

Lorenzo Casini | Curriculum Vitae

Università di Bologna – Dipartimento di Filosofia
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last update: 01.04.2024

Employment

From 04.2024 University of Bologna	Fixed-term Lecturer Laboratorio di Filosofia (BA), Philosophy of Social Science (MA)
11.2022 – 10.2023 IMT School for Advanced Studies	Research Fellow "Understanding public data: Experts, Decisions, Epistemic Values"
05.2021 – 10.2022 Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies	Research Fellow "How Good Is Your Model? Empirical Evaluation and Validation of Quantitative Models in Economics"
11.2020 – 04.2021 University of Turin	Research Fellow "From Models to Decisions"
09.2017 – 01.2018 University of Geneva	Lecturer Philosophy of Mind (MA)
03.2017 – 02.2020 University of Geneva	Research Fellow "Mechanistic Constitution in the Special Sciences"
11.2015 – 10.2018 University of Geneva	Research Fellow "Inferentialism, Bayesianism and Scientific Explanation"
03.2014 – 02.2017 University of Geneva	Research Fellow "Grounding – Metaphysics, Science and Logic"
01.2013 – 02.2014 MCMP, LMU Munich	Research Fellow
04.2012 – 12.2012 University of Konstanz	Research Fellow "CAUSAPROBA"
09.2007 – 05.2009 University of Kent	Assistant Lecturer

Education

09.2008 – 11.2013 University of Kent	PhD Philosophy Supervisors: Prof Jon Williamson and Dr David Corfield Examiners: Dr Julien Murzi and Prof Julian Reiss
09.2007 – 09.2008 University of Kent	MA Philosophy

10.2001 – 12.2006 Laurea in Filosofia (110/110 cum laude)
University of Florence
09.1999 – 09.2001 Faculty of Engineering
University of Florence

Peer-reviewed Publications

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- “Constitution, Non-Causal Explanation, and Demarcation” (with M. Baumgartner), *Ergo*, forthcoming
- “Confirmation by Robustness Analysis. A Bayesian Account” (with J. Landes), *Erkenntnis*, 2024, 89: 367–409
- “The PC Algorithm and the Inference to Constitution” (with M. Baumgartner), *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 2023, 74(2)
- “Variable Definition and Independent Components” (with A. Moneta and M. Capasso), *Philosophy of Science*, 2021, 88(5): 784–95
- “Horizontal Surgicality and Mechanistic Constitution” (with M. Baumgartner and B. Krickel), *Erkenntnis*, 2020, 85: 417–30
- “Hypothetical Interventions and Belief Changes” (with H. Andreas), *Foundations of Science*, 2019, 24: 681–704
- “Malfunctions and Teleology: On the (Dim) Chances of Statistical Accounts of Functions”, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, 2017, 7(2): 319–35
- “An Abductive Theory of Constitution” (with M. Baumgartner), *Philosophy of Science*, 2017, 84(2): 214–33
- “Can Interventions Rescue Glennan’s Mechanistic Account of Causality?”, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 2016, 67(4): 1155–83
- “How to Model Mechanistic Hierarchies”, *Philosophy of Science*, 2016, 83(5): 946–58
- “Not-so-minimal Models. Between Isolation and Imagination”, *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, 2014, 44(5): 646–72
- “Causation: Many Words, One Thing?”, *THEORIA*, 2012, 27(74): 203–19
- “Models for Prediction, Explanation and Control: Recursive Bayesian Networks” (with P.M. Illari, F. Russo, and J. Williamson), *THEORIA*, 2011, 26(70): 5–33
- “Recursive Bayesian Nets for Prediction, Explanation and Control in Cancer Science: A Position Paper” (with P.M. Illari, F. Russo, and J. Williamson). In Fred, A., Filipe, J., and Gamboa, H. (eds.), *Proceedings of the First International Conference in Bioinformatics*. INSTICC, 2010, pp. 233–38
- “Mental Causation and Physical Causation”. In Hieke, A. and Leitgeb, H. (eds.), *Reduction and Elimination in Philosophy and the Sciences*. Kirchberg am Wechsel: Ontos Verlag, 2008, pp. 38–40

