

Alessandra BUCCELLA

Curriculum Vitae

<https://alessandrabuccella.com/>

Department of Philosophy
University of Pittsburgh
1017 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

5855 Darlington Road, apt. C2
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

alessandra.buccella@outlook.com
+1 (412)-877-4806

alb319@pitt.edu
+39 (340)-371-1658

AOS: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science.

AOC: Philosophy of Science (general), M&E, Phenomenology, Aesthetics (especially music).

Research summary:

At the core of my work lies what Merleau-Ponty called the “paradox of immanence and transcendence” found in perception. On the one hand, perception guides and informs our interactions with the world outside our heads. On the other hand, it involves an irreducibly subjective and perspectival aspect. Perception is perspectival, yet it transcends perspective. In my research, I explore versions of this ‘puzzle’ from different angles and in different contexts, at the interface between philosophy, psychology, and cognitive (neuro)science. More specific topics include: the notion of *perceptual constancy* and its relationship with the phenomenological stability of our perceptual experience, the ways in which coherent conscious experience arises from multiple sense modalities working together, the nature of perceptual objects, the role perceptual coherence and stability play in *aesthetic* experience (especially of music), realism and anti-realism in perceptual science, and the relationship between psychological, metaphysical and epistemological theories of perception. Additional interests of mine include the Philosophy of Sport and Social Ontology.

EMPLOYMENT

2020 – present Visiting Assistant Professor, Wesleyan University (USA)

2020 Part-Time Instructor, University of Pittsburgh (USA)

EDUCATION

2020 PhD in Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (USA)

Dissertation title: Perceptual Constancy.

Advisor: Prof. Mazviita Chirimuuta (University of Pittsburgh, HPS)

2019 Visiting scholar, Department of Philosophy, University of Cincinnati (USA).

2013 M.A. in Philosophical Sciences, Università degli Studi di Milano (Italy)

2013 M.A. in Analytic Philosophy, Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)

2011 B.A. in Philosophy, Università degli Studi di Milano (Italy).

PUBLICATIONS

2017 "Naturalizing Qualia", *Phenomenology and Mind*, 12, 152 – 161.

2014 "Suoni", *Aphex – Portale Italiano di Filosofia Analitica* (www.aphex.it), 9, 83-111.

2012 "Music and Emotion. The Dispositional or Arousal theory", *Rivista Italiana di Filosofia Analitica Junior*, 3 (1), 19 – 36.

Works in progress (drafts available upon request):

- "Enactivism and the 'problem' of perceptual presence" – *Under review (R&R)*
- "How and why Enactivism explains perceptual presence" – *Under review*
- "The Problem of Invariance" – *Under review*
- "Should we be realist in perceptual psychology?" – *Under review*
- "Reconsidering Perceptual Constancy" (with Tony Chemero)

INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS

2019 • Discussant at Neural Mechanisms Online webinar. Comments on Michael Anderson and Vicente Raja, "Behavior Considered as an Enabling Constraint".
<https://www.neuralmechanisms.org/>

2018 • Speaker, *University of Pittsburgh's "Student-Faculty Colloquium" series*. Talk's title: "Perceptual Constancy is Dead, Long Live Perceptual Constancy".

2017 • "Integrating intentionality" (with Alison A. Springle). **Book symposium** on Carl Sachs, *Intentionality and the Myths of the Given*, Philosophy Syndicate. URL:
<https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/intentionality-and-the-myths-of-the-given/>

In preparation:

- "Sound of Brass and Shine of Metal: The Relational Perceptual Constructs of Timbre and Gloss" (with Mazviita Chirimuuta). Chapter in A. Mroczko-Wąsowicz & R. Grush (eds.), *Sensory Individuals: Contemporary Perspectives on Modality-specific and Multimodal Perceptual Objects*. Oxford University Press.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY (selection)

Talks:

- 2020 •** "Constructivism, computation, and content", 10th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP), Utrecht, The Netherlands. [conference cancelled]
- "The Ontological Significance of Works of Art", Social Ontology 2020, July 13–16, Neuchâtel, Switzerland.
 - "Structural realism and the 'measurement analogy' in perceptual psychology", 71st meeting of the New Mexico Texas Philosophical Society, Waco, TX, USA. [conference cancelled]
- 2019 •** "Perceptual constancy is dead, long live perceptual constancy!", Society for the Metaphysics of Science (SMS), November 7-9, Toronto, ON, Canada.

