

Ut sacra faciamus. Inferences and Interferences of the Sacred in Linguistics, Philosophy, Literature, and the Arts

The idea of sacrality has often and almost universally conditioned and contributed to informing speculative thought, and it has involved art, language, and philosophy. The semantics of the sacred and of sacrifice has gone beyond the religious context and has affected literary expression. An instance of this is the use Shakespeare inspires Hamlet to make of terms related to missalic rituals when dealing with the body of his mother Gertrude, a kind of altar ‘profaned’ by Claudius. On the other hand, in the philosophical context, especially at a theoretical and speculative level, political language has often appropriated religious language in defining the notions of “leader”, of “a nation’s mystic body”, of the party as an idealistic and idealized unity with “church-like” features. As concerns linguistic studies, sacrality has played a prominent role in Antonino Pagliaro’s development of his “semantic criticism”. Pagliaro’s works, in fact, underline the ‘originary’ value of sacrality and its many forms of semantics in relation to poetry and ritual as well as missalic formularity.

Volume IV (2020) of “*Lumina. Rivista di Linguistica storica e di Letteratura comparata*” will consider proposals of papers handling the following themes of study, or themes that pertain to the abovementioned general theme:

- the ‘sacred’ as a founding principle of poetry, and its evolutions in the context of *World Literature*, between Antiquity and the Contemporary Age;
- sacrality and religion as literary themes and their evolutions, distortions, and re-interpretations;
- the religious language in the literary, artistic, political, philosophical-speculative context;
- the semantics of religious language in classical authors of historical linguistics (e.g., Saussure, Pagliaro, Benveniste).

Each proposal will be sent to the editorial staff by April 30, 2020 as a brief abstract (max 250 words), along with the author’s full name, a very short bio-bibliographic note, as well as an indication of the language in which they would want to write the paper, using the following address: rivistalumina@gmail.com.

The authors whose proposals are accepted by the Directors of the journal will be notified by May 6, 2020; the paper will peremptorily be turned in by August 31, 2020. The authors will be sent a preemptively-set template in which to write the paper, along with the related editorial standards. Use of the template and of the editorial standards is mandatory. The Directors reserve the right to reject any contributions that do not comply with the standards. All papers will undergo the peer review procedure; then, should the assessment be positive, they might be sent back to the authors for the needed changes. At any rate, the ultimate decision whether to publish a paper or not rests with the Directors alone.