Non-peer-reviewed Publications



- Alexander Gebharter: Causal Nets, Interventionism, and Mechanisms. Philosophical Foundations and Applications, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, 2018, 49: 481–85
- Workshop Report on “Inferentialism, Bayesianism and Scientific Explanation, 25–26 January”, *The Reasoner*, 2017, 11(1-2): 3–4
- “Agent-based Models and Causality: A Methodological Appraisal” (with G. Manzo), *The IAS Working Paper Series*, Linköping University Electronic Press, 2016:7
- Editorial and Interview with Fabrice Correia, Benjamin Schnieder, and Marcel Weber, *The Reasoner*, 2015, 9(2): 9–13
- Report on the Project “Grounding: Metaphysics, Science and Logic”, *The Reasoner*, 2014, 8(9): 101
- Conference Report on “Inferentialism in Epistemology and Philosophy of Science, 11–13 November”, *The Reasoner*, 2013, 7(12): 144
- Editorial and Interview with Olaf Wolkenhauer, *The Reasoner*, 2011, 5(9): 138–43
- Editorial and Interview with Mark Bedau, *The Reasoner*, 2011, 5(3): 32–36

Work in Progress



- “Downward Causation and the Epiphenomenalist Revenge”
- “Causal Heterogeneity and Causal Inference” (with A. Moneta)
- “Ill-defined Variables and Instrument Validity” (with A. Moneta)
- “Conflict of Interest and the Principle of Total Evidence” (with J. Landes)
- “On Woodward’s Two Theories of Causation” (with M. Baumgartner)
- “Philosophical Intuitions and Algorithmic Bias” (with P. Baldi and M. Marini)

Invited Talks



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| 2023 – 3 Oct | “Can One Experimentally Demonstrate if the Mind Causes Anything?” • Seton Hall University, NJ |
| 27 Apr | “Ill-defined Variables and Instrument Validity” • London |
| 2022 – 19 May | “Causal Heterogeneity and Causal Inference” • Milan |
| 2021 – 24 Nov | “Causality in Philosophy of Science” • IMT Lucca |
| 8 Jun | “Meta-analyses and Conflicts of Interest” • University of Montreal |

- 2020 – 24 Apr tbd • *Simulations of Scientific Inquiry*, Schliersee (cancelled)
- 2018 – 4 Aug “Constitution and Causal Roles” • *Causation and Mechanisms: From Methodology to Metaphysics*, Copenhagen
- 2017 – 15 Nov “How to Distinguish Causation from Constitution. Lessons from Independent Component Analysis” • *Seminar on Causation and Explanation*, Venice International University
- 2 Nov “The Causal Programme in Constitution Research” • *Quodlibeta*, Geneva
- 4 Oct “The Causal Programme in Constitution Research” • *Workshop on Compositional Explanation*, Rutgers, Newark
- 2016 – 23 Nov “The Confirmatory Value of Robustness Analysis in Economics”
• *Laboratory of Economics and Management*, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa
- 29 Oct “How Theoretical Explorations Explain: A Bayesian Account”
• *Workshop on Economics and Explanation*, Bristol
- 23 Jul “How Theoretical Explorations Explain: A Bayesian Account” • *The Physics of Society*, LMU Munich
- 29 Apr “Ground and Dispositional Functions” • *The Metaphysics of Grounding*, Dresden
- 2015 – 14 Dec “Malfunctions and Teleology: On the (Dim) Chances of Statistical Accounts of Functions” • *Colloquium in Philosophy of Science*, Bern
- 19 Nov Comment on Stephan Krämer’s “Two Notions of Weak Ground”
• *Logical and Metaphysical Perspectives on Grounding*, GAP, Osnabrück
- 27 Apr “An Abductive Theory of Constitution” • *Causation in Biology and Related Topics*, Copenhagen
- 2014 – 26 Sep “Robustness Explanation” • *Working Seminar on Robustness Analysis*, TINT, Helsinki
- 11 Mar “Not-so-minimal Models. Between Isolation and Imagination”
• *Laboratory of Economics and Management*, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa
- 17 Jan “How to Model Mechanisms” • *Causality in the Biological Sciences*, Cologne
- 2013 – 12 Nov “An Inferential Account of Explanatory Counterfactuals”
• *Inferentialism in Epistemology and Philosophy of Science*, UNED Madrid
- 2011 – 24 Nov “The Mechanistic Approach and the Inferentialist Approach. A Comparison” • *Causality and Mechanisms in Philosophy of Science*, Bern
- 12 Nov “Causality in Computational Economics: An Inferentialist Proposal”
• *Explanation, Causality and Unification*, Düsseldorf

