

# **Prof. Nicholas Brownlees (University of Florence, Italy)**

Email: [nicholas.brownlees@unifi.it](mailto:nicholas.brownlees@unifi.it)

## **1. Recent academic positions**

2016 to today: Full Professor of English Language and Translation, University of Florence, Italy.

2019–2021: Deputy Head of the Department of Education, Languages, Intercultures, Literatures, and Psychology (FORLILPSI), University of Florence.

2016–2018: Head of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Intercultural Studies (LILSI), University of Florence.,

2016–2018: Member of the Academic Senate of the University of Florence.

2016–2018: Member of the Teaching Steering Committee of the University of Florence.

2014–2015: President of the Degree Course in Humanistic Sciences for Communication, University of Florence.

## **2. Research and publications**

### **Participation in recent research projects and committees**

From 2017 until 2020: Scientific Coordinator for the University of Florence research group for the Italian inter-university research project “Knowledge Dissemination across Media in English: Continuity, Change in Discourse Strategies, Ideologies and epistemologies”. The project was financed by the Italian Ministry for University and Research.

2011– present: Representative of the University of Florence on the Executive Board of the Inter-university Research Centre “Corpus and Language Variation in English Research - CLAVIER”. <https://clavier.fileli.unipi.it/>

2010-2012: Scientific Coordinator for the University of Florence research group for the Italian inter-university research project “Perception of space in private and public communication: diachronic and synchronic perspectives”. The project was financed by the Italian Ministry for University and Research.

### **Compiler of electronic corpus**

Co-compiler of the Florence Early English Newspapers (FEEN) corpus. Consisting of 256,000 words, the collection of machine-readable print news texts is divided into sub-corpora including the first corantos of 1620-1621, the serialised corantos between 1622-1641, five well-known newsbooks

spanning 1642–49, and the adversarial Civil War newsbooks *Mercurius Aulicus* and *Mercurius Britannicus* in 1643–44. The corpus can be accessed at <http://cqpweb.lancs.ac.uk>.

The FEEN corpus has been used as a reference corpus by numerous researchers and has been cited in various studies on the history of the English language including: A. Bergs and L. Brinton (2012) “English and the media: Newspapers”, in *English Historical Linguistics*, edited by Alexander Bergs, vol. 1, page 1064, Berlin: de Gruyter; Carol Percy (2012) “Early advertising and newspapers as sources of sociolinguistic investigation”, in *The Handbook of Historical Sociolinguistics*, edited by J.M. Hernández-Campoy and J. C. Conde-Silvestre, pages 191-210, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

### **Some forthcoming and recent publications**

(Forthcoming): *The Edinburgh History of the British and Irish Press, Volume 1: Beginnings and Consolidation 1640-1800*, Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press (Editor and contributor, <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-the-edinburgh-history-of-the-british-and-irish-press-volume-1.html>)

(Forthcoming): Co-author with Birte Bös, “The Language of Newspapers” in Merja Kytö and Erik Smitterberg (eds.), *New Cambridge History of the English Language, Volume II: Documentation, sources of data and modelling*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

2021 (editor): *The Role of Context in the Production and Reception of Historical News Discourse*, Bern, Peter Lang.

(2021): “Just Published”: Advertising Books of Instruction, Misfortune, South Sea Affairs, and Entertainment in *The Post Boy* (1721). *English Studies*, 102-7, 901-917.

(2020): “Reporting David Livingstone's travels to a popular readership”, in Nicholas Brownlees (ed). *The language of discovery, exploration and discovery*, pp. 85-97, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars publishing.

(2019): “A Reporte of the Kingdom of Congo: Framing and translating African travel writing for an early modern readership”, *Status Quaestionis*, 17, 24-49.

(2019): “‘A true and faithfull relation [...] translated out of Dutch’: the role and translation of Dutch news in early seventeenth-century England”, *Intralinea on line translation journal*, vol. Special Issue: *Transit and Translation in Early Modern Europe*, [http://www.intralinea.org/specials/article/a\\_true\\_and\\_faithfull\\_relation\\_translated\\_out\\_of\\_dutch](http://www.intralinea.org/specials/article/a_true_and_faithfull_relation_translated_out_of_dutch)

(2018): “The Gazette de Londres: Disseminating news and exercising news management through translation”. *TOKEN: A Journal of English Linguistics*, 7/2018, p. 13-33.

