This dissertation project will aim at shedding light on the interrelation of such complex phenomena as migration, literature and language by focusing on novels written in Italian by contemporary immigrant authors who reside in Italy. More specifically, the main research questions of the project can be summarised as follows:

What stylistic choices do the writers, who were not proficient in Italian when they first arrived in Italy, make, i.e. do they endeavour after linguistic perfection by writing in impeccable literary Italian, do they employ colloquial Italian or do they create a new individual language by blending the former and the latter with vocabulary and syntactic features borrowed from their own mother tongue(s)?

What are the reasons behind the decision to abandon the mother tongue and embrace the language of the host country for the scope of literary creation, i.e. how do the authors themselves motivate this choice and how is it manifested implicitly in their works?

What are the consequences and implications of choosing to narrate in the language of the new country of residence? Can it be argued that renouncing your mother tongue involves renouncing your otherness, a part of your identity? Does the co-existence of two or more languages in literary production (and in everyday life) imply having multiple identities?

Given that Italy has recently undergone a transformation from a country of emigration into a country of immigration, migrant literature in Italian today is an exciting, blooming field of study. It offers an incredible variety of authors, genres and topics which I am very eager to explore.