Contributed Talks



- 2023 – 28 Oct “Bias, Conflict of Interest, and the Principle of Total Evidence” • *Reasoning with Imperfect Information in Social Settings*, SNS Pisa
- 20 Oct “Higher-level Causation and Causal Inference” • *Bergen Philosophy of Science Workshop*, Bergen
- 6 Sep “Downward Causation and the Epiphenomenalist Revenge” • SILFS, Urbino
- 22 Jun “Ill-defined Variables and Instrument Validity” • *Econometric Theories and Application*, Siena
- 2 Mar “Ill-defined Variables and Instrument Validity” • *Network for Statistical and Causal Inference*, Lucca (presented by A. Moneta)
- 2022 – 26 Sep “Ill-defined Variables and Instrument Validity” • *Model Evaluation and Causal Search: Empirical and Experimental Approaches*, Pisa
- 2021 – 13 Nov “Variable Definition and Independent Components” • PSA, Baltimore
- 15 Sep “Causal Heterogeneity and Causal Inference” • EPSA, Turin
- 2020 – 13 Jul “Variable Definition and Independent Components” • BSPS, Kent (cancelled)
- 2019 – 11 Sep “Meta-analyses and Conflicts of Interest” • EPSA, Geneva
- 17 Jul “Meta-analyses and Conflicts of Interest” • BSPS, Durham
- 11 Apr “Meta-analyses and Conflicts of Interest” • *Biases in Science*, LMU Munich
- 2018 – 4 Dec “Independent Components and the Causation-Constitution Distinction” • *Causation vs Constitution: Loosening the Friction*, Bergen (presented by A. Moneta)
- 11 Jun “Independent Components and the Causation-Constitution Distinction” • MuST11, Turin
- 14 Apr “Variable Definition and Independent Components” • *Info-Metrics Causal Inference Workshop*, Pittsburgh (presented by A. Moneta)
- 2017 – 5 Oct “Horizontal Surgicality and Mechanistic Constitution” • SMS, New York
- 28 Aug “How to Distinguish Causation from Constitution. Lessons from Independent Component Analysis” • INEM, San Sebastian
- 13 Jul “Horizontal Surgicality and Mechanistic Constitution” • BSPS, Edinburgh
- 8 May “How Minimal Models Explain” • *Exploring Scientific Method: Evidence, Explanation, and Unification in Science*, LMU Munich