- "Two approaches to Perceptual Constancy", Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP), March 7-9, Cincinnati, OH, USA.
- 2018** • "Olympians and Vampires – talent, practice, and why 'mortals' don't get it", European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP), September 10-13, Rijeka, Croatia.
 - "Perceptual constancy is dead, long live perceptual constancy!", Società Italiana di Filosofia Analitica (SIFA), September 4-7, Novara, Italy.
- 2017** • "How should we think about perceptual presence?", Philosophers' Forum Graduate Gateway Conference, April 27-28, St. Louis, MO, USA.
- 2016** • "Intentionality and Experience between Phenomenology and Enactivism", 2nd International Conference in Philosophy of Mind, September 21-22, Braga, Portugal.
 - "A new look at the intentionality of phenomenology", Pragmatism and the Brain Conference, June 2-4, Asheville, NC, USA.
- 2015** • "Thinking with the body", Northwest Philosophy Conference, October 9-10, Coeur D'Alene, ID, USA.

Posters:

- 2018** • "Enactivism and Indeterminacy", Enactivism: Theory and Performance, March 15-17, Memphis, TN, USA.
 - "How should we think about perceptual presence?", American Philosophical Association (APA) – Eastern Division, January 3-6, Savannah, GA, USA.
- 2016** • "Naturalizing Qualia", European Society of Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP), August 10-13, St. Andrews, UK.

HONORS & AWARDS

2019 Connected Academics Fellowship, Graduate Institute for the Engaged & Public Humanities, Georgetown University.

2019, 2017 Nominated for Elizabeth Baranger Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Pittsburgh's Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Organization (A&S GSO).

2018 Diversity award, Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP).

TEACHING

Wesleyan University, USA

Fall 2020 Philosophy of Psychology
Bodies and Experiences (First Year Seminar, Intro to Philosophy)

University of Pittsburgh, USA

Instructor:

Summer 2020 Philosophy and Public Issues

Spring 2020 Philosophy of Psychology

Summer 2018 Concepts of Human Nature

Teaching assistant (2015-2019):

- Knowledge & Reality
- Introduction to Philosophical Problems
- Philosophy and Science
- Philosophy of Mind

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2018 Graduate student member of Faculty hiring committee (Metaphysics, Epistemology, Logic, Science).

2015 – 2017 Departmental representative, Graduate Student Organization (GSO), Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, 2015-2017.

EXTRA TRAINING

2019 • Invited participant at **Gathering of Higher Ed Changemakers**, November 15-16, Wayfinding Academy, Portland, OR, USA.

- **Graduate Certificate in Engaged & Public Humanities**. Graduate Institute for the Engaged & Public Humanities, Georgetown University.

2017 • **Achievement in Pedagogy badge**. University Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pittsburgh. Concentrations: Pedagogy, Diversity, Educational Technology.

LANGUAGES

Italian: native

English: fluent

Spanish: good

French: can read with dictionary

REFERENCES

Mazviita Chirimuuta

Associate Professor, History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh (USA).

Email: mac298@pitt.edu

Wayne Wu

Associate Professor, Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University (USA).

Email: waynewu@andrew.cmu.edu

Anil Gupta

Alan Ross Anderson Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (USA).

Email: agupta@pitt.edu

Robert Brandom

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (USA).

Email: rbrandom@pitt.edu

Anthony Chemero

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Psychology, University of Cincinnati (USA).

Email: chemeray@ucmail.uc.edu

Thomas Polger

Professor of Philosophy, University of Cincinnati (USA).

Email: thomas.polger@uc.edu

Thomas Berry (teaching reference)

Senior Lecturer, Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (USA).

Email: tberry@pitt.edu