

CURRICULUM VITÆ

*Mattia Mantovani*

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Kastanienallee 46  
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born in Rovigo (Italy) on 24.04.1987  
nationality: Italian

EMPLOYMENT

- 2022-2024 FWO Junior Post-doc Research Fellow, KU Leuven  
*From Truth to Ecology. Reassessing the History of the Senses, 1250-1750*
- 2020 Shortlisted for a Position of Assistant Professor in Philosophy at Princeton University
- 2019-2021 FWO-NWO Lead Agency Project, Post-doc Research Fellow, KU Leuven  
*The Secretive Diffusion of the New Philosophy in the Low Countries. Evidence on the Teaching of Cartesian Philosophy from Student Notebooks 1650-1750*

EDUCATION

- 2018 Ph.D. in Philosophy, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
Dissertation: *The Eye and the Ideas. Descartes on the Nature of Bodies*  
advisors: Dominik Perler, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
Sven Dupré, Utrecht University – Amsterdam University
- 2012 Specialized 2<sup>nd</sup>-cycle Diploma, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa (with honours)  
advisor: Massimo Mugnai, Scuola Normale Superiore
- 2012 M.A. (Laurea) in Philosophy, Università Statale di Pisa (with honours)  
with a thesis on the Descartes' theory of perception  
advisors: Alfredo Ferrarin, Università di Pisa

- Massimo Mugnai, Scuola Normale Superiore
- 2009 Specialized 1<sup>st</sup>-cycle Diploma, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa (with honours)  
 advisor: Carlo Ginzburg, UCLA – Scuola Normale Superiore
- 2009 B.A. (Laurea) in Philosophy, Università Statale di Pisa (with honours)  
 with a thesis on Kant's *Critique of Judgement*  
 advisor: Alfredo Ferrarin, Università di Pisa
- 2006 High School Diploma in Sciences (100/100)

#### FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- 07–08.2019 Herzog-Ernst-Stipendium at the Forschungszentrum Gotha  
 project: *A Century of Objects in one Book. Johann Christoph Sturm's Collegium Experimentale (1676)*. Declined.
- 11.2018–10.2019 Post-doc Fellowship at the Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Storici, Napoli  
 project: *Descartes' Annotationes in Principia. Edition, Translation and Comment*. Declined in 1.2020.
- 07–10.2018 Bausch-Stipendium at the Leopoldina – Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften, Halle (Saale)  
 project: *Finalism and Mechanicism in Early Modern Medicine*
- 02–04.2016 Junior Fellowship at the Descartes Centre, Utrecht  
 project: *Descartes on the "Natural Geometry" of Sight*
- 01–05.2015 Visiting Scholarship at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia  
 advisor: Gary Hatfield
- 04.2013–10.2015 Elsa-Neumann-Stipendium, Berlin
- 05–06.2012 DAAD Scholarship at the Humboldt-Universität, Berlin  
 project: *Leibniz' Theory of Modalities*
- 10.2010–06.2011 Exchange Grant at St. John's College, Oxford  
 tutors: Alison Hills and Joseph Melia
- 02–06.2010 Winckelmann-Stipendium at the Technische Universität, Dresden

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS (PEER-REVIEWED)

- “The Institution of Nature. Descartes on Human Perception”, *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* 11 (2022), forthcoming.

The paper considers Descartes’ theory that brain-states are “instituted by nature” in such a manner as to bring about certain mental states, whereby Descartes intended to account for the mismatch between what bodies are – nothing but “extended things” – and how we perceive them to be. I spell out this theory by studying its evolution throughout Descartes’ writings and its relation to the Scholastic background. In particular, I suggest that Descartes’ theory of an “institution of nature” should be understood as a response to Antonio Rubio’s claim that *species* are “naturally designed” so as to cause perceivers to assimilate the object’s form. With his theory of an “institution of nature” – I argue – Descartes intended to shift the explanation as to why perceivers have certain sense-perceptions from external objects to the perceivers themselves, thereby making a case for the peculiar *human* character of our sense-experience and paving the way for a species-dependent account of perception.

- “The First of All Natural Sciences. Roger Bacon on *Perspectiva* and Human Knowledge”, *Vivarium* 59/3 (2021), 186-214.

