

The Department of French & Italian presents  
a PhD Dissertation Defense

## Alvise Stefani

### Teofilo Folengo's Sound-Driven Macaronic Poetics

9:00 a.m., Monday, July 21, 2025, via Zoom.  
For more information, please contact Prof.  
Massimo Scalabrini ([mscalabr@iu.edu](mailto:mscalabr@iu.edu)).

This interdisciplinary project aims to shed new light on the intricate relationship between literary and musical cultures during the Italian Renaissance. Specifically, it analyzes the critical role of sound within the literary works of the Mantuan Benedictine monk Teofilo Folengo (1491 – 1544), with a special attention to his macaronic opus: the epic poem *Baldus*, the mock-pastoral *Eclogae*, the rustic love poem *Zanitonella*, and the zoo-epic poem *Moscheide*. This dissertation seeks to establish that sound plays more than a merely ornamental role in Folengo's works. Instead, the poet entrusts sound with an active function in defining his poetics and its underlying themes, including the critique of religious corruption, the hope for societal renewal, and the arduous navigation of the world's chaos. Importantly, this dissertation also aims to demonstrate and account for the heightened prominence of music and sound in Folengo's macaronic epic compared to the major Italian epic works, addressing at the same time the complexities of Renaissance music and macaronic art.



#### Committee:

Massimo Scalabrini, French and Italian  
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Andrea Ciccarelli, French and Italian  
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