«dentro le fibre più strette del mio corpo universale»: the representation of the body in Amelia Rosselli’s *Variazioni Belliche*

In the incipit of her work *Strangers to Ourselves*, Julia Kristeva writes «Foreigner: a choked up rage deep down in my throat, a black angel clouding transparency, opaque, unfathomable spur». The foreign character is thus part of everyone: each person hosts a stranger in the deepest part of their own body whose presence is «opaque» and hardly identifiable.

The poet Amelia Rosselli embodies this figure of the stranger in contemporary Italian literature. Her biography, her background and her linguistic style turned her - in the opinion of the critics - a unique author, difficult to include in the literary canon. In her poems, the body becomes the medium through which she experiences the crisis of the role of the ‘I’ as a subject and the ‘you’ as an interlocutor.

This paper aims to investigate how, in her first collection of poems - *Variazioni Belliche* (1964) -, Rosselli developed a specific metric scheme and an original language to tell her experience. The body is perceived as fragmented, inadequate; it bursts into the text through the repetition of anthropomorphic statements, linguistic archaisms and foreignisms. I will start by analysing the autobiographical poem “Contiamo infiniti morti” I will then show how the poet’s struggle to find a space and a language to express her condition develops along the collection.

**Biographical note**

Margherita Carlotti has a Bachelor Degree (2015) and a Master Degree (2017) in Philosophical Sciences at the University of Bologna. In Bologna she worked with Prof. Niva Lorenzini and Prof. Stefano Colangelo on Antonio Porta’s work and its connections with phenomenology and the theatre of cruelty. She worked as a Language Assistant in Italian at Colby College (USA) where she also had the chance to elaborate her research with Prof. Gianluca Rizzo. Margherita is currently a PhD student in Italian Studies at the University of St. Andrews under the supervision of Dr Rossella Riccobono and Dr Elodie Laügt. Her thesis will focus on the experimentation of the Italian Neo-Avant-Garde and its relation with phenomenology of the body and the objects. She is particularly interested in the works by Amelia Rosselli, Giulia Niccolai and Patrizia Vicinelli.