(2017): “He tells us that”: Strategies of reporting adversarial news in the English Civil War, *Journal of Historical Pragmatics*, 18, 216-232.

(2017): “Contemporary observations on the attention value and selling power of English print advertisements (1700-1760)” In: Minna Palander-Collin Maura Ratia Irma Taavitsainen (eds.), *Diachronic Developments in English News Discourse*. p. 61-79, Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

- (2016). 'Newes also came by Letters': Functions and Features of Epistolary News in English News Publications of the Seventeenth Century. In: Joad Raymond; Noah Moxham (eds.). *News Networks in Early Modern Europe*, pp. 394-419, Leida: Brill.
- (2016). A Medici Agent's Newsletters to Florence during the Leghorn Crisis of 1653. In: A. Assonitis, B. Sandberg (eds.). *The Grand Ducal Medici and their Archive (1537-1743)*, pp. 203-211, Turnhout: Brepols.
- (2016). Reporting the United States of America in the Liverpool Mercury (1812). In M. Dossena, S. Rosso (eds.). *Knowledge Dissemination in the Long Nineteenth Century: European and Transatlantic Perspectives*, pp. 137-154. Cambridge Scholars Publishing: Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- (2015). "We have in some former books told you": The significance of metatext in 17th-century English news. In B. Bös, L. Kornexl (eds.). *Changing Genre Conventions in Historical English News Discourse*, pp. 3-22. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- (2015 [2012]). The beginnings of periodical news (1620-1665). In: R. Facchinetti, N. Brownlees, B. Bös, Udo Fries. *News as Changing Texts: Corpora, Methodologies and Analysis*, pp. 5-47, Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- (2014 [2011]). *The Language of Periodical News in Seventeenth-Century England*. 2nd edition. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- (2014). The Constraints and Exploitation of Textual Space in the Seventeenth-Century Periodical Press. In: J. Bamford, F. Poppi, D. Mazzi (eds.). *Space, Place and the Discursive Construction of Identity*, pp. 135-156, Bern: Peter Lang.
- (2012). Reporting the news in English and Italian diplomatic correspondence. In: M. Dossena, G. Del Lungo Camiciotti (eds.). *Letter Writing in Late Modern Europe*, pp. 121-138, Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- (2010). Narrating contemporaneity: Text and structure in English News. In: B. Dooley (ed.). *The dissemination of news and the emergence of contemporaneity in early modern Europe*, pp. 225-251, Farnham: Ashgate.
- (2010). Capt. Badiley's Answer unto Capt. Appleton's Remonstrance (1653): the recontextualisation in print of private correspondence. In: N. Brownlees, G. Del Lungo, J. Denton (eds.). *The Language of Public and Private Communication in a Historical Perspective*, pp. 191-212, Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- (2009). Welsh English in English Civil War pamphlets. In: M. Dossena, R. Lass (ed.). *Studies in English and European Historical Dialectology*, pp. 209-232, Bern: Peter Lang.
- (2009). Always in te Orbe of honest Mirth, and next to Truth': Proto-infotainment in the Welch Mercury. In: A. H. Jucker (ed.). *Early Modern English News Discourse: Newspapers, Pamphlets and Scientific News Discourse*, pp. 57-63, Amsterdam: John Benjamins
- (2006). Polemic and propaganda in Civil War news discourse. In: N. Brownlees (ed.). *News Discourse in Early Modern Britain*, pp. 17-40, Bern: Peter Lang.

(2006). Gerrard Winstanley and radical political discourse in Cromwellian England. In: M. Dossena, I. Taavitsainen (ed.). *Diachronic Perspectives on Domain-specific English*, pp. 19-41, Berna: Peter Lang.

### **Postdoctoral Programme Coordinator**

Scientific coordinator for the post doc position (December 2017-November 2018) financed by the Italian University and Research Ministry for the 2015 project "Knowledge Dissemination across Media in English: Continuity, Change in Discourse Strategies, Ideologies and epistemologies".

The post-doc research project was entitled "Linguistic analysis (with corpus linguistics methodologies) of the transmission and diffusion of specialised knowledge in a diachronic perspective".

