

Matteo Santarelli

Department of Philosophy – University of Bologna
Via Zamboni 38, 40126 Bologna, Italy

Academic Field: Moral Philosophy (M-FIL/03)

Current Position: Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track Researcher)

RESEARCH PROFILE

My research develops a pragmatist approach to social philosophy, moral philosophy, and philosophical anthropology by combining classical American pragmatism, psychoanalysis, conceptual engineering, and contemporary social theory. My work focuses particularly on the relations between values, interests, democratic inquiry, politicization, social conflict, and the formation of subjectivity.

My recent research investigates the role of articulation, vagueness, and conceptual transformation in democratic and social practices, with particular attention to the philosophical legacy of John Dewey, George Herbert Mead, Jane Addams, William James, and Sigmund Freud. I am especially interested in the intersections between pragmatism, psychoanalysis, social sciences, and critical social philosophy.

My publications have appeared in journals such as *Inquiry*, *Constellations*, *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy*, *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, and *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Social Philosophy
- Moral Philosophy
- Pragmatism
- Social theory
- Theory of Values and Interests
- Psychoanalysis and Social Theory
- Conceptual Ethics
- Political Articulation and Politicization

CURRENT POSITION

University of Bologna

Department of Philosophy

October 2022 – present

Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track Researcher) in Moral Philosophy (M-FIL/03).

Teaching responsibilities include undergraduate and graduate courses in:

- Moral Philosophy
- Philosophical Anthropology
- Philosophy of History

Member of the PhD Board in *Philosophy, Science, Cognition and Semiotics*.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Bologna

Research Fellow

April 2020 – May 2022

Research project: *“Articolare la situazione problematica. Tra filosofia e scienze sociali”*

Max Weber Kolleg für kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Studien

Junior Fellow

October 2019 – March 2020

Research project: *“Articulating Experiences of Self-Transcendence”*

University of Bologna

Research Fellow

September 2018 – August 2019

Research project: *“Esprimere e comunicare il sé: un contributo alla filosofia della psicologia”*

RESEARCH GRANTS AND SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

2023 – present

Principal Investigator of the EU funded PRIN research project:

“DeCo – Democratizing Concepts”

(University of Bologna – Sapienza University of Rome)

Funding amount: €230,709

The project investigates conceptual articulation, democratic inquiry, politicization, and conceptual transformation in contemporary social and political practices.

Postdoctoral researchers employed within the project:

- Céline Henne (University of Bologna)
- Giulia Origlia (Sapienza University of Rome)
- Claudia Mazzuca (Sapienza University of Rome)

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

- Co-editor-in-chief of *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy* (Scopus-indexed journal).
- Member of the editorial board of:
 - *La società degli individui*
 - *Paradigmi*
 - *Discipline filosofiche*
- Member of the scientific board of:
 - *Quaderni di teoria sociale*
 - *Filosofie dell'esercizio* (Book Series, ETS)

EDUCATION

University of Molise

PhD in Human Sciences, Communication Sciences, and Social Sciences

2014–2018

Dissertation: *La teoria dell'interesse di John Dewey. Quadro storico, prospettive contemporanee, applicazioni socio-politiche*

Roma Tre University

PhD in Philosophy and Theory of Human Sciences

2010–2014

Dissertation: *Individuale e sociale. Tra pragmatismo e sociologia*

Roma Tre University

MA in Philosophy of Culture

2008–2010

Dissertation: *I segni dell'inconscio. Sigmund Freud e C.S. Peirce*

Final grade: 110/110 cum laude

Roma Tre University

BA in Philosophy

2004–2008

Final grade: 110/110 cum laude

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Visiting PhD Student - Humboldt University, Berlin

January 2016 – June 2016

Research activity in pragmatism, social philosophy, and philosophical anthropology.

Visiting PhD Student – École Normale Supérieure, Paris

October 2012 – November 2012

Recipient of Roma Tre University international mobility scholarship.

Visiting Graduate Student – Penn State University, Pennsylvania (USA)

October 2010 – November 2012

Recipient of Roma Tre University international mobility scholarship.

