

Alessandra BUCCELLA
Curriculum Vitae
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AOS: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science.

AOC: Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics, Epistemology, Artificial Intelligence, Phenomenology.

Additional teaching competence and research interests: Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Sport, Existentialism, History of Psychology.

Research summary:

At the core of my work lies the relationship between so-called 'subjective' and 'objective' aspects of experience. On the one hand, experience discloses the world to us, making its objective features available for knowledge and action. On the other hand, experience is irreducibly subjective and perspectival. In my research, I explore the co-dependent notions of objectivity and perspective from different angles and in different contexts, at the interface between philosophy, psychology, and cognitive (neuro)science. More specific topics include perceptual constancy in philosophy and psychology, the philosophical foundations of AI and machine learning, the role of mental representations in perceptual science, and feminist themes in "4E" theories of cognition.

EMPLOYMENT

2021 – present Postdoc & Presidential Fellow, The Brain Institute, Chapman University

2020 – 2021 Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy Department, Wesleyan University

2020 Part-Time Instructor, Philosophy Department, University of Pittsburgh

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).

PUBLICATIONS

2022 Reconsidering Perceptual Constancy. *Philosophical Psychology*. Co-authored with Tony Chemero.

2021 Perceptual Science and the Nature of Perception. *Theoria* (accepted).

- 2021** The Problem of Perceptual Invariance. *Synthese* 199, 13883–13905.
- 2020** Olympians and Vampires – Talent, Practice, and why most of us ‘don’t get it’. *Argumenta*, 1-11.
- 2020** Enactivism and the ‘Problem’ of Perceptual Presence. *Synthese*, 198 (1), 159 – 173.
- 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.

Forthcoming:

- “Phenomenology: what’s AI got to do with it?” (with Alison A. Springle) in *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*. Expected publication: 2022.
- “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. Expected publication: 2022.

Under review:

- “A Contemporary Defense of Some Old Ideas about Perception” (with Alison A. Springle).

In progress:

- “A transformation-centered path towards trust in Artificial intelligence”. This paper consists in a joint project with Uri Maoz and Erik Linstead. The goal is to submit it as an op-ed in a prestigious scientific venue (e.g. Nature, PNAS) and to use it as the core for grant applications.

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:

- 2021** • “Phenomenology: What’s AI got to do with it?”, Reassessing the Relationship between Explanation and Phenomenology hybrid workshop, Leipzig, October 4th-6th.
- “Enactivism and the ‘problem’ of perceptual presence”, CLEA Seminar Series, July 9th.
 - “Perceptual Science and the Nature of Perception”, ENSO (ENactive Seminars Online) Seminar Series, May 6th.
- 2018** • “Perceptual Constancy is Dead, Long Live Perceptual Constancy!”, University of Pittsburgh, Student-Faculty Colloquium Series, November 2nd.

COMMENTARIES

- 2021** • Comments on Andrea Kern’s “Perceiving that p – Capacities, Opportunities and Hindrances”, Perceptual Experience and Empirical Reason Conference, University of Pittsburgh, December 3rd-5th, online.
- Comments on Madeleine Ransom’s “Do high-level properties make a difference to perceptual phenomenology?”, APA Pacific Division meeting, April 9th, online.
 - Comments on Jessica Williams’s “Kant on Aesthetic Attention”, APA Central Division meeting, February 22nd, online.
 - Comments on Michael Barkasi’s “Does what we dream feel present? Two varieties of presence”, APA Eastern Division meeting, January 15th, 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/>

- “Il clima filosofico”, **interview** with Italian magazine *Vivere con Filosofia*, issue 4, Sprea editori.

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

Spring 2020: Phenomenology & Existentialism
Philosophy of Perception

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.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Referee for *Res Philosophica*, *Review of Metaphysics*, *Phenomenology and Mind*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*.

OTHER TRAINING & EXPERIENCE

- 2021** • “Teaching Sustainability” **Session Chair**, AAPT-APA *Teaching Hub* @ APA Eastern division meeting, January 8th, online.
- 2020** – **2021** 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 language):

- Speaking: excellent
- Reading: excellent
- Writing: excellent

English:

- Speaking: excellent
- Reading: excellent
- Writing: excellent

Spanish:

- Speaking: beginner
- Reading: intermediate
- Writing: 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

Anthony Chemero

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Psychology, University of Cincinnati (USA).
chemeray@ucmail.uc.edu

Steven Horst

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Joseph Rouse (teaching reference)

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