- 22 Mar "Variable Definition and Causal Inference: The Role of Independent Component Analysis" • Rotterdam (presented by A. Moneta)
- 1 Mar "Variable Definition and Causal Inference: The Role of Independent Component Analysis" • MuST10, Sydney (presented by A. Moneta)
- 25 Jan "Confirmation by Robustness Analysis. A Bayesian Account"
• *Inferentialism, Bayesianism, and Scientific Explanation*, LMU Munich
- 2016 – 3 Nov "A Bayesian Theory of Constitution" • PSA, Atlanta
- 15 Sep "A Bayesian Theory of Constitution" • SMS, Geneva
- 24 Aug "Agent-based Models and Causality: A Methodological Appraisal" • ENPOSS, Helsinki
- 29 Jun "A Bayesian Theory of Constitution" • SPS, Lausanne
- 1 Apr "A Bayesian Theory of Constitution" • MuST9, LMU Munich
- 8 Mar "A Bayesian Theory of Constitution" • GWP, Düsseldorf
- 2015 – 25 Sep "An Abductive Theory of Constitution" • EPSA, Düsseldorf (presented by M. Baumgartner)
- 2 Jul "An Abductive Theory of Constitution" • BSPS, Manchester
- 29 Jun "Agent-based Models and Causality: A Methodological Appraisal"
• CaMitS, UNED Madrid
- 19 Jun "Grounds and Biological Functions: a Meta-analysis" • *Ground in Biology*, Geneva
- 12 Jun "Agent-based Models and Causality: A Methodological Appraisal"
• INAS, Harvard (presented by G. Manzo)
- 25 May "Can Interventions Rescue Glennan's Mechanistic Account of Causality?" • *Truth and Grounds*, Ascona
- 2014 – 8 Nov "How to Model Mechanistic Hierarchies" • PSA, Chicago
- 24 Oct "Mathematical Explanations and Nomological Ground"
• *Explanation Beyond Causation*, LMU Munich (presented by J. Korbmacher)
- 9 Sep "How to Model Mechanisms" • *Causality and Complexity in the Sciences*, Cologne
- 9 Jul "How to Model Mechanisms" • BSPS, Cambridge
- 25 Jun "A Ramsey Test Counterfactual Theory of Causation" • SPS, Lille
- 18 Jun "A Ramsey Test Counterfactual Theory of Causation" • SILFS, Rome 3
- 31 Mar "How to Model Mechanisms" • *Philosophy of Biology in the UK*, Cambridge

- 2013 – 4 Sep “Not-so-minimal Models. Between Isolation and Imagination”
• ENPOSS, Venice
- 4 Jul “Interventions, Simulation and Causal Explanation” • BSPS, Exeter
- 3 Jul “Interventions, Simulation and Causal Explanation” • *Causality and Experimentation in the Sciences*, Paris
- 19 Jun “Interventions, Simulation and Causal Explanation” • *Reasoning Club*, Pisa
- 15 Jun “Not-so-minimal Models. Between Isolation and Imagination”
• INEM, Rotterdam
- 2012 – 17 May “Causality: Genuine Reference, Derivative Realities and Other Tales” • *The Objective Reality of Causality*, Konstanz
- 2011 – 19 Sep “Causation. Many Words, One Thing?” • CaEitS, Ghent
- 1 Sep “Causation. Many Words, One Thing?” • ECAP, Milan
- 23 Aug “Causation. Many Words, One Thing?” • Hamburg
- 7 Jul “Causation. Many Words, One Thing?” • BSPS, Brighton
- 9 Jun “Causation. Many Words, One Thing?” • CitS, Paris
- 10 Jan “Mechanistic Causality. Dispositions vs Structures” • CitS, Brussels
- 2010 – 8 Oct “Is Glennan’s Theory Complex Enough?” • CiBaSS, Rotterdam
- 9 Jul “Is Glennan’s Theory Complex Enough?” • BSPS, UCD Dublin
- 28 Jun “Is Glennan’s Theory Complex Enough?” • CitS, Paris
- 27 Jan “Complex Yet Causal” • *UCL-Kent Causality Workshop*, Kent
- 2009 – 9 Sep “Social Mechanisms. What Social Sciences Can Learn From Natural Sciences” • MaCitS, Kent
- 14 Jul “Social Mechanisms. What Social Sciences Can Learn From Natural Sciences” • BSPS, Norwich
- 14 Mar “Systems Biology” • Kent
- 2008 – 10 Sep “Fetzer’s Solution to the Reference Class Problem” • *Causality Study Fortnight*, Kent
- 13 Aug “Mental Causation and Physical Causation” • *31st International Wittgenstein Symposium*, Kirchberg am Wechsel
- 28 Jun “Fetzer’s Solution to the Reference Class Problem” • *Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Probability*, LSE