## **3. Participation in conferences**

### **Chair and Co-organizer of recent international conferences and seminars**

(a)

Founder and Board Member of the series of conferences on Historical News Discourse (CHINED). The CHINED conferences have been held in Florence (2004), Zurich (2007), Rostock (2012), Helsinki (2014), Porto (Universidade Fernando Pessoa, 2015), Sheffield (2017), Barcelona (2019), Augsburg (2022). The aim of CHINED conferences is to promote the communication and discussion of research into the discourse of historical news texts written in the English language. In this primary objective the focus is on linguistic analysis of specific text genres traditionally associated with the domain of news, such as ballads, pamphlets, newspapers, magazines, correspondence, histories, annals, etc. The conferences have provided material for five important volumes on historical news: N. Brownlee (ed.), *News Discourse in Early Modern Britain* (Peter Lang, 2006); A. Jucker (ed.) *Early Modern English News Discourse* (John Benjamins, 2009); B. Bös and L. Kornexl (eds.), *Changing Genre Conventions in Historical English News Discourse*, (John Benjamins, 2015); M. Palander-Collin, M. Ratia, I. Taavitsainen (eds.), *Diachronic Developments in English News Discourse* (John Benjamins, 2017), N. Brownlee (ed.) *The Role of Context in the Production and Reception of Historical News Discourse* (Peter Lang, 2022).

(b)

2022: Co-organiser, 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Late Modern English, University of Catania – Ragusa, 5-7 May 2022.

2020: Chair and Co-organiser of the international "Anglo-Italian History, 1500-1700: Translating News, Politics and Commerce".

2018: Chair and Co-organiser of the international conference "The Language of Discovery, Exploration and Settlement", 15-16 February (University of Florence). The event was in part funded by the Italian

national research grant (PRIN) for the project “Knowledge Dissemination across Media in English: Continuity and change in discourse strategies, ideologies, and epistemologies”.

2015: Chair and Co-organiser of the international symposium on "News, Pamphlets and Print in Early Modern Europe", University of Florence.

2013: Chair and Co-organiser of the international seminar on “Corpus linguistics and Historical Corpora”, University of Florence.

2009: Co-organiser of the international conference on “The language of private and public communication in a historical perspective” (SLIN14), University of Florence.

### **Some papers given at conferences in last 15 years (2007–2022)**

2022: “Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of British Serialised News: News Analysis for Old Stories with Present-Day Resonance” (Invited sub-plenary speaker at ESSE2022, the European Society for the Study of English, Mainz).

2022: “Elizabeth Powell Challenges the World of Male London News (1716-1720)” (LModE-7, 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Late Modern English, University of Catania (Ragusa)).

2020: ““Translated from Italian” and “tradotto in italiano”: How diplomats and naval commanders use and abuse translation during the Livorno crisis of 1652-1653”, at the international conference ‘Anglo-Italian history, 1500-1700: Translating news, politics and commerce’, University of Florence, Italy.

2019: “ ‘and if we have Respect to the Context, (as we ought to have)’ : Context and its Role in Historical News Production and Reception, CHINED VII (Conference on Historical News Discourse VII), University of Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona.

2017: “The Gazette de Londres (1666-1705): Disseminating news and winning political consensus through translation and manipulation” at the international conference 'Found In Translation: Translation as Cultural Dissemination from the Middle Ages to the New Millennium', University of Bergamo.

2017: “Reporting and Selling Foreign News in England in 1623”, Workshop “Year of the News”, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

2017: “Tracking down the popularisation of exploration”, CHINED VI (Conference on Historical News Discourse VI, University of Sheffield).

2016: “Exploring the Congo through Translation: Nineteenth-century Reappraisal and Translation into English of Filippo Pigafetta’s Relazione del reame di Congo (1591)” (University of Catania (Ragusa)).

2016: “The concept of periodicity in English pamphlet news”, VIII Convegno SIERS: “L’invenzione de Papers presented at recent conferences (2006-2015):

2015: Translation as label and practice in early modern English news; 17th Italian International Conference on History of the English Language (SLIN 17), Ragusa, Italy.

