



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

The Italian Studies Research Seminar Series

presents



**Gian Marco Farese,
Australian National
University**

Hi vs Ciao: Analysing the Semantics of Greetings in Cross-linguistic Perspective

When

Thursday 27
October
1:15-2:30pm

Where

Education Seminar
Room 433,
Education Building

More information

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To find out more, visit
[sydney.edu.au/arts/
italian](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/italian)

In this talk I will present a contrastive analysis of the meaning of two greetings, Hi in English and Ciao in Italian adopting the methodology of the Natural Semantic Metalanguage. The analysis is aimed at making three points: (i) greetings are used differently across languages and this can lead to cases of miscommunication in cross-cultural interactions; (ii) greetings have a proper semantic content consisting of a particular professed way of thinking about the addressee and expressed feelings which I call *interactional meaning* following Wierzbicka (1992); (iii) the interactional meaning of greetings can be determined using a suitable methodology which permits to identify and capture the semantic differences between greetings clearly. I will start discussing the need for a semantic analysis of greetings and then I will introduce the methodology of the Natural Semantic Metalanguage. After presenting the general characteristics of NSM, I will show how this approach can be effectively used for a contrastive analysis of greetings. I will present two NSM semantic explications which capture the different interactional meanings of Hi and Ciao showing how their semantic differences are reflected in their differences in use.

Gian Marco Farese has completed a doctorate in Linguistics at the Australian National University. In his research, he has adopted the Natural Semantic Metalanguage approach to analyse forms of address in English and in Italian. His research interests include cultural semantics, cultural linguistics, cross-cultural communication and also Japanese language and linguistics. Gian Marco received a BA in Cultural and Linguistic Mediation from the University of Naples L'Orientale (2011) and a Master in English Linguistics from University College London (2013). During his years in Canberra, he has taught Italian at various levels and has worked as an interpreter for the Italian Embassy. His publications span across a variety of topics, including English and Italian forms of address (2015), Japanese cultural keywords (2016) and the semantics of Italian musical terms (2016).