

Alessandra BUCCELLA
Curriculum Vitae
<https://alessandrabuccella.com/>

Department of Philosophy
Wesleyan University
350 High Street
Middletown, CT 06459

Home:
114 High Street
Middletown, CT 06457

abuccella@wesleyan.edu // alessandra.buccella@outlook.com
+1 (412)-877-4806

AOS: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology.

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

Research summary:

At the core of my work lies the relationship between so-called 'subjective' and 'objective' aspects of 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 invariance* and its relationship with the phenomenal stability of our perceptual experience, the ways in which coherent conscious experience arises from multiple sense modalities working together, the nature of perceptual objects and higher-order properties, the role perceptual invariance plays 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, Feminist Philosophy, 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.

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

2020 (forthcoming) Olympians and Vampires – Talent, Practice, and why most of us 'don't get it'.
Argumenta.

2020 Enactivism and the 'problem' of perceptual presence. *Synthese*.

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.

In preparation:

"Shine of Bronze and Sound of Brass: 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. (under contract)

In progress (drafts available upon request):

- The Problem of Invariance – *Under review*
- Perception, Perceptual science, and the 'measuring instrument analogy' – *Under review*
- Making the world 'come alive': perception, agency, and playfulness – *Under review*
- Reconsidering Perceptual Constancy (with Tony Chemero) – *Under review*

INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS

2020 • "Perché la scienza merita la nostra fiducia"(review of *Why Trust Science?* By Naomi Oreskes). **Blog Post** for Climalteranti. Retrieved from <https://www.climalteranti.it/2020/05/27/perche-la-scienza-merita-la-nostra-fiducia/>

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

TALKS (selection)

Blind-reviewed:

- 2020**
- "Constructivism, computation, and content", 10th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP), Utrecht, The Netherlands. [conference moved online]
 - "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.

Invited:

- 2018** • "Perceptual Constancy is Dead, Long Live Perceptual Constancy!", University of Pittsburgh, Student-Faculty Colloquium series.

COMMENTARIES

- 2019** • Comments on Ben Henke's "Responsibility and Epistemic Downgrade of Perception", Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP), Louisville, KY, USA. [conference postponed]
- Comments on Michael Anderson and Vicente Raja, "Behavior Considered as an Enabling Constraint", Neural Mechanisms Online (<https://www.neuralmechanisms.org/>).

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.

GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2020 EU Mobilitas Pluss postdoctoral researcher grant** for the project "A philosophical framework to understand perceptual objects as relational constructs", European Regional Development Fund & Estonian Research Council. [*declined due to timing conflict*].
- 2019 Connected Academics Fellowship**, Graduate Institute for the Engaged & Public Humanities, Georgetown University.
- 2018 Diversity award**, Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP).

TEACHING

Wesleyan University, USA

Fall 2020 Philosophy of Psychology
Bodies & Experiences (First Year Seminar)

University of Pittsburgh, USA

Summer 2020 Philosophy and Public Issues (online)
Spring 2020 Philosophy of Psychology
Summer 2018 Concepts of Human Nature

As Teaching Assistant (2015-2019):

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

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2019** Undergraduate student mentor, Philosophy Department's mentoring program for Philosophy Majors, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2018** Graduate student member of Faculty Search Committee (Metaphysics, Epistemology, Logic,

Science), University of Pittsburgh.

2015 – 2017 Philosophy Department delegate, Graduate Student Organization (GSO), Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh.

OTHER TRAINING & EXPERIENCE

2020 – present Member of the **Scientific Committee** of Italian Blog *Climalteranti* (<https://www.climalteranti.it/>).

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, Washington DC, USA.

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: upper-intermediate

French: beginner

REFERENCES

Mazviita Chirimuuta (PhD advisor)

Senior Lecturer, Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh (UK).

m.chirimuuta@ed.ac.uk

Wayne Wu

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

waynewu@andrew.cmu.edu

Anil Gupta

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

agupta@pitt.edu

Robert Brandom

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

rbrandom@pitt.edu

Anthony Chemero

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

chemeray@ucmail.uc.edu