MONOGRAPHS

1. Dreon, R., Santarelli, M. *John Dewey. Una biografia intellettuale*. Rome: Carocci, 2026.
2. Santarelli, M. *Gli esercizi di Freud*. Pisa: ETS, 2024.
3. Santarelli, M. *La filosofia sociale del pragmatismo. Un'introduzione*. Bologna: Clueb, 2021.
4. Santarelli, M. *La vita interessata. Una proposta teorica a partire da John Dewey*. Macerata: Quodlibet, 2019.

EDITED VOLUMES, TRANSLATIONS, AND SPECIAL ISSUES

1. Côté, J.-F., Baggio, G., Santarelli, M. (eds.). *The Elgar Companion to George Herbert Mead*. Elgar, 2025.
2. Caramelli, E., Colli, A., Donna, D., Santarelli, M. (eds.). *Filosofie in traduzione. Dianoia*, 2025 (forthcoming).
3. Santarelli, M. (ed.). *Musica, critica e politicizzazione. Tra filosofia, storia e scienze sociali. La società degli individui*, 2024.
4. Maddalena, G., Ferrucci, F., Bella, M., Santarelli, M. (eds.). *Gestures: Approaches, Uses, and Developments*. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2024.
5. Lijoi, F., Petrolini, V., Santarelli, M. (eds.). *Therapy and Conflict. Between Pragmatism and Psychoanalysis. European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy*, 2023.

6. Santarelli, M. (ed.). *Riscoprire Jane Addams: filosofia sociale, etica, e attivismo politico. La società degli individui*, 2022.
7. Baggio, G., Bella, M., Maddalena, G., Santarelli, M. (eds.). *Esperienza, contingenza, valori. Saggi in onore di Rosa M. Calcaterra*. Macerata: Quodlibet, 2020.
8. Santarelli, M., Maddalena, G. (eds.). *Sintesi. Spazio Filosofico*, 2018.
9. Madzia, R., Santarelli, M. (eds.). *Pragmatism, Cognitive Sciences and the Sociality of Human Conduct. Pragmatism Today*, 2017.
10. Striano, M., Oliverio, S., Santarelli, M. (eds.). *Nuovi usi di vecchi concetti. Il metodo pragmatista oggi*. Milan: Mimesis, 2016.

TRANSLATIONS

1. Miras Boronat, N.S., Roversi, T., Santarelli, M. (eds. and introduction). Jane Addams, *Democrazia e etica sociale*. Salerno: Orthotes, 2024.
Italian translation of *Democracy and Social Ethics* (1902).
2. Santarelli, M. (translation, introduction, and editing). Hans Joas, *Come nascono i valori*. Macerata: Quodlibet, 2021.
Italian translation of *Die Entstehung der Werte* (1996).
3. Santarelli, M. (translation, introduction, and editing). *Dewey politico della crisi. Saggi scelti*. Lanciano: Carabba, 2019.

SELECTED BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Santarelli, M. "Società e politica", in *Il pragmatismo: temi e profili*. Rome: Carocci, 2026.
2. Santarelli, M. "Social Psychology, History, and Ethics: Mead on International-Mindedness", in *The Elgar Companion to George Herbert Mead*. Elgar, 2025.
3. Santarelli, M. "Psychoanalysis as a Science of Incomplete Gestures", in *Gestures: Approaches, Uses, and Developments*. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2024.
4. Santarelli, M. "Self-Transcendence and Heroism", in *Encyclopedia of Heroism Studies*. Dordrecht: Springer, 2024.
5. Santarelli, M. "The Ethical Consequences of Interests", in *The Jamesian Mind*. Routledge, 2022.

6. Santarelli, M. "Articolare l'esperienza. La teoria dei valori di Hans Joas", in Hans Joas, *Come nascono i valori*. Macerata: Quodlibet, 2021.
7. Santarelli, M. "Affettività ed emozioni: affinità e divergenze tra Freud e il pragmatismo", in *Pensare l'affettività*. Turin: Rosenberg & Sellier, 2021.
8. Santarelli, M., Serrano, J. "The Affective Side of Political Identities. Pragmatism, Populism and European Social Theory", in *Pragmatism and Social Philosophy*. Routledge, 2020.
9. Santarelli, M. "Psychology, Moral Theory and Politics. Dewey's Mature Theory of Interest in Ethics (1932)", in *John Dewey's Ethical Theory: the 1932 Ethics*. Routledge, 2020.
10. Santarelli, M. "Dewey, Santayana, and 'Ndrangheta. Understanding a Complex Social Problem", in *Santayana and Terrorism*. Brill, 2018.

