

## Free Workshop for Teachers of Italian 19 October 2022

*Beyond the monolingual paradigm: translanguaging and multilingualism  
in the Italian language classroom*

**Francesco Ricatti Australian National University**

The teaching of modern languages has been traditionally based on a monolingual paradigm: one country (Italy), one language (standard Italian), one monolingual (English) class. Yet Italy and Australia are multilingual countries, both historically and due to contemporary mass migration and globalisation. This means we are in fact multilingual teachers who teach about a multilingual culture to a multilingual class (and to multilingual students). While we are often told about the importance of using authentic language in the classroom, multilingualism and translanguaging are usually ignored or dismissed as irrelevant or detrimental to language acquisition. In this workshop I will briefly argue that they should instead be considered essential. I will then suggest some practical strategies for leveraging the full linguistic repertoires and complex identities of our students. And I will suggest ways in which we can use translanguaging and multilingual texts, especially those produced by young people, to gradually move beyond purely normative and monolingual approaches.



Source: <https://www.redbubble.com/people/manuman123/works/31467716-heart-love-ti-lovvo>

**Dr Francesco Ricatti** is Associate Professor and Convenor of Italian at the Australian National University. Before joining ANU, he was the coordinator of European Languages at Monash University. In 2020 he and Barbara Pezzotti received the Faculty of Arts Award for Programs that Enhance Learning, for their transformation of the Italian Language Program at Monash. Francesco is a leading expert on the history of Italian migration to Australia, and has researched extensively on informal processes of transculturation through art, sport and design. With the support of the National Geographic and the Scanlon Foundation, he has developed leadership workshops for high school students in multicultural cities.

**Italian Teachers and educationalists are especially welcomed**

**Yarralumla Primary School, 5:00PM, Wednesday 19 October**

*The workshop is a collaborative event of the Dante Alighieri Society, the ACT Italian Teachers' Network and the Italian Program at the Australian National University.*