

Linguistics & Geography

7. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo. 2022. "The geographic sides of small-scale multilingualism. New challenges in linguistic cartography". In G. Niedt (ed.) *New Directions in Linguistic Geography – Exploring Articulations of Space*, 49-85. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-3663-0_3

8. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo and Giovanna Pizziolo. 2012. "Spatial reasoning and GIS in linguistic prehistory. Two case studies from Lower Fungom (Northwest Cameroon)". *Language Dynamics and Change*, 2: 150-183. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1163/22105832-20120202>.

Language contact

9. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo and Jeff Good. 2023. "Language contact or linguistic micro-engineering? Feature pools, social semiosis, and intentional language change in the Cameroonian Grassfields". *Linguistic Typology at the Crossroads* 3, 2: 72-125. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2785-0943/17231> (Open Access).
10. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo. 2011. "Two clues of a former Hindu-Kush linguistic area?". In C. Everhard & E. Mela-Athanasopoulou (eds.) *Selected Papers from the 1st International Conference on Language Documentation and Tradition with special interest in the Kalasha of the Hindu Kush Valleys, Himalayas*: 101-114. Thessaloniki: University Studio Press.
11. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo and Jeff Good. 2014. "What are we trying to preserve? Diversity, change, and ideology at the edge of the Cameroonian Grassfields". In Peter Austin and Julia Sallabank (eds.) *Endangered Languages: Beliefs and Ideology*: 231 - 264. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Broader impact (sociolinguistics, documentary linguistics, global health)

12. Di Carlo, Pierpaolo, Bradley McDonnell, Lisa Vahapoglu, Jeff Good, Mandana Seyfeddinipur, and Katarzyna Kordas. 2022. "Public health information for minority linguistic communities". *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 100, 1:78–80.

My research agenda is characterized by a strong dynamism. The most recent evidence is the inclusion of multimodal communication, see my forthcoming article:

Research supervision and leadership experience

I have co-supervised the following theses in Anthropology, Linguistics, and Sociolinguistics at both Master's and PhD levels.

PhD theses

- 2017 – 2021: Angiachi D. Esene Agwara (BIGSAS - University of Bayreuth). "Language ideologies in contexts of small-scale multilingualism: Repertoires, language attitudes and use in Lower Fungom (Cameroon)". Co-supervised with prof. Gabriele Sommer and Dr. Eric Anchimbe (Sociolinguistics).
- 2017 – 2021: Marius Kum Kebei (University of Buea, Cameroon). "Household Multilingualism and Intercommunity Relations: An Ethnographic Appraisal of

Lower Fungom Area in Menchum Division of the North-West Region of Cameroon". Co-supervised with prof. Ayu'nwi N. Neba and prof. Robert M. Akoko (Anthropology).

- 2015 – 2020: Margaret Neh Chenemo (University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon). "Multilingualism and Language Ideologies: An ethnographically-informed sociolinguistic perspective in the study of linguistic diversity in Lower Bafut, North-West Cameroon". Co-supervised with prof. Etienne Sadembouo (Sociolinguistics).
- 2015 – 2019: Rachel A. Ojong Diba (University of Buea, Cameroon). "The sociolinguistic dynamics of rural multilingualism: the case of Lower Fungom". Co-supervised with prof. Ayu'nwi N. Neba (Sociolinguistics).

Master's theses

- 2013 - 2015: Budji Kefen Ivoline (Catholic University of Cameroon – Bamenda). "Spotlight on a Threatened Language: The Fio Language of the Bamenda Grassfields of North western Cameroon". Co-supervised with prof. Paul N. Nkwi (Anthropology).
- 2012 – 2013: Angiachi Demetris Esene Agwara (University of Buea, Cameroon). "Rural multilingualism in the North West region of Cameroon". Co-supervised with prof. Ayu'nwi N. Neba (Sociolinguistics).

Leadership experience

Since 2014, I am the coordinator of the KPAAM-CAM project (Key Pluridisciplinary Advances on African Multilingualism – Cameroon, URL <https://kpaam-cam.org>) which is the name of the longitudinal, multidisciplinary, and multi-stakeholder research project that has been funded through several U.S. NSF grants (see my current and previous work experience). KPAAM-CAM is rooted at the University at Buffalo and carried out in collaboration with five Cameroonian universities (Bamenda, Buea, Dschang, Maroua, and Yaounde 1) and is based on a model that pivots around capacity building in Cameroon through training and mentoring activities (courses, training events, workshops, reading groups, collaborative fieldwork) that I develop and deliver in collaboration with different team members, depending on their skills. The dozens of scholars and students participating in KPAAM-CAM each year form a cross-cultural and multidisciplinary network that I have been animating and managing for the past ten years—an incredibly enriching experience.