The article is devoted to Roger Bacon’s understanding of *perspectiva* as “the first of all natural sciences.” After considering a few alternative medieval definitions and classifications of this discipline – such as al-Fārābī’s, Grosseteste’s and Kilwardby’s – I study Bacon’s arguments for according to *perspectiva* so exceptional a role. I show that Bacon’s arguments are grounded in his peculiar understanding of the visual process: according to Bacon, vision is indeed the only sense in which perception takes place “by reasoning” (*per sillogismum*). I argue that this theory of perception also lays the foundations for Bacon’s – *prima facie* amiss – claim that “concerning vision alone, and no other sense, have philosophers developed a separate science.” I explore this point by contrasting with one another Bacon’s conception of *perspectiva* and of music, and close with some more general remarks on the implications of Bacon’s account of the visual process for his theory of knowledge. Based on his theory of a “vision by reasoning,” I conclude that Bacon came to reinterpret *perspectiva* as the *organon* of visual knowledge.

- “Descartes’ Man Under Construction. The *Circulatory Statue* of Salomon Reisel, 1680”, *Early Science and Medicine* 25/2 (2020), 101-134.

The paper studies the “human circulatory statues” which Salomon Reisel designed in the 1670s in order to demonstrate the circulation of the blood and its effect on the brain. It investigates how Reisel intended this project to promote Descartes’ philosophy, and how it relates to contemporary diagrammatic schematizations of the blood circulation system. It further explores Reisel’s claims concerning the epistemological and practical advantages of working with a three-dimensional model and argues that Reisel intended his *statua* to address the concerns of his fellow physicians and, more specifically, to help in diagnostics. I consider the background, strategy and legacy of the essays in which Reisel presented his devices, as well as their relevance to the general project of the scientific journal – one of the earliest – in which they appeared, the *Miscellanea Curiosa*. Reisel was a leading physician who acted throughout his life as a mediator between the Royal Society and the Academia Naturæ Curiosorum. His articles, the paper argues, have much to tell us much about the role played by the recently established scientific academies and their journals in shaping the transmission of early modern science and medicine, in terms both of theories and of the knowledge embodied in scientific instruments.

- “Herbert of Cherbury, Descartes and Locke on Innate Ideas and Universal Consent”, *Journal of Early Modern Studies* 8/1 (2019), 83-115.

The paper investigates the seventeenth-century debate on whether the agreement of all human beings upon certain notions—designated as the “common” ones—prove these notions to be innate. It does so by focusing on Descartes’ and Locke’s rejections of the philosophy of Herbert of Cherbury, one of the most important early modern proponents of this view. The paper opens by considering the strategy used in Herbert’s arguments, as well as the difficulties involved in them. It shows that Descartes’ 1638 and 1639 reading of Herbert’s *De veritate*—both the 1633 second Latin edition and Mersenne’s 1639 translation—was instrumental in shaping Descartes’ views on the issue. The arguments of Locke’s *Essay* opposing Herbert’s case for innatism are thus revealed to be ineffective against the case which Descartes makes for this same doctrine, since Descartes had in fact framed his conception of innateness in opposition to the very same theses as Locke was arguing against. The paper concludes by explaining how two thinkers as antithetical as Locke and Descartes came to agree on at least one point, and a truly crucial one: namely, that universal consent counts as a criterion neither for innatism nor for truth.

- “Le «lettere mozze» di Federico III di Sicilia e il *liber mortis* di Dante”, John Hopkins University Press, *Dante Studies* 135 (2017), 31-73.

Taking its cue from a line of Dante’s *Comedy* that interpreters had been so far unable to understand, the paper studies the introduction and diffusion of Arabic numerals in 1300 Florence. Focusing on the numerous early commentators of Dante’s masterpiece, it shows how, during the first decades of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the new system of numeration took hold among non-specialists and ended up impacting on their more general understanding of semiotic and – quite unexpectedly – religion. The paper shows that the belief (supported by some passage of the *Bible*) according to which God would register the well- and wrong-doings of human beings in some sort of “accounting books” was far from being a dead metaphor for Christian believers of the Central Italy of the time, but guided their approach to the after-life and was significantly affected by the advent of a new system of numerical notation.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS IN VOLUMES (PEER-REVIEWED)

- “*Visio per sillogismum*: Sensation and Cognition in 13<sup>th</sup>-Century Theories of Vision”, in Elena Băltuță, ed., *Medieval Perceptual Puzzles. Theories of Sense Perception in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries* (Leiden: Brill, 2020), 111-152.

