

IS1404 E-READ: Evolution of Reading in the Age of Digitization

Position paper

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WG: 3

1. **Potential research contribution** in light of, or linked to

A. WG interest and Scientific programme:

I'm working as a German literature scholar at the University of Verona, but in the last 4 years I've been working with a team of psycholinguists at the University of Trento (Giovanna Egidi, Francesco Vespignani) running experiments on the cognitive aspects of literary reading. Our main focus is on the concept of literariness (what is specific for literary reading on a textual and cognitive level) and on the cognitive answers to rhetorical figures. Therefore I'm perfectly trained to participate in an interdisciplinary project on reading. In addition I'm member of IGEL and I've organized several interdisciplinary conferences on literary empathy and neuroaesthetics.

I think that my expertise could be useful to develop common experimental procedures appropriate for an experimental study of literary reading comprehension and reading experience.

B. **Action objectives** (pages 7-10 in the MoU):

Recently (2011) Arthur Jacobs has proposed a neurocognitive model of literary reading, which goes well beyond the traditional psychological understanding of the literary phenomenon. Until now, literary critics have mainly focused on the defamiliarization effect of literary language and on the surprisingness elicited in the literary reader. But this is only the first stage of this effect because the unexpected element in a text is quickly integrated within the whole of the sentence whilst losing its status of anomaly. There is a constant alternation between backgrounded and foregrounded elements in literary texts. Miall and Kuiken (2001) have termed this process the "defamiliarization/reconceptualization cycle".

Together with Francesco Vespignani and Arthur Jacobs we are planning an experiment to investigate the difference of the impact on the reader of foregrounded and backgrounded textual elements in literary texts on paper and on the screen.

2. Interest in

A. organizing and/or participating in a **short-term scientific mission (STSM)**.

Optional: pursuing what research questions/projects; where to/with whom; linked to what objective(s) of the Action:

If there are no conflict of interest I would like to apply for a STSM to go to the Training School organized by Arthur Jacobs in Berlin.

B. organizing and/or participating in a **Training School** (please indicate what kind of training [theoretical; methodological; technical]).

Optional: linked to what objective(s) of the Action:

I'd like to take part in the Training School organized by Arthur Jacobs in Berlin.