

Superseminar

Exploring the Frontier of Science with AI and the Role of Humanities

March 9–11, 2026

Hotel Posta, Piazza del Monte 2, Reggio Emilia





Project "ITSERR – Italian Strengthening of the ESFRI RI RESILIENCE",
cod. IR0000014 – CUP B53C22001770006 – National Recovery
Plan (PNRR) – Mission 4, "Education and Research",
Component 2, "From research to business", Investment 3.1,
"Fund for the realisation of an integrated system of research
and innovation infrastructures", funded by the European Union,
– NextGenerationEU – ref. call MUR 3264/2021.

Contents

PROGRAM

DAY 1 – Monday, March 9	5
DAY 2 – Tuesday, March 10	6
DAY 3 – Wednesday, March 11	7

PARTICIPANTS

Carla Bagnoli.....	9
Armando Barucco.....	9
Eberhard Bons	9
Francesca Cadeddu.....	10
Javier Cha	10
Stefano De Martino	10
Andrea De Pasquale.....	11
Francesco Raphael Frieri	11
Catherine Hezser.....	11
Renana Keydar	12
Nicola Lucchi.....	12
Francesco Mariano	13
Alberto Melloni	13
Sebastiano Moruzzi	13
Sabrina Moura De Araujo	14
Pier Luigi Parcu	14
Federico Ruozi	14
Maria Cristina Russo	15
Fabrizio Sebastiani	15
Barak Sober	16
Valeria Zotti	16

CONCEPT NOTE	17
--------------------	----

Program

DAY 1 – Monday, March 9

9.00–13.00

Paolo Pavan, Vice-Rector for International Relations and Internationalization, UNIMORE – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Cristina Iani, Vice-Rector for the Reggio Emilia Campus, UNIMORE – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Annamaria Contini, UNIMORE, Department of Education and Humanities

Welcome and greetings

Alberto Melloni, FSCIRE – Fondazione per le scienze religiose

Introduction and framework

Participants:

Armando Barucco, EUI – European University Institute

Carla Bagnoli, UNIMORE – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Javier Cha, University of Hong Kong

Michela Cocurullo, Ufficio VI - Promozione e incentivazione alla diffusione delle attività e dei risultati della ricerca

Guerino Bovalino, Ministero della Cultura

14.30–18.30

Francesca Cadeddu, RESILIENCE European Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies

Introduction and framework

Participants:

Nicolas Catelan, Université Paris-Cité

Stefano De Martino, UNITO – University of Turin

Barak Sober, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

DAY 2 – Tuesday, March 10

9.00–13.00

Federico Ruozzi, UNIMORE – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Introduction and framework

Participants:

Maria Cristina Russo, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

Andrea De Pasquale, DG Digitalisation and Communication, Italian Ministry of Culture

Francesco Raphael Frieri, LEPIDA

Catherine Hezser, SOAS, University of London

14.30–18.30

Federico Alpi, FSCIRE – Fondazione per le scienze religiose
Introduction and framework

Participants:

Nicola Lucchi, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Renana Keydar, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Eberhard Bons, FSCIRE – Fondazione per le scienze religiose

Marco Giunti, University of Cagliari

DAY 3 – Wednesday, March 11

9.00–13.00

Alberto Melloni, FSCIRE – Fondazione per le scienze religiose
Introduction and framework

Participants:

Pier Luigi Parcu, EUI – European University Institute

Francesco Mariano, Accademia di Belle Arti, Macerata

Valeria Zotti, University of Bologna

14.30–18.30

Francesca Cadeddu, RESILIENCE European Research
Infrastructure on Religious Studies
Introduction and framework

Participants:

Sabrina Moura De Araujo, Louvre Abu Dhabi

Fabrizio Sebastiani, CNR – Consiglio Nazionale
delle Ricerche

Sebastiano Moruzzi, University of Bologna

With the contribution of:

