Changing voices: diachronic perspectives on authorial voice in abstracts

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ABSTRACT -
The talk sets out to explore how forms of authorial self-representation have varied over the past twenty years in the humanities and social sciences. The aim is to trace changes occurring over a time span that has seen a tremendous growth in the status of abstracts in the field, together with their increasing availability in electronic journal databases. Using small corpora of abstracts in economics, history and linguistics, we look at diachronic variation in frequencies, as well as syntactic and semantic patterns, of elements of voice construction. The conclusions will highlight patterns of convergence and divergence in the changes noticed.

BIO STATEMENT -
Marina Bondi is Professor of English Linguistics at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, and Director of the CLAVIER centre (Corpus and Language Variation In English Research). She has published extensively in the field of genre analysis, EAP and corpus linguistics, with a focus on argumentative dialogue and language variation across genres, disciplines and cultures. Her recent publications include an edited volume on Abstracts in Academic Discourse, with Rosa Lorés Sanz, a special issue of ESP across cultures on Academic English across cultures, with Chris Williams, as well as studies on blogs, popular history and CSR reports.