In this essay, I investigate the theory of perception of the leading vision theorists of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century – Roger Bacon, Witelo, and John Pecham – and shows how it calls into question the opposition between “materialists” and “dematerializers” famously advocated in the Sorabji-Burnyeat debate. I show how the so-called *perspectivi* reworked the Aristotelian distinction between proper and common sensibles to distinguish between what they took to be the two main stages of the visual process: the sensory, namely, and the cognitive. Bacon and his followers maintained that the proper visibles – light and color – are the only visibles to be apprehended in a bare sensory act, while all remaining visible features require higher cognitive activities to be grasped: most notably of all the *visio per sillogismum*. In the view of these experts, light and color, indeed, are “apprehended only because they tinge the *ultimum sentiens*” – the brain, roughly speaking – after initially tinging the crystalline lens, this alone amounting to what they called the vision “by naked sense” (*sensu spoliato*). I argue that the Perspectivists construed the visual apparatus in the way that they did precisely to secure such a coloring of the sense organs relevant

to the visual process. Their theory of vision was thereby aimed at refuting Albert's and Aquinas' claim that the eye undergoes no material change in the act of perception, but only a "spiritual" one. At the same time, though, I will also show how Bacon transformed the Aristotelian concept of a common sensible by enlarging its scope and, even more importantly, by no longer ascribing the perception of most of these "common sensibles" to some power of the sensitive soul, but to the intellect itself. The Perspectivists, I conclude, were not pressing for a "dematerialization" of the perception of proper and common sensibles alike – nor for the opposite view. Rather, they were intellectualizing the perception of non-proper sensibles, and this largely as a result of having understood light and color perception in straightforward "material" terms.

#### ENCYCLOPAEDIAS ENTRIES & NOTES

- *Corpus* in Igor Agostini ed., *Nouvel Index Scolastico-Cartésien* (Paris: Vrin, 2022), 20.000 words.
- *Extensio* in Igor Agostini ed., *Nouvel Index Scolastico-Cartésien* (Paris: Vrin, 2022), 16.000 words.
- *Materia* in Igor Agostini ed., *Nouvel Index Scolastico-Cartésien* (Paris: Vrin, 2022), 20.000 words.
- *Quantitas* in Igor Agostini ed., *Nouvel Index Scolastico-Cartésien* (Paris: Vrin, 2022), 16.000 words.
- *Spatium* in Igor Agostini ed., *Nouvel Index Scolastico-Cartésien* (Paris: Vrin, 2022), 8.000 words.

#### REVIEWS

- "Dominique Raynaud, *Eye Representation and Ocular Terminology from Antiquity to Helmholtz* (Amsterdam: Wayenborgh, 2020) – Review", *Centuarus* (2021), 1-4.
- "Gerard Simon, *Kepler, Renovateur de l'Optique*, edited by Delphine Bellis and Edouard Mehl (Paris: Garnier 2019) – Review", *Early Science and Medicine* 26/3 (2021), forthcoming.
- "Antonella Del Prete and Raffaele Carbone (eds.), *Chemins du cartésianisme* (Paris: Garnier, 2017) – Review", *Early Science and Medicine* 25/1 (2020), 94-99.
- "A Priori Proofs of God's Existence in 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Scholastics", *Quaestio* 19 (2019), 492-497. Essay review of Igor Agostini, *La démonstration de l'existence de Dieu. Les conclusions des cinq voies de saint Thomas d'Aquin et la preuve a priori dans le thomisme du XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle*, *The Age of Descartes* (Brepols: Turnhout, 2016), 704 pp.

