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Principal Investigator (60 months) of the Project BIFLOW: Bilingualism in Florentine and Tuscan Works (ca. 1260 - ca. 1416), H2020 Erc Starting Grant n. 637533

The BIFLOW project will undertake the first systematic investigation of the various literary documents that circulated simultaneously in more than one language in Tuscany, and especially Florence, between the mid-13th Century and the beginning of 15th Century. During that period, Florence was both a prominent literary center in the vernacular, and home to a renewal of classical Latin eloquence. While both fields are well studied, their interaction remains largely unexplored. This research, at the convergence of several disciplines (literature, philology, linguistics and medieval history), has a strong pioneering character. It aims at changing the perception of medieval Italian culture and interpretation of the break between medieval Culture and Humanism.

For this reason, the project will develop research in varying degrees of depth. First, it will provide the first catalogue of bilingual texts and manuscripts of medieval Tuscany. Organized as a database, this tool of analysis will stir innovative research in this field, some of which will be immediately promoted during the project. Secondly, some case studies, considered as important and methodologically exemplary, will be researched in detail, through the publication of important set of texts, of secular and religious nature. Finally, the entire team, led by the PI, will be involved in the preparation of a synthesis volume on Tuscan culture in the fourteenth century viewed through bilingualism, entitled Cartography of bilingual culture in Fourteenth-Century Tuscany. From this general map of the Italian culture of the time, no literary genre nor field (be it religious or lay) shall be excluded.

BIFLOW project is very interdisciplinary by its very nature for different reasons. In addition to linguistic skills required, the corpus embraces both literary texts and texts of practical or pertaining to pragmatics and an abundant manuscript tradition hitherto never studied. In fact, the texts will be analyzed in parallel with their manuscript tradition, which will be submitted to a consistent enquiry throughout an archaeological methodology (Codex in Context) in order to exploit their very high hermeneutical potential. Consequently, the main objectives which as PI I am due to attain pertains to different disciplinary traditions (Linguistics, Paleography, Philology, Medieval History), because, in order to draw a new and innovative map of the Medieval Tuscan culture, BIFLOW project is intended as a full study which focuses on the production, the dissemination and the reception of bilingual texts in their context.