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

1. Santarelli, M. "Adorno & Freud. Integration as a Political Problem", *Rivista di estetica*, 2026.
2. Santarelli, M. "Common Sense and its Problems. Some Remarks between Philosophy and Anthropology", *Journal of Social and Political Philosophy*, 2026.
3. Oliverio, S., Santarelli, M. "Principled Normativity or the Genesis of Values. On Critique/Post-critique and Educational Pragmatism", *Educational Reflective Practices*, 2025.
4. Santarelli, M. "Dewey's Anthropology of Interests – and Values", *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy*, 2024.
5. Bruni, L., Santarelli, M. "The Social Character of the Unconscious. A Cross Reading between G. H. Mead and C. G. Jung", *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior*, 2024.
6. Santarelli, M. "Improving Concepts, Reshaping Values. Pragmatism and Ameliorative Projects", *Inquiry*, 2024.
7. Bellucci, F., Santarelli, M. "Peirce on Vagueness and Common Sense", *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 2023.
8. Mazzuca, C., Santarelli, M. "Making it Abstract, Making it Contestable: Politicization at the Intersection of Political and Cognitive Science", *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, 2023.
9. Santarelli, M., Serrano Zamora, J. "Experts and Citizens in the Times of Covid-19: A Deweyan Perspective", *Dewey Studies*, 2022.

10. Santarelli, M. "Values, Valuations, and Power: Re-assessing and Applying Joas' Theory of Values", *Iride*, 2021.
11. Santarelli, M. "Between Problematization and Evaluation. Some Remarks on Pragmatism and Genealogy", *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy*, 2021.
12. Santarelli, M., Serrano Zamora, J. "Populism or Pragmatism? Two Ways of Understanding Political Articulation", *Constellations*, 2021.
13. Santarelli, M. "The Dark Side of Habits. A Pragmatist Account", *Lo Sguardo*, 2020.
14. Santarelli, M. "Security as Completeness. A Peircean Semiotic Reading of the Psychology of Attachment", *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy*, 2017.

INVITED TALKS AND SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks and Keynote Lectures

2026

- Invited speaker, "*Democracy as a Form of Life: Critical Perspectives*", University of Barcelona
Paper: "*Is Bureaucracy a Form of Life?*"
- Invited speaker, "*Imitazione. Tra riconoscimento e autonomia*", University of Palermo.
Paper: "*Abiti, imitazione, autonomia. Tra pragmatismo e psicoanalisi*".
- Invited speaker, "*Contested Concepts. From Conceptual Change to Conceptual Ethics*", Trippenhuus Amsterdam.
Paper: "*Conceptual Engineering as Public Inquiry*" (with Céline Henne).

2025

- Invited speaker, international conference "*The End of Progress*", Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies (Pisa).
Paper: "*Genealogy, Progress, and Regression. Some Psychoanalytic Remarks*".
- Invited speaker, international conference "*Counter-Experiences, Dissent, and Social Interests*", University of Minho (Portugal).
Paper: "*Is Disinterestedness Possible at All?*"

- Speaker, *5th European Pragmatist Conference*, University of St. Gallen.
Paper: *“Is Disinterestedness Possible at All? A Pragmatist Perspective”*.
- Speaker, annual conference of the Italian Society for Moral Philosophy, Roma Tre University.
Paper: *“Il posto delle norme dei valori. Una proposta teorica”*.
- Speaker, seminar series *“Living Pragmatisms”*
- Paper: *“Senso comune, potere e democrazia: a partire da John Dewey”*.
- Speaker, seminar series *“Implementation in Conceptual Engineering”*, University of Bologna.
Paper: *“Conceptual Agency and Public Inquiry”* (with Céline Henne).
- Speaker, conference *“Adorno & Freud”*, University of Bologna.
Paper: *“Adorno & Freud”*.

