

Teaching, Identity, and Language Policies and Planning through the lens of huawen jiaoyu / zhongwen xuexiao

Language socialization of Chinese children inside and outside Chinese Heritage Language Schools

**International conference
(Bergamo, January 2026, 15-17)**

Call for papers (extended deadline)

Building on the research undertaken by the members of the PRIN PNRR *ECCO-Italy (Education of Children of Chinese Origin in Italy)*, this conference seeks to provide a platform of exchange and discussion for scholars engaged in the study of issues related to international education of Chinese language and culture, in particular to Chinese as heritage language, and to Chinese migration in Europe. The ECCO-Italy group, through its constituent research units (University of Bergamo, University of Bologna, University of Florence, and the University for Foreigners of Siena), has investigated—and intends to further investigate in the immediate future—questions concerning *huawen jiaoyu* 华文教育 or *zhongwen xuexiao* 中文学校, here defined as heritage language schools (HLS), along three principal interconnected axes:

1. **The methodologies and practices of teaching Chinese as a heritage language** in Italy and Europe, as well as the theoretical thought and the applied methodologies developed in the PRC and in European bilingual schools. We particularly welcome contributions that explore the pedagogical approaches, including digital learning and online teaching, translanguaging practices, multilingual classroom strategies, and the role of teachers' agency and creativity in shaping the learning experience.
2. The broad and multifaceted phenomena (e.g. discursive construction, textual production, social practices) associated with **identity formation and negotiation** among individuals connected to Sinophone communities in Italy and Europe. Topics may include heritage learners' socialization, family language policies, diasporic youth as intercultural mediators, and the role of cultural practices and narratives in negotiating belonging and difference.
3. **Linguistic policies, landscape, and planning** (LPLP): the policies adopted by HLS, the discursive construction of Chinese as a heritage language (e.g. the processes of "heritagization" of Chinese in Europe), the linguistic landscape and the socio-territorial complexities generated by the establishment of the HLS in a multiscale perspective: at the microlevel (the schools and their spatial contexts), at mesolevel (provinces, regions and other areas) and at macrolevel (national or international institutions devoted to the development and/or the management of heritage languages) with all their interconnections between China and other diasporic contexts in Europe and in the world.

Additional areas of inquiry—intersecting these three thematic axes (Teaching, Identity, and Politics) —may include, but are not limited to, the impact of HLS on mainstream education

systems, the circulation of texts, and cultural practices between China and Italy as well as the migration trajectories undertaken by the stakeholders involved in the maintenance of the HLS.

This Call for Papers invites scholars to submit proposals that address, though not exclusively, the abovementioned themes within the framework of the three main axes outlined, which will constitute the core strands of the conference. The abstract should clearly indicate the theoretical framework, research questions, methodology, main findings and conclusions, as well as the bibliographical references cited. In addition, please specify which of the thematic axes (Teaching, Identity, Politics) you consider your contribution to fall under.

Keynote speakers

Simeng Wang
Li Wei
Chen Yong

Submission guidelines

- Anonymous abstract (maximum 500 words, excluding references), plus a short bio.
- Abstracts may be submitted in English, Italian or Chinese.
- File format: Word or PDF.

Please send your submission to: **martina.caschera@unibg.it** and **andrea.delbono@unibg.it**

- **Extended deadline for abstract submission:** November 9th
- Notification of acceptance: November 29th

Scientific Committee

Federica Burini, Martina Caschera, Andrea Del Bono, Alessandra Ghisalberti, Marta Pantalone (UniBg); Valentina Pedone, Giuseppe Rizzuto (UniFi); Tommaso Pellin, Yedi Yu (UniBo); Andrea Scibetta, Davide Francolino (UniSTRASI)

Organising Committee (UniBg)

Martina Caschera, Andrea Del Bono, Federica Burini, Maria Gottardo, Marta Pantalone, Asia Drago, Martina Gritti, Beatrice Vidale.

"ECCO-Italy: Education of Children of Chinese Origin in Italy", Codice Progetto P2022E72WS_004, CUP J53D23016370001, finanziato nell'ambito del Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza PNRR - Missione 4 - Componente 2 - Investimento 1.1 "Fondo per il Programma Nazionale di Ricerca e Progetti di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale (PRIN)" (Bando indetto con D.D. del MUR n. 1409 del 14/09/2022).

For additional information please contact Martina Caschera and Andrea Del Bono at martina.caschera@unibg.it and andrea.delbono@unibg.it

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