Teaching



04.2024 – 09.2024 Philosophy of Social Science (Convenor)
University of Bologna

04.2024 – 09.2024 University of Bologna	Laboratorio di Filosofia (Convenor)
15.05.2023 University of Florence	Introduction to Causal Bayesian Networks (Guest Lecturer)
23.03.23/20.04.23 IMT School, Lucca	Introduction to Causal Bayesian Networks (Guest Lecturer)
09.2019 – 01.2020 University of Geneva	Philosophy of Economics (Lecturer, with C. Wüthrich)
09.2018 – 06.2019 University of Geneva	Philosophy of Medicine (Lecturer, with M. Weber)
02.2018 – 06.2018 University of Geneva	Philosophy of Economics (Lecturer, with M. Weber)
09.2017 – 01.2018 University of Geneva	Philosophy of Mind (Convenor)
10.2013 – 02.2014 MCMP, LMU Munich	Philosophy of Economics (Convenor)
04.2013 – 07.2013 MCMP, LMU Munich	Philosophy of the Social Sciences (Lecturer, with H. Andreas)
01.2011 – 05.2011 University of Kent	Philosophical Thinking (Assistant Lecturer)
09.2010 – 01.2011 University of Kent	Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Metaphysics (Assistant Lecturer)
01.2010 – 05.2010 University of Kent	Philosophy of Language (Assistant Lecturer)
01.2010 – 05.2010 University of Kent	Philosophical Thinking (Assistant Lecturer)
09.2009 – 01.2010 University of Kent	Paradoxes (Assistant Lecturer)
09.2009 – 01.2010 University of Kent	Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Metaphysics (Assistant Lecturer)
01.2009 – 05.2009 University of Kent	Philosophical Thinking (Assistant Lecturer)
09.2008 – 01.2009 University of Kent	Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Metaphysics (Assistant Lecturer)
01.2008 – 05.2008 University of Kent	Philosophical Thinking (Assistant Lecturer)
09.2007 – 01.2008 University of Kent	Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Metaphysics (Assistant Lecturer)

Supervision



- 09.2019 – 01.2020
University of Geneva
Supervisor of of Prof M. Weber’s MA and PhD students (L. Bordo Garcia, S. de Cesare, M. Egli) during his sabbatical leave.
- 07.2013 – 01.2014
MCMP, LMU Munich
Assistant Supervisor of the BA dissertation “When Scientists Play: How Toy Models in Science Help Us Understand the World”, by D. Hangleiter.

Event Organization



- 2 Jul 2024
IMT Lucca
Network for Statistical and Causal Inference 3 workshop, with G. Cevolani and A. Moneta
- 2 Feb 2024
Sant’Anna Pisa
Network for Statistical and Causal Inference 2 workshop, with G. Cevolani
- 2 Mar 2023
IMT Lucca
Network for Statistical and Causal Inference workshop, with G. Cevolani and A. Moneta
- 11 – 14 Sep 2019
University of Geneva
European Philosophy of Science Association conference, local organizer
- 10 – 12 Apr 2019
LMU Munich
Biases in Science conference, with S. Hartmann, D. Šešelia, and M. Weber
- 3 – 4 Dec 2018
University of Bergen
Causation vs Constitution: Loosening the Friction conference, with M. Baumgartner and V. Parkkinen
- 14 – 15 Jun 2018
University of Geneva
Explanatory Power workshop, with M. Weber, S. Hartmann, and R. Stern
- 8 – 9 May 2017
MCMP, LMU Munich
Exploring Scientific Method: Evidence, Explanation, and Unification in Science workshop, with M. Cuffaro and M. Kao
- 25 – 26 Jan 2017
MCMP, LMU Munich
Inferentialism, Bayesianism and Scientific Explanation workshop, with S. Hartmann, R. Stern, and M. Weber
- 3 Nov 2016
PSA, Atlanta
Ground and Other Dependencies: On the Nature and Role of Verticality in Science SMS symposium • author of proposal
- 15 – 17 Sep 2016
University of Geneva
Society for the Metaphysics of Science conference, local organizer
- 13 – 14 Sep 2016
University of Geneva
Ground in Philosophy of Science conference, with M. Weber
- 8 Mar 2016
GWP, Düsseldorf
Constitution and Constitutional Discovery symposium, with M. Baumgartner • co-author of proposal
- 18 – 20 Jun 2015
University of Geneva
Ground in Biology workshop, with M. Weber
- 24 – 26 Aug 2011
ASFPG, Hamburg
Complexity: Theoretical Foundations & Practical Implications workshop, with D. Chu

