

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

The Brain Institute  
Chapman University (Rinker campus)  
14725 Alton Parkway  
Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92618

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

---

**AOS:** Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology.

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

**Additional teaching competence and research interests:** Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Sport, Existentialism, History of Cognitive Science, Epistemology.

**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 Postdoctoral researcher**, 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* (accepted). 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](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.

#### 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”, 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:

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

## COMMENTARIES

- 2021** • Comments on Andrea Kern's "Perceiving that p – Capacities, Opportunities and Hindrances", Perceptual Experience and Empirical Reason Conference, University of Pittsburgh, December 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, online.
  - Comments on Madeleine Ransom's "Do high-level properties make a difference to perceptual phenomenology?", APA Pacific Division meeting, April 9<sup>th</sup>, online.
  - Comments on Jessica Williams's "Kant on Aesthetic Attention", APA Central Division meeting, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, online.
  - 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/>

- "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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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

Professor of Philosophy, Wesleyan University (USA).  
shorst@wesleyan.edu

### Joseph Rouse (teaching reference)

Professor of Philosophy, Wesleyan University (USA).  
jrouse@wesleyan.edu