

Sara Fontana is a Joint Phd candidate in performing arts at Verona (IT) and Gent (BE) Universities, conducting a research project on Dante's fortune in theatre and dance in the contemporary European panorama. She published some contributions in volumes and articles, while participating in conferences in Italy and abroad. For the *Margins* conference and volume, she strongly supported the interdisciplinary application of different backgrounds and fields of study to the U.N. Agenda and its 17 development goals, moderating the final round table on the 4<sup>th</sup> SDG, i.e. *quality education*.

Elena Mattei is Temporary Professor of Digital Humanities for English Studies at the University of Verona. As a functional linguist and empirical, social semiotician, she has published articles on interdisciplinary research for the statistical, multisemiotic investigation of promotional practices on digital media. She is about to defend her PhD dissertation and is currently working on the design of a multimodal Grammar of sustainability discourse to foster intergenerational multimodal literacy.

Paola Peratello is a fixed-term researcher in Germanic Philology at Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy) within the project CHANGES - Cultural Heritage Active Innovation for Sustainable Society (PNRR). She holds a PhD and a Doctor Europaeus title in Germanic and Digital Philology from University of Verona (Italy).

Fabio Ramasso holds a PhD in German literature and is a research fellow at the University of Turin with a project on myth in German literature. His studies are dedicated to Rilke, studying the components of the sacred and mystery.

Stefano Ambrosini is a Biotechnology PhD candidate at the Agricultural Chemistry Lab of University of Verona. He is interested in unravelling the molecular mechanisms of plant fertilizers, focusing on protein hydrolysates obtained from industrial and agricultural by-wastes. He is also the founder and current Coordinator of the Verona local chapter of ADI (Associazione Dottorandi e Dottori di ricerca in Italia).

In 2020, a group of doctoral students decided to submit an interdisciplinary proposal for the organisation of the first doctoral conference of the newly founded United Doctoral School of the University of Verona.

Despite the outbreak and long-term, socio-economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic – which put academic activities under a severe strain – the conference proposal was warmly welcomed and promoted by the School as an opportunity for dialogue that could transcend *disciplinary boundaries*, and as encouragement to continue the too often underappreciated but significant work of scientific research *at the margins* and *on the margins*.

It was from the concept of *margins* – seen as limit, as an opportunity, as a meeting place for contact and cross-fertilisation between definitions, traditional perspectives, societies, cultures – that the international conference *Margins and Forgotten Places* was developed.

Our main imperative since the conception of this work was the application of multifaceted expressions of research innovation to socially relevant challenges of the present age. For this purpose we brought the commitment to collective well-being to the forefront of every discipline's attention, and we allocated a full day to delve into the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda.

Together with outstanding keynote speakers, more than sixty speakers presented their contributions, which are still available online on our YouTube channel, and which are partially published in this volume.

In an increasingly alienating and highly specialised academic world, we, the Organising Committee, wish to advocate the choral value of scientific research and advise as many colleagues as possible to promote interdisciplinary initiatives that deepen the *little*, the *small* and the *useless*. Only by actively listening what is different, indeed, can we truly appreciate what we already know, thus using our positive attitude towards learning and researching knowledge *beyond* borders to imagine and shape a different future.



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STUDI E RICERCHE

## Margins and Forgotten Places



edited by

Sara Fontana, Elena Mattei, Paola Peratello,  
Fabio Ramasso, Stefano Ambrosini

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*In copertina:*

*Confine*, realizzata dall'artista veronese Luca Pinamonte (2015, Olio su tela, 100x80cm). Si ringrazia l'artista per aver permesso al Comitato organizzativo di utilizzare l'immagine come manifesto della Conferenza e copertina del presente volume.