Sonia Bergamaschi, UNIMORE – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia | **Valentina Bottanelli**, FSCIRE – Fondazione per le scienze religiose | **Gianmarco Braghi**, UNIPA – University of Palermo | **Silvia Chiodi**, Istituto per il Lessico Intellettuale Europeo e Storia delle Idee, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche | **Domenico Ciccarello**, University of Palermo | **Davide Dainese**, UNIBO – University of Bologna | **Fabrizio D’Avenia**, UNIPA – University of Palermo | **Rudy Demo**, FSCIRE – Fondazione per le scienze religiose | **Amina El Ganadi**, FSCIRE – Fondazione per le scienze religiose | **Massimiliano Ferraresi**, Directorate-General for Knowledge, Research, Labour, and Enterprise | **Konstantinos Karamousalis**, Ambasciata di Grecia a Roma | **Umberto Longo**, University of Rome “La Sapienza” | **Alessandra Megna**, Ufficio Supporto alla Ricerca e Grant CNR | **Manuela Lucia Mei**, Direzione Risorse, Europa, Innovazione e Istituzioni, Regione Emilia-Romagna | **Marianna Napolitano**, UNIMORE – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia | **Luciana Mariella Ranieri**, Ufficio Supporto alla Ricerca e Grant CNR | **Laura Righi**, UNIMORE – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia | **Gabriella Sciortino**, UNIPA – University of Palermo

Participants

Carla Bagnoli, UNIMORE – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Carla Bagnoli is Professor of Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia since 2010 and teaches philosophy of agency, theory of practical reason, epistemology of the social sciences, and social and moral epistemology. Bagnoli is engaged in the construction of a normative model of individual and shared rational agency, designed to address complex phenomena such as moral perplexity and conflicts among sources of normative authority.

Armando Barucco, EUI – European University Institute

Armando Barucco is Secretary General of the European University Institute. Before joining the EUI as Secretary General, H.E. Armando Barucco was the Italian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Among his previous assignments, from March 2015 to February 2021, he served as Director of the Unit for Analysis and Programming, Statistics, and Historical-Diplomatic Documentation at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. In this role, he was also responsible for organizing five editions of the Rome MED Dialogues (2016–2020).

Eberhard Bons, FSCIRE – Fondazione per le scienze religiose

Eberhard Bons is Professor Emeritus at the University of Strasbourg. He has studied theology, philosophy and Romance languages at the universities of Mainz, Tübingen, Rome (Gregorian University), and Frankfurt (Faculty of Sankt Georgen). He received his habilitation in 2000 from the University of Strasbourg (France), where he taught as a Professor of Old Testament Exegesis. His research interests are Biblical Exegesis (Old Testament): Prophets, Psalms, Wisdom Literature, Septuagint, Textual Criticism. He is also editor of the *Historical and Theological Lexicon of the Septuagint* (Mohr Siebeck, Tübingen).

Francesca Cadeddu, RESILIENCE European Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies

Francesca Cadeddu is researcher in Contemporary History at FSCIRE, Fondazione per le scienze religiose (Bologna/Palermo) since 2011, where she currently holds the office of Executive Director of the European Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies, RESILIENCE. She currently serves as member of the Executive Committee of the European Academy of Religion and of the Scientific Committee of IFAB – International Foundation Big Data and Artificial Intelligence for Human Development. She works on religious pluralism and literacy in Italy and Europe. Her most recent topics of interest concentrate on the history of education in Italy between the late 19th and early 20th century.

Javier Cha, University of Hong Kong

Javier Cha is Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities in the Department of History at the University of Hong Kong, where he teaches in the new Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Digital Technologies program. Prior to moving to Hong Kong, he was Associate Professor of East Asian Studies in the College of Liberal Studies at Seoul National University. Since 2019, he leads a digital humanities research group called the Big Data Studies Lab (BDSL). BDSL conducts experimental research that rethinks the fundamentals of the humanities in the Zettabyte era.

Stefano De Martino, UNITO – University of Turin

Stefano de Martino is former Professor of Hittitology at the University of Turin; he is Director of Centro Ricerche Archeologiche e Scavi di Torino per il Medio Oriente e l'Asia and has collaborated to the renovation of the Iraq Museum in Baghdad. He has directed for several years the Doctorate in Archaeology, History and Art History of the University of Turin and is currently Scientific Coordinator of the Tech4Culture PhD Programme (University of Turin). He is the author of books and essays (in Italian, English and German) on the civilizations of the ancient Near East. His main field of research is the history and culture of ancient Anatolia and Syria and he is an expert of the Hittite language and of Hurrian, as well.

