

**Alessandra BUCCELLA**  
Curriculum Vitae  
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**AOS:** Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology.

**AOC:** Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics, Epistemology, Phenomenology, Aesthetics.

**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. 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.

Committee: Mazviita Chirimuuta (chair), Wayne Wu, Anil Gupta, Robert Brandom.

**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).

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

Forthcoming:

“Shine of Bronze and Sound of Brass: The Relational Perceptual Constructs of Timbre and Gloss” (with

Mazviita Chirimuuta). In A. Mroczko-Wąsowicz & R. Grush (eds.), *Sensory Individuals: Contemporary Perspectives on Modality-specific and Multimodal Perceptual Objects*. Oxford University Press.

**2020** Olympians and Vampires – Talent, Practice, and why most of us ‘don’t get it’. *Argumenta* (online-first).

**2020** Enactivism and the ‘problem’ of perceptual presence. *Synthese* (online-first).

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

**2014** Suoni. *Aphex – Portale Italiano di Filosofia Analitica* ([www.aphex.it](http://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.

Under review:

- “The Problem of Invariance”.
- “Perception, Perceptual science, and the ‘measuring instrument analogy”.
- “Perceptual Constancies and the Nature and Place of Robust Representation in Perceptual Science” (with Alison Springle).

In progress:

- “Making the World ‘Come Alive’: Perception, Agency, and Playfulness”.
- “Reconsidering Perceptual Constancy” (with Tony Chemero).

## 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”, 10<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP), Utrecht, The Netherlands. [conference moved online]
  - “Structural realism and the ‘measurement analogy’ in perceptual psychology”, 71<sup>st</sup> 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”, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**2021** • Comments on Michael Barkasi's "Does what we dream feel present? Two varieties of presence", APA Eastern division meeting, January 15<sup>th</sup>, online.

**2019** • Comments on Ben Henke's "Responsibility and Epistemic Downgrade of Perception", Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP), Louisville, KY, USA. [conference postponed to December 2020]

- 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.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

**2020** • **APA Member interview**, blog of the American Philosophical Association. Published online on 11/27/2020. URL: <https://blog.apaonline.org/2020/11/27/apa-member-interview-alessandra-buccella/>

## GRANTS & AWARDS

**2020 EU Mobilitas Plus 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

- 2021** • "Teaching Sustainability" **Session Chair**, AAPT-APA *Teaching Hub* @ APA Eastern division meeting, January 8<sup>th</sup>, online.
- 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).  
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Joseph Rouse (teaching reference)

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Thomas Berry (2<sup>nd</sup> teaching reference)

Senior lecturer, University of Pittsburgh (USA).  
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