2024

- Invited speaker, annual Seminar of Critical Theory, University of Parma.
Paper: *“L’esercizio della realtà. Transfert, regressione e controllo”*.
- Speaker, international conference of the John Dewey Society *“How is Pragmatism Critical?”*, University of Évora (Portugal).
Paper: *“Dewey’s Critical Anthropology of Interests”*.
- Invited speaker, workshop *“Pragmatist Anthropology”*, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice.
Paper: *“The Natural Diversity of Interests: Towards a Pragmatist and Pluralistic Anthropology”*.
- Speaker, conference *“The Creative Gesture”*, University of Molise.
Paper: *“Creating Scenes. Freud as a Genealogist”*.

2023

- Invited speaker, workshop *“Focus on Hans Joas”*, Sciences Po Paris.
Paper: *“Valeurs, intérêts et articulation. La théorie de Joas à l’épreuve des débats contemporains”*.
- Speaker, international workshop *“Articulating Norms and Values”*, Maastricht University.
Paper: *“The Subject Matter of Articulation”*.
- Speaker, workshop *“Filosofia e senso comune”*, University of Pisa.
Paper on pragmatism and common sense.

2022

- Invited speaker, workshop “*From Common Sense to Common Practices*”, University of St. Gallen.
Paper: “*A Vague Common Sense: Some Pragmatist Remarks on Pluralism*”.
- Speaker, *4th European Pragmatist Conference*, UCL London.
Paper: “*The Epistemological and Political Benefits of Articulation*”.
- Speaker, international conference “*The Individual and the Community in American Philosophy*”, Polish Academy of Sciences.
Paper: “*I Me Mine. Two Problems with Mead’s Theory of Socialization*”.
- Invited speaker, workshop “*Struggle, Conflict, Critique*”, University of Barcelona.
Paper: “*Concepts and Practices: Some Pragmatist Remarks on Haslanger’s Social Philosophy*”.

Earlier Selected Presentations

Additional presentations and invited talks at:

- University of Manchester (MANCEPT Workshops)
- EHESS Paris
- University of Helsinki
- University of Venice
- Opole University
- University of Milan
- Bocconi University
- University of Cagliari
- University of Calabria
- Université Paris Nanterre
- Metrolab Brussels
- TU München
- University of Parma
- Centre Marc Bloch Berlin
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ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Selected conference and workshops as Organizer and Co-organizer

- Organizer (with Gioia Laura Iannilli) of the International workshop “*Values and Technology*” (University of Bologna, June 4-5 2026), with Gioia Laura Iannilli,
- Organizer (with Céline Henne and Yvonne Huetter-Almerigi) of the international conference “*Democratizing Concepts*” (University of Bologna, September 11-12 2025).
- Organizer (with Chiara Montalti) of the international conference “*The Politics of Disability and Autism*” (University of Bologna, December 6, 2024).
- Organizer (with Jean-François Côté and Guido Baggio) of the international conference “*Mead Symposium*” (University of Bologna, June 24–26, 2024).
- Organizer (with Eleonora Caramelli, Andrea Colli, Diego Donna, Silvia Pieroni) of the international conference “*Philosophy in Translation*” (University of Bologna, November 9–11, 2023).
- Organizer (with Tullio Viola and Just Serrano Zamora) of the international workshop “*Articulating Norms and Values*” (Maastricht University, June 23, 2023).
- Organizer of the panel “*Pragmatist Social Epistemology and Articulation*” at the *European Pragmatist Conference* (University of London, August 2022).
- Member of the scientific and organizing committee of the international conference “*Gestures: New Meanings for an Old Word*” (University of Molise, September 15–18, 2022).
- Member of the scientific committee of the *Young Scholars Pragmatism Conference* (École Normale Supérieure, Paris, January 18–19, 2018).
- Member of the organizing committee of the international conference “*New Uses for Old Concepts*” (Roma Tre University, May 14–15, 2015).

Seminar Series

- Organizer (with Maria Cecilia Bertolani) of the seminar series “*Dopo Freud*”, in collaboration with the Bologna Psychoanalytic Center and under the patronage of the Italian Psychoanalytic Society.
- Organizer and coordinator of the doctoral seminar series “*Seric*” (Department of Philosophy, University of Bologna, 2024–2025).
- Organizer (with the RaMo research group) of the seminar series:
 - “*Pragmatismo ed empirismi*” (2024–2025)
 - “*Frange del pragmatismo*” (2023–2024)
 - “*Pragmatismo e senso comune*” (2022–2023)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Bologna – Department of Philosophy

2022 – present

Lecturer in Moral Philosophy (M-FIL/03)

Undergraduate and graduate teaching in Moral Philosophy, with particular focus on pragmatism, social philosophy, ethics, political articulation, and theories of value.