Andrea De Pasquale, DG Digitalisation and Communication,
Italian Ministry of Culture

Andrea De Pasquale is the Director of the General Directorate for Digitalization and Communication of the Italian Ministry of Culture. PhD in Book History from the École Pratique des Hautes Études (Sorbonne) in Paris, he served as Director of the Palatina Library in Parma (2008–2011), the Braidense National Library in Milan (2011–2014), and the National University Library of Turin (2008–2015), as well as Director of the National Central Library of Rome (2014–2021); from 2020 to 2021, he was Director of Service I – Research Office of the Directorate-General for Education, Research and Cultural Institutes, and was subsequently appointed Superintendent of the Central State Archives (2021–2023), then Director of the Directorate-General for Education, Research and Cultural Institutes (2023–2025).

Francesco Raphael Frieri, LEPIDA

Francesco Raphael Frieri is Director General of LEPIDA, an in-house company wholly owned by over 450 member organizations and the Emilia-Romagna Region, which offers training and technical support in the field of ICT. He was Managing Director of the Development and Cohesion Fund for the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and Generative Artificial Intelligence Applications for Public Administration, with the aim of integrating technological innovation, organizational transformation, and multilevel governance of public policies. Until September 2025, he was Director General for Resources, Europe, Innovation, and Institutions of the Emilia-Romagna Region.

Catherine Hezser, SOAS, University of London

Catherine Hezser has been teaching at SOAS, University of London since 2005. After spending two years as a senior research fellow at Kings College Cambridge (1992–1994), she went to the Free University Berlin to teach and complete her Habilitation in Jewish Studies (Berlin, 1997). Afterwards she did research at the Hebrew University Jerusalem and was granted a Heisenberg Professorship by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. From 2000 to 2005 she was the

Al and Felice Lippert Professor of Jewish Studies at Trinity College Dublin and the Director of the Herzog Centre for Jewish and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures. She has distinguished herself as a major expert in the social history of Jews in Roman Palestine in late antiquity. She employs the methods and results of the social sciences and of (post-modern) literary criticism.

Renana Keydar, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Renana Keydar is a Professor of Law and Digital Humanities at the Hebrew University since July 2020. She heads the Alfred Landecker Digital Humanities initiative and is the founder and director of the teaching program in digital humanities at the Hebrew University. Keydar is the recipient of the prestigious Alon Fellowship for outstanding young researchers. Upon receiving her doctorate in Comparative Literature from Stanford University, Keydar was first selected as a post-doctoral research fellow in the Minerva Center for Human Rights and then as a research fellow in the Martin Buber Society of Fellows at the Hebrew University. Today Keydar is an affiliated faculty member at the Center for Interdisciplinary Data Science Research and at the Federmann Cyber Security Research Center and is a visiting researcher at the Poetic Media Lab at Stanford's Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis.

Nicola Lucchi, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Nicola Lucchi, PhD (Law, Padua) is a Serra Hünter Professor of Comparative Law at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Facultat de Dret, in Barcelona, Spain. Before his current appointment, Nicola served as Universitetslektor, Docent (tenured Associate Professor) at Jönköping University International Business School, Sweden. In this capacity, he was an affiliated researcher at the Media Management and Transformation Centre (MMTC), held the position of Director of Studies for the Law discipline, and contributed to the school's international efforts as the International Champion, focusing on enhancing the process of internationalization. At UPF, Nicola's current teaching focuses on Advanced Analysis of Global and Comparative Law, Introduction to Common Law, and Antitrust, Industrial, and Intellectual Property Law.

Francesco Mariano, Accademia di Belle Arti, Macerata

Francesco Mariano is a multimedia artist and lecturer with many years of experience in conservatories, academies of fine arts, and universities. He currently teaches Sound Design and Interaction Design at the G.B. Martini Conservatory in Bologna and at the Academies of Fine Arts in Macerata and Catania. His artistic research focuses on electroacoustic composition, interactive systems, and immersive environments that integrate audio, video, and data in real time. He holds specific expertise in the design and implementation of interactive multimedia installations, and in advanced audiovisual programming (Max/MSP/Jitter, TouchDesigner, Processing), computer vision, generative algorithms, and hardware/software integration for artistic and educational installations.

