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Her main area of research concerns comparative analysis of legal texts and legal translation within the EU context (cfr e.g. the edited volume on *Lingua e diritto*, 2010). Her second area of research concerns historical semantics and pragmatics, with focus on the evolution of conditionals,

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From boosting to hedging: on Italian veramente

The Italian adverb *veramente* displays since Old Italian a variety of uses, both with reduced scope at the phrase level and with higher scope at the sentence level. When it displays wider scope, *veramente* can occur as enhancer of the illocutionary force. From the XVII century onwards, it develops a new use as a marker of ‘mitigated rebuttal’, as in:

A.: *dican tutti fa schifo // a me / mi sembra buonissima //*

B.: *no // veramente / ’un sa di niente //* [C-ORAL ROM]

A.: ‘everybody says it is awful // to me / it seems delicious //

B.: *no // to be honest / it does not taste like much //*

In this talk we try to identify (i) the contexts that may have favoured the shift; (ii) the underlying cognitive mechanism; (iii) the role of the turn-taking left peripheral position in the change.