EDITED BOOKS & JOURNAL ISSUES (under contract)

- *Descartes in the Classroom. Teaching Cartesian Philosophy in the Early Modern Age* (with Davide Cellamare). Under contract with Brill, for the series *Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy and Science*. Expected publication: Spring 2022.

With contributions by: Igor Agostini (University of Lecce), Roger Ariew (University of South Florida), Erik-Jan Bos (University of Rotterdam), Steven Coesemans (KU Leuven), Domenico Collacciani (ENS, Paris), Antonella Del Prete (University of Viterbo), Daniel Garber (Princeton University), Howard Hotson (University of Oxford), Sarah Hutton (University of York), Henri Krop (University of Rotterdam), Pietro Daniel Omodeo (Università Ca' Foscari, Venice), Marie-Frédérique Pellegrin (University of Lyon), Sophie Roux (École Normale Supérieure), Christoph Sander (Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome), Andrea Strazzoni (Gotha Research Centre).

I contribute myself to the volume, with both the “Introduction” (with the other editor) and a chapter, entitled “The Anatomy of a Condemnation. Descartes’ Theory of Perception and the Leuven Affair, 1637-1671”.

In 1662 Descartes’ philosophy was condemned by Leuven theological faculty. One year later, this condemnation – the first by a Catholic university – led to the inclusion of Descartes’ works in the *Index librorum prohibitorum*. A proper comprehension of how Descartes’ philosophy was received in Leuven is therefore vital to understand the early history of Cartesianism, especially in the academic setting. To this effect, in this talk I consider the responses to Descartes’ philosophy by Louvain professors from 1637 to 1671, that is to say, from the critique of Descartes’ first publication by a member of this university (Libert Froidmont) to the year in which, reportedly, the vast majority of professors of the philosophical faculty ended up endorsing Cartesian ideas. The main sources at our disposal – *dictata*, disputations, and the different editions of Plemp’s works – reveal an intense, almost obsessive interest in Descartes’ theory of perception, down to the most minute details of his physiology. In my talk, I try to account for this apparent oddity, and show how much the *fortuna* of Descartes’ theory of perception reveals about Descartes’ own philosophical agenda and the reasons behind its acceptance, or rejection, in the academic milieu.

- *Cartesian Images. Picturing Natural Philosophy in the Early Modern Age* (with Davide Cellamare). Under contract with Brill, for the series *Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy and Science*. Expected publication: Summer 2022.

With contributions by: Tawrin Baker (University of Notre Dame), Delphine Bellis (Paul Valéry University, Montpellier), Annie Bitbol-Hespériès (Paris), Maria Conforti (University of Rome), Mihnea Dobre (University of Bucharest), Gary Hatfield (University of Philadelphia), Eric Jorink (University of Leiden), Christoph Lüthy (Radboud University, Nijmegen), Gideon Manning (Claremont Graduate University), Craig Martin (University of Venice), Carla Rita Palmerino (Radboud University, Nijmegen), Isabelle Pantin (ENS, Paris), David Rabouin (CNRS, Paris), Christoph Sander (Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome), Jip van Besouw (Free University, Brussel).

I contribute myself to the volume, with both the “Introduction” (with the other editor) and a chapter, entitled “A Tale of Two Images. Picturing the Human Body Among Cartesians”.

- *Picturing Life in the Early Modern Age* (with Simon Rebohm). Special Issue of *Notes and Records: The Royal Society Journal of the History of Science*. Expected online publication: Spring 2022.

With contributions by: Florike Egmond (University of Leiden), Angela Fischel (Staatliche Museen zu Berlin), Silke Förschler (University of Kassel), Sachiko Kusukawa (Trinity College, Cambridge University), Simon Rebohm (Leopoldina), Wenrui Zhao (Columbia University).

I contribute myself to the volume, with both the “Introduction” (with the other editor) and an article, entitled “In outline, and at a glance. Diagrams of Life Processes in the Seventeenth Century”.