Alberto Melloni, FSCIRE – Fondazione per le scienze religiose

Alberto Melloni is Secretary of FSCIRE, Fondazione per le scienze religiose, a private research institute with a public aim, researching on the histories and doctrines of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Full Professor of History of Christianity at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Chair holder of the UNESCO Chair on Religious Pluralism and Peace at the University La Sapienza of Rome, he has been an Accademico dei Lincei since 2017. From 2020 to 2025, he has been one of the seven European Commission's Chief Scientific Advisors. He is Principal Investigator of the starting community ReIReS (Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies) and of RESILIENCE, headed by FSCIRE.

Sebastiano Moruzzi, University of Bologna

Sebastiano Moruzzi is Associate Professor in Philosophy and Theory of Languages at the Department of Philosophy and Communication Studies at the University of Bologna since 2019. He completed the PhD program in Philosophy of Language at the University of Eastern Piedmont in 2005 and joined the Department of Communication Studies in 2012 as lecturer. He teaches Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Artificial Intelligence, and Academic Writing.

Sabrina Moura De Araujo, Louvre Abu Dhabi

Sabrina Moura (PhD, Art History) is a Brazilian writer, researcher, and curator currently based in the UAE, where she heads the Research program at Louvre Abu Dhabi. Her research focuses on the networks of artistic exchange between Africa and Latin America, and the intersections between historical archives and contemporary artistic practices. Before relocating to Abu Dhabi, she was a fellow at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect. Her research and curatorial work have been funded by the Getty Foundation, ProHelvetia, the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), the Regional Council of Île-de-France, and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Pier Luigi Parcu, EUI – European University Institute

Pier Luigi Parcu is Director of the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, as well as Director of the Centre for a Digital Society, at the Robert Schuman Centre. From 2004 he is the Chairman of a consultancy company specialized in antitrust and regulatory issues. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). His research in the area of industrial organization and law and economics focuses on the interaction between regulation and antitrust in shaping firms' behavior. In the field of media, Professor Parcu's research focuses on the democratic and economic challenges associated to digital platforms, as part of his broader interest in innovation dynamics in the digital economy and in emerging technologies. He also works on the effects of ownership concentration and internal governance of the media enterprise on pluralism and freedom of expression.

Federico Ruozi, UNIMORE – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Federico Ruozi is Associate Professor of History of Christianity at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, where he teaches Visual History and Politics and Religion. He is fellow at the Fondazione per le scienze religiose (Bologna), and was Visiting Fellow at the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, Notre Dame University (IN) and at the Oxford Brookes University, with projects

on the relationship between Catholicism and television. His field of research is Modern History, Church History and Religion and Media Studies from an historical perspective. He was CEO of the innovative start-up MIM for the development of algorithms for the automatic recognition of non-Latin alphabets. He is currently doing research on gaze studies and the use of eye trackers in sanctuaries. He is also author of many video-exhibitions and documentaries for the Italian television.

Maria Cristina Russo, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

Maria Cristina Russo is Deputy Director-General for Innovation, Prosperity and International Cooperation at the European Commission. She was formerly Director for Global Approach & International Cooperation in R&I in DG Research and Innovation with responsibility for developing and implementing the EU international strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation and the international dimension of the Horizon Europe program. She has been working for the European Commission since 1992 where she held several policy and managerial positions related to external relations, the EU decision-making process and various EU policies, in particular research and innovation.

Fabrizio Sebastiani (fbc), CNR – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Fabrizio Sebastiani is Director of Research and leader of the Human Language Technologies group in the Networked Multimedia Information Access Laboratory at the Institute for the Science and Technologies of Information of the Italian National Council of Research. The research interests of the group include text classification, information extraction, quantification, sentiment classification, cross-lingual and cross-domain text classification, technology-assisted review, authorship analysis, and their applications. He served as Principal Scientist at Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Foundation, and his research interests lie at the crossroads of information retrieval, machine learning, and human language technology, with particular emphasis on text classification, opinion mining, and their applications.