Seminar Organization

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10.2023 – 06.2024	Understanding Public Data: Experts, Decisions, Epistemic Values
IMT Lucca	
05.2014 – 06.2014	Grounding and Scientific Explanation
University of Geneva	
05.2013 – 01.2014	Mathematical Explanation in Science
MCMP, LMU Munich	with S. Bradley
09.2012 – 12.2012	Philosophy of Science Colloquium
University of Konstanz	on behalf of Prof Wolfgang Spohn during his leave

Grants

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03.2017 – 02.2020	Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the SNF project “Mechanistic Constitution in the Special Sciences” • co-author of research proposal
11.2015 – 10.2018	Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the SNF-DFG project “Inferentialism, Bayesianism and Scientific Explanation” • co-author of research proposal
01.2012 – 03.2012	Research Scholarship awarded by the DAAD to visit the University of Konstanz
09.2011 – 12.2011	Visiting Fellowship TiLPS, Tilburg University
09.2009 – 08.2011	Postgraduate Scholarship SECL, University of Kent

Service to the Faculty

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03.2013 – 05.2013	Member of hiring committee for PhDs and post-docs
MCMP, LMU Munich	

Service to the Profession

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05.2009 – present	News Editor for <i>The Reasoner</i>
03.2013 – 06.2019	Member of the Editorial Board of <i>Dialectica</i>

Member of Scientific Committees

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- EPSA, 15-18 Sep 2021, University of Turin
- BEPC, 10-14 Aug Jun 2020, MCMP, LMU Munich
- EENPS, 10-12 Jun 2020, University of Belgrade
- GWP19, 25-27 Feb 2019, University of Cologne

- GAP10 (Best Paper Award), 17–21 Sep 2018, University of Cologne
- MuST11, Models of Explanation, 11–13 Jun 2018, University of Turin
- MuST9, Evidence, Inference, and Risk, 31 Mar–2 Apr 2016, MCMP, LMU Munich
- Explanation Beyond Causation, 23–24 Oct 2014, MCMP, LMU Munich

Refereeing

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Analysis • Australasian Journal of Philosophy • Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft • Dialectica • Disputatio • European Journal for Philosophy of Science • International Studies in the Philosophy of Science • Journal of Economic Methodology • Journal for General Philosophy of Science • Lato Sensu • Logique et Analyse • Philosophy and Technology • South African Journal of Philosophy • Southern Journal of Philosophy • Springer • Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics • Studies in History and Philosophy of Science • Synthese • The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science • Theoria • THEORIA – An International Journal for Theory, History and the Foundations of Science • Topoi

Memberships

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- Società Italiana per la Logica e la Filosofia della Scienza

Languages

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Italian (native) • English (fluent) • German (good) • French (basic)

References

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– Prof Gustavo Cevolani
IMT School for Advanced Studies
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– Prof Marcel Weber
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– Prof Stephan Hartmann
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– Prof Jon Williamson
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