

## *Costellazioni*

### Call for Papers

**Title:**

*From Teaching to Theory, from Theory to Teaching: experiences, analyses, proposals for a research on English poetry*

**Editors:**

Richard Ambrosini (University of Roma Tre), Fausto Ciompi (University of Pisa).

**Description:**

In 2018, a handbook of literary theory titled *Literature* appeared, in which four non-Italian novels were analysed, three of which in English, to illustrate the theories, methods and tools (notions contained in the volume's subtitle) proper to literary criticism and literary theory. However, there was no mention of poetry. Nothing surprising here, since the cultural and editorial choices of that handbook reflect those of the literature professors at our universities, who, in their courses, including those on British, American and Postcolonial Literatures, focus mainly on narrative texts. And yet in Italy many English- and American-literature scholars publish every year studies of the highest quality on poetry, edit volumes that enrich a tradition of excellence in Italian publishing, and add to their theoretical toolboxes instruments whose validity transcends the immediate object of their research. The comparative dimension arising from teaching English poetry to young readers who only know Italian poetry creates frequent occasions to reflect on poetry as such. What is lacking, instead, is a connection between this critical work and teaching practices, which do not enjoy equal visibility, nor are given adequate theoretical reflection. The journal *Costellazioni* intends to open a space for discussion on the little-explored connection between criticism, theory, and the teaching of English and American poetry. Bearing in mind Walter Benjamin's admonition, «What we should consider of the utmost importance is not the ability to renew our teaching through research but our research through teaching», the editors of this issue invite scholars to share with the wider community their research, their teaching techniques, the kind of feedback they get from students. Our hope is that as a result we can start a project that will involve as many colleagues as possible.

The initial moment of this project dates to the discovery of a number of critical and theoretical studies. We have found particularly inspiring two works published in the United States in 2015: Jonathan Culler's *Theory of the Lyric*, and Derek Attridge and Henry Staten's *The Craft of Poetry: Dialogues on Minimal Interpretation*. Culler, in particular, makes his own what poet, theorist and Computer Science lecturer Amittai F. Aviram wrote in 1994: «the test of a theory of poetry should be at once the vision it gives us of poetry and its pedagogical efficacy».

**Topics covered by contributions:**

The editors encourage submissions especially, but not exclusively, on the following topics:

- Techniques and strategies in the teaching of English and American poetry: pedagogical efficacy, linguistic and hermeneutic issues.
- The teaching of form: style, figures, metrics.
- Poetry and translation in a theoretical and didactic perspective.
- Studying and teaching poetry in English in a comparative dimension. An added value?
- Teaching poetry and cultural specifics: gender, race, identity.

- The theory of literature in verse and the theory of didactics: convergences and dissonances.
- Poetry and trauma: the teaching of poetry as therapy and remedial strategy.
- Poetry as history of poetry: the theory of interpretation and the teaching of poetry in a diachronic perspective.
- Uses and abuses of teaching manuals: textbooks, handbooks, anthologies

**Length of contributions and submission terms:**

Abstracts must be submitted to [richard.ambrosini@uniroma3.it](mailto:richard.ambrosini@uniroma3.it) and [fausto.ciompi@unipi.it](mailto:fausto.ciompi@unipi.it) by 30 April, 2024. All authors will be notified whether their papers were accepted by 15 May, 2024.

Essays, written in any language, must not exceed 40,000 characters including title, abstract in English, list of keywords, notes and bibliography, nor must they be less than 25,000 characters including spaces.

Contributions, drafted according to the editorial rules set out in the following link (<https://www.rivistacostellazioni.org/norme-redazionali>), should be submitted in word format to [richard.ambrosini@uniroma3.it](mailto:richard.ambrosini@uniroma3.it) and [fausto.ciompi@unipi.it](mailto:fausto.ciompi@unipi.it) by 15 February, 2026.

All articles will be subjected to “double blind” review.

Issue 32 of *Costellazioni* will be out on 1 February, 2027.