Barak Sober, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Barak Sober is Senior Lecturer of Statistics and Data Science and Digital Humanities at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Before that he was Assistant Research Professor at the Department of Mathematics, Duke University and at the Rhodes Information Initiative. He completed his PhD in applied mathematics at Tel-Aviv University in 2018. He co-leads the formation of the Center for Digital Humanities at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research ranges from analysis of high dimensional data from a geometrical perspective to the application of mathematical modeling and statistical methods in the arts and humanities with the aim of performing empirical based scientific investigations in these fields.

Valeria Zotti, University of Bologna

Valeria Zotti teaches French Linguistics at the University of Bologna, where she has been a permanent researcher since 2006 and Associate Professor since 2020. She holds a PhD in French Studies (Universities of Bari and Cergy-Pontoise), a Master's in Lexicography, Terminology, and Corpus Processing (University of Lille), and various specializations in Translation. She conducted research at the Trésor de la Langue Française au Québec (Université Laval, Canada). Her work focuses on AI and gender bias in administrative language, translation corpora in the arts, musical terminology, digital humanities and cultural heritage, AI education in the humanities, and joint education on languages, literatures, and cultures in Quebec. She is Deputy Director of CeSLiC (Center of linguistic-Cultural Studies) and a member of the Alma Mater Research Institute for Human-Centered AI.

Concept Note

RESILIENCE is a European cross-disciplinary research infrastructure serving the study of religion in all academic fields. It connects research centers, data holders and services distributed all over Europe and beyond, and creates new instruments and services for its scientific community. Being established in 2018, it strongly experienced the shift towards the use of AI in accessing, processing and advancing knowledge in the many fields that cross or are crossed by religions, from archaeology to philosophy, from history to law, from psychology to theology.

While the general narrative imposes humanists to be mere users of a technology like AI, RESILIENCE assumes that the research questions of its users are so complex in terms of variables that they can be drivers of technological innovation. As a matter of fact, the diachronic and synchronic elements that compose the approach to the uncovering of knowledge of the community addressing religions have a level of complexity that can be a source for knowledge transfer to companies, industries, public and private authorities, but the same community still operates on a level where AI shapes epistemologies, methodologies, and research questions instead of lifting them to higher levels of complexity.

At the same time, in the process of developing research tools, workflows and outputs, the research community experiences the limits of the unknown: intellectual property limits, bias evaluation, information visualisation techniques, global trends, to mention a few, on which an open debate with world renowned experts can constitute a real paradigm shift.

On March 9-11, 2026, RESILIENCE and the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia host in the city of Reggio Emilia (Italy) the closed-doors, high-level seminar *Exploring the Frontier of Science with AI and the role of Humanities*, which will be organised around four topics:

1. **MACHINE LEARNING**, on topics such as Large Language Models, Artificial Intelligence and intellectual property, to look at the most advanced experiences in translations and editions.
2. **SUPERCOMPLEXITY**: to identify supercomplex research questions emerging from and calling for the field of religious studies.
3. **VISUALITY**: to gather experiences on data visualization which can open different venues on data interpretation and further research.
4. **DATA**: focusing on digital libraries, to collect experiences of gathering and accessing library and archival resources with portals serving a global user base.

The expected outcomes of the seminar are:

- a. Redefining the role of the humanities in the AI ecosystem: overcoming the narrative of the humanities as mere “users” of AI and clarifying how the epistemological complexity of religious studies can become a driver of technological innovation.
- b. Positioning **RESILIENCE** as a European laboratory for co-design between humanistic research and AI development.
- c. Conceptual advancement in epistemology, methodology, and research: identifying how AI is redefining research questions, methods, and criteria for validating knowledge and addressing the emergence of new theoretical frameworks facing highly complex diachronic and synchronic phenomena.
Building a high-level practice community: strengthening a stable network between scholars, research infrastructures, AI experts, lawyers, visual designers, and data managers, and launching strategic collaborations with potential spillover effects on policy, the cultural industry, and public institutions.
- d.



Sala del Capitano del Popolo
Hotel Posta
Piazza del Monte 2
42121 Reggio Emilia, Italia