2015: “Translated out of the Dutch coppies verbatim”: Translation Strategies in Seventeenth-Century

English Print News; 5th International Conference on Historical News Discourse (CHINED V), Porto.

2014: “Advertisement Extraordinary”: features and functions of parody advertising in the eighteenth-century British press; 4th International Conference on Historical News Discourse (CHINED IV), Helsinki.

2014: ‘ “The London papers say”’: strategies of reporting adversarial news in the English Civil War’; 1st Poznań Historical Sociopragmatics Symposium (PHSS 2014), Poznań.

2013: ‘ “Of Childrens Diseases: given in a familiar stile for weaker capacities”’: knowledge dissemination and advertising discourse in the English press (1640-1740); International conference on “Discourse in and through the Media”, Modena, Italy.

2013: ‘Newes also came by letters’: a corpus-based analysis of the features and functions of letters in the transmission of news in 17th century England; International Conference on News and the Shape of Europe 1500-1750, London.

2013: “in the Style and Phrase of the like ingenious Compositions ... at the end of our News-Papers”: humour and eighteenth-century newspaper advertising; 5th International Conference on Late Modern English, Bergamo, Italy.

2012: Corpora and historical pragmatics: a corpus based research into aspects of historical pragmatics in early modern news; International Seminar on Corpus linguistics and Historical Corpora, Florence.

2012: "We have in some former bookes told you": the significance of metatext in early modern news’, Third International Conference on Historical News Discourse (CHINED III), Rostock, Germany.

2012: "The Constraints and Exploitation of Textual Space in the Seventeenth-Century Periodical Press", International Conference on The Role of Space and Place in the Discursive Construction of Identity, Naples.

2011: ‘Identity and authorial presence in early English print news’; Seminar on Perception of Space in Private and Public Communication: Diachronic and Synchronic perspectives, University of Roma La Sapienza.

2009. ‘Selling news in the seventeenth century: The changing fortunes of news, intelligence, and advice in the first years of the periodical press’; Conference on Corpus Linguistics and Language Variation, University of Modena and Emilia Romagna 5-7 November 2009

2007. "Censorship, Self-censorship and Selective Reporting in English Corantos 1620-1640"; International Conference on Places of News: the Creation of International News Networks In Early Modern Times', Jacobs University, Bremen, Germany.

2007. "'always in te Orbe of honest Mirth, and next to Truth": Parody and Factuality in the Welch Mercury; Conference on Historical News Discourse (CHINED 2), University of Zurich.

### **Invited Guest Speaker**

Apart from Italy, he has been invited to give lectures at other universities including Adam Mickiewicz (Poznan, Poland), Minho (Braga, Portugal), Kansai (Osaka, Japan), Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain),

Rostock (Germany), Yonsei (Seoul, South Korea) and Zurich (Switzerland). In 2022 he was an invited sub-plenary speaker at The European Society for the Study of English (ESSE22, Mainz).

#### **4. Referee**

2016: Referee for the Italian Ministry of Education's "Evaluation of Research Quality" (*Valutazione della qualità della ricerca* (VQR) 2011-2014).

2014: Nominated 'Expert Referee' by the European Research Council (ERC) in the sector "Study of the Human Past".

2012: Referee for the Italian Ministry of Education's "Evaluation of Research Quality" (*Valutazione della qualità della ricerca* (VQR) 2004-2010).

On invitation he has reviewed numerous proposals for journals and publishing houses.

#### **5. Membership**

Founder and Board Member of CHINED (Conference on Historical News Discourse)

AIA (*Associazione Italiana di Anglistica*)

European Society for the Study of English (ESSE)

*Storia della Lingua* (SLIN – History of the English Language)

#### **6. Previous university positions**

2001-2015: Associate Professor of English Language and Translation, University of Florence.

1990-2001: Tenured lecturer of English Language and Translation, University of Florence.

1988-1990: Language assistant ('*Lettore*') of English language, University of Pisa.

1978-1988: Language assistant ('*Lettore*') of English language, University of Florence.

#### **7. University education and degrees**

BA in Jurisprudence (University of Oxford, 1974)

MA in Jurisprudence (University of Oxford, 1980)

Degree in Jurisprudence (*Diploma di laurea in giurisprudenza*) (Università of Pisa, 1990)