



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

ID

VP50\_DIP\_STUDIUM

## Visiting Professor Program Academic year 2019/2020

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES**

**TEACHING COMMITMENT: 36 hours**

### COURSE TITLE

ADVANCES IN SWAHILI SYNTAX AND DIALECTOLOGY

### TEACHING PERIOD

2nd term

### SCIENTIFIC AREA

AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

### LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

FRENCH or ENGLISH + SWAHILI

### COURSE SUMMARY

A first part of the course (18 teaching hours) will explore and teach the use of one of the most typical features of Bantu languages, i.e., the verbal extensions, and in particular their morphology, semantics, and combinations. The following Swahili verbal extensions will be investigated: reciprocal; applicative); reversive; passive; stative; causative); -AM- (static; contactive, and inceptive.

A second part of the course (18 teaching hours) will cover the insular Swahili varieties of Tanzania: first of all, Kiunguja (the variety of the main island of the Zanzibar archipelago, Unguja), and then the dialects of the surrounding islands of Makunduchi (Kikae), and Tumbatu (Kitumbatu), as well as, geographically more far off, the Kipemba variety (the dialect of Pemba island). Kiunguja in particular has been one of the varieties in which Classical Swahili literature was written, and its knowledge is a prerequisite for any serious investigation of the genesis of the Swahili language and the history of the Swahili literature. This part of the course will also make use of texts from the oral tradition.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course the students will have a thorough knowledge of Swahili verbal morphology and syntax.

They will also know about different Swahili varieties, both modern and past, and will have accessed material in the classical Swahili poetry as well as from oral sources.

The attendants will further know how to analyze and translate linguistic material from different oral traditions.

They will have further learned to discuss topics in African languages and linguistics in an international language.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE**

One or more conferences on Swahili linguistics, addressed to students and colleagues in African, Arab and Islamic studies, and in anthropology.

## **VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE**

The ideal candidate will have:

- a. a native or native-like knowledge of Swahili, both written and oral;
- b. a long and documented experience in teaching Swahili either to first-language speakers or as a foreign language;
- c. sound bases in Bantu linguistics with a focus on Swahili, and a good experience in teaching Swahili linguistics;
- d. long fieldwork experience in Swahili dialect studies and in data collection, if possible with particular reference to the dialects and oral literature of the islands of the Zanzibar archipelago and Pemba;
- e. an international standing in Swahili language and literature, proven by a a sizable number of international scientific publications.

## **CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT**

Graziella Acquaviva

graziella.acquaviva@unito.it