Teaching merits

Teaching experience in general

In Cameroon

- 2019 "Sociolinguistic language documentation" (8 hours). University of Yaounde 1.
- 2014 "Fundamentals of language in culture and cognition" (20 hours). Catholic University of Cameroon – Bamenda
- 2014 "Research methods in the study of multilingualism" (12 hours). Catholic University of Cameroon – Bamenda
- 2013 "Ethnography in language documentation" (12 hours). Endangered Languages Documentation Programme Summer School, University of Buea.

University of Firenze

- 2006 "Areal typology and areal linguistics" (6 hours).

Online

- 2022 "Language ideologies" (blended, 4 hrs lecture + 6 hrs discussion). KPAAM-CAM.
- 2022 "How to document small-scale multilingualism" (6 hours). ELing 2022, Grupo de Estudos Linguísticos do Estado de São Paulo (GEL).
- 2021 "Documenting multilingualism". Workshop (1.5 hours) at the International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation, University of Hawai'i (with R. Ojong Diba).
- 2020 "Research ethics in the Social Sciences". KPAAM-CAM.
- 2019 "Doing research in mini-world communities". KPAAM-CAM.

Other academic courses

- 2023 "Introduction to the documentation of small-scale multilingualism". Workshop at the 1st Colloque Internationale de Linguistique de Dakar (CILDaK), Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal (with N. Soh, to be delivered on March 15, 8 hours)
- 2018 "Multilingualism and language documentation". CoLang 2018 workshop, University of Florida, Gainesville (with J. Good).

Other courses

- 2017 – present: multiple short courses and workshops on West African cultures and history, delivered to workers in the domain of migrants' reception (Italian institutions).
- 2016-2018 "Basics of cross-cultural communication (with special attention to West African cultures)". (Several Italian NGOs).
- 2016 "Introduction to Nigerian Pidgin English (with two native speakers)". Association "Officina Lieve" (Florence area, Italy).

Awards and honours

- 2010 Firenze University Press Award for "Best PhD thesis in the Humanities".

Other key academic merits, such as:

Pre-examiner of doctoral dissertations:

- Miriam Weidl, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, supervised by Friederike Lüpke (November 2018)
- Samantha Goodchild, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, supervised by Friederike Lüpke (December 2018)
- Heather Todd, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, supervised by Marten Lutz (January 2021)

Peer review of funding applications

- Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
- Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP)
- German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

Referee for scientific publications

- Afrika und Übersee
- American Political Science Review
- International Journal of the Sociology of Language
- International Journal of Bilingualism
- Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development
- Language Dynamics and Change
- Language Documentation and Conservation
- Language Documentation and Description
- Multilingua
- Nordic Journal of African Studies
- Open Linguistics
- Sociolinguistic studies
- Studies in African Linguistics

Significant invited international lectures

- "Deliberate language change in the Grassfields? Two cases and some remarks". Lecture delivered at the seminar of the CNRS lab "Langues, langage et cultures d'Afrique" (LLACAN) (October 2023, invited by Rozenn Guérois)
- "From qualitative to quantitative in the sociolinguistics of multilingualism". GramAdapt Seminar, University of Helsinki (October 2020, invited by Kaius Sinnemäki).

- "How to document small-scale multilingualism?". Delivered in the workshop "Multilingualism, Contact, and Documenting Endangered Languages", 2019 Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, New York City (January 2019, invited by Lenore Grenoble).
- "From discourse markers to Heaven. A journey in Kalasha language and culture". Linguistics Department colloquia, Freie Universitaet Berlin (January 2016, invited by Britta Schneider).
- "The loci of cultural reproduction and their importance for language maintenance. Between ethnographic and (socio)linguistic field research in Pakistan and Cameroon", Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, Workshop on Sociolinguistics of Language Endangerment, University of Colorado at Boulder (July 2011, invited by David Bradley).
- "The last Kafirs of the Hindu Kush: Kalasha myth and ritual today and in historical perspective". Graduate Seminar in Comparative Mythology, The Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies, Harvard University (December 2010, invited by Michael Witzel).

Scientific and societal impact

Research-based broader impact activities

- Co-founder and Lead Coordinator of the virALLanguages project (<https://virallanguages.org>), a volunteer-run initiative aimed at producing culturally-appropriate public health messages about COVID-19 prevention in minority and marginalized languages. The project built on the data and results I and the KPAAM-CAM team had obtained in the previous years, especially concerning language ideologies. VirALLanguages involved members of 49 communities speaking minority and marginalized languages in Cameroon, Pakistan, and Indonesia and produced about 100 resources in less than eight months. (April 2020 – February 2021)

Scarperia e San Piero (FI), August 12, 2024

Pierpaolo Di Carlo