Lecturer in Philosophical Anthropology (M-FIL/03)

Teaching and curriculum development in philosophical anthropology, with emphasis on social theory, psychoanalysis, pragmatism, and theories of subjectivity.

Previous Teaching Appointments

University of Bologna

Philosophy Laboratory

2023

Teaching activities focused on conceptual analysis, philosophical writing, and critical discussion.

Adjunct Lecturer in Philosophy of History

2021–2022

Integrated 12 ECTS course in Philosophy of History.

Module

A:

“Potere e risentimento. La critica dei valori da Friedrich Nietzsche a Carl Schmitt”

Module

B:

“Psicoanalisi e critica dei valori morali”

DOCTORAL TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Doctoral Programs

University of Bologna

Member of the PhD Board in *Philosophy, Science, Cognition and Semiotics*.

Doctoral Seminars

- Coordinator of the doctoral seminar series “*Seric*” (Department of Philosophy, University of Bologna, 2024–2025).
- Speaker at doctoral seminars and graduate workshops at:
 - University of Perugia
 - University of Padua
 - University of Florence
 - University of Bologna

Topics included:

- pragmatism
 - social philosophy
 - values and conflict
 - democratic participation
 - political identities
 - psychoanalysis and social theory
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THESIS, PhD and Post-Doc SUPERVISION

University of Bologna

2018 – present

Supervisor

- Supervisor of 85 BA theses.
- Supervisor of 3 MA theses.

Co-supervisor

- Co-supervisor of 3 MA theses.
- Co-supervisor of 3 BA theses.

Phd

- Co-supervisor of one PhD Dissertation – Francesca Papi

Post-Doc

Supervisor of Céline Henne's Post-Doc (2024-2025).

Main areas of supervision:

- Moral Philosophy
- Social Philosophy
- Social Theory
- Pragmatism
- Psychoanalysis
- Philosophical Anthropology

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOLS

CNRS Summer School

“Pragmatisme et enquêtes empiriques en sciences sociales”

Porquerolles, France — 2019

Lecturer in the panel:

- “*Lectures et usages de John Dewey*”

CNRS Summer School

“*Pragmatisme et philosophie américaine aux 20e et 21e siècles*”

Aussois, France — 2017

Lecturer in the panels:

- “*Retour sur la philosophie sociale de Dewey*”
- “*G.H. Mead, le soi et la société*”

ACADEMIC SERVICE

University of Bologna – Department of Philosophy

Delegate for Communication

2025 – present

Member of the Department Council

2023 – present

Member of the Quality Assurance Committee (AQ)

BA Program in Philosophy

2023 – present

Member of the Third Mission Committee

Department of Philosophy

2023 – present

Member of the PhD Board

PhD Program in *Philosophy, Science, Cognition and Semiotics*

2026 – present

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- John Dewey Society
 - Associazione Pragma
 - Pragmata – French Society for Pragmatist Studies
 - Società Italiana di Filosofia Morale
-

REFEREEING ACTIVITY

Referee for Journals Including

- *Inquiry*
- *Government and Opposition*
- *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*
- *Topoi*
- *AI & Society*
- *Contemporary Pragmatism*
- *Critical Horizons*
- *Ethics & Politics*
- *The American Sociologist*
- *Social Science Information*
- *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*
- *Pragmatism Today*
- *Human Affairs*
- *Giornale di Metafisica*
- *Critical Hermeneutics*
- *Studi di Estetica*
- *Dianoia*

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND THIRD MISSION

University of Bologna

Third Mission Activities

2022 – present

Member of the Third Mission Committee of the Department of Philosophy.

Public Philosophy and Outreach

- Participation in the World Mental Health Day initiative (2024).
 - Speaker at the Festival “*Scienza e Filosofia*” (Foligno, 2022–2023).
 - Participation in the initiative “*Classici antichi e nuovi. Il triangolo dell’individualità*” (2024).
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LANGUAGES

Language Reading Listening Speaking Writing

Italian	Native	Native	Native	Native
English	C2	C1	C1	C1
French	C2	C1	B2	B2
German	C2	C1	C1	C1