The seventeenth century was an especially thriving period for the life sciences. Many new anatomical structures and physiological processes were discovered, including one of the most fundamental of all: the circulation of blood. Harvey’s discovery, made public in 1628, was contested till the end of the century. Despite dozens of pamphlets and treatises, the theory of blood circulation remained so counter-intuitive to physicians familiar with Galen’s theory that quite a few of Harvey’s supporters became convinced that words were not enough to defeat so time-honoured a misapprehension. Their works started thus to include representations of the blood circuit, ranging from detailed depictions with a pretence of realism to most abstract diagrams, in which the entire process was reduced to a series of concentric circles divided into quadrants. The article examines the different visual strategies of these images, by focusing on the illustrators of the posthumous 1662 Latin and 1664 French edition of Descartes’ *Treatise on Man*, on Steno, Caspar Bartholin, and Salomon Reisel’s correspondence with Francis Aston in the 1680s. It shows that these illustrators had a quite sophisticated understanding of the role of images, and engaged in a lively debate about whether to favour aesthetic considerations or “intelligibility”, truth-to-life or vividness, or how to mediate between them, so as to represent the circulation of the blood *uno intuitu* – “at a glance” – and, thereby, persuade readers of its truth.

- *Aristotle’s De sensu in the Latin Tradition, 1150-1650* (with Carla Casagrande and Andrea Robiglio). Special Issue of *Micrologus*. Expected publication: Winter 2022.

With contributions by: Tawrin Baker (University of Notre Dame), Chiara Beneduce (Radboud University, Nijmegen), Luca Burzelli (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa), Véronique Decaix (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), Silvia Donati (Universität Bonn), Griet Galle (KU Leuven), Christophe Grellard (EPHE Paris), Serena Masolini (University of Helsinki), Yael Raizman Kedar (Tel Hai College), Andrea Aldo Robiglio (KU Leuven), Aurélien Robert (Université de Tours), Carlos Steel (KU Leuven), Christina Thomsen Thörnqvist (University of Gothenburg), Kevin White (Catholic University of America), Roberto Zambiasi (Università degli Studi di Torino).

I contribute myself to the volume, with both the “Introduction” (with the other editors) and an article, provisionally titled “Reading Descartes through Aristotle’s *De sensu*. Libert Froidmont’s Critique of the *Discours de la méthode*, 1637”.

ORGANIZED CONFERENCES

- *Descartes in the Classroom. Teaching Cartesian Philosophy in the Early Modern Age* (with Davide Cellamare), a cooperation between KU Leuven and Radboud University, Nijmegen. Nijmegen, 20-22 January 2020.

Speakers: Igor Agostini (University of Lecce), Roger Ariew (University of South Florida), Erik-Jan Bos (University of Rotterdam), Steven Coesemans (KU Leuven), Domenico Collacciani (ENS, Paris), Antonella Del Prete (University of Viterbo), Daniel Garber (Princeton University), Howard Hotson (University of Oxford), Sarah Hutton (University of York), Sophie Roux (École Normale Supérieure), Geert Vanpaemel (KU Leuven), Theo Verbeek (University of Utrecht).

- *Cartesian Images. Picturing Natural Philosophy in the Early Modern Age* (with Davide Cellamare), a cooperation between KU Leuven and Radboud University, Nijmegen. Leuven, 15-17 March 2020.

[Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the conference has been moved on-line]

Speakers: Delphine Bellis (Paul Valéry University, Montpellier), Annie Bitbol-Hespériès (CNRS, Paris), Maria Conforti (University of Rome), Mihnea Dobre (University of Bucharest), Sietske Fransen (Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome), Gary Hatfield (University of Philadelphia), Christoph Lüthy (Radboud University, Nijmegen), Gideon Manning (Claremont Graduate University), Carla Rita Palmerino (Radboud University, Nijmegen), Isabelle Pantin (ENS, Paris), David Rabouin (CNRS, Paris), Jip van Besouw (Free University, Brussel).

- *Picturing Life in the Early Modern Age* (with Simon Rebohm), Leopoldina-Zentrum für Wissenschaftsforschung, Halle, 2 November 2020.

Speakers: Angela Fischel (Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz), Silke Förschler (University of Kassel), Simon Rebohm (Leopoldina), Wenrui Zhao (Columbia University).

- *Aristotle's De sensu in the Latin Tradition, 1150-1650* (with Carla Casagrande and Andrea Robiglio), a cooperation between KU Leuven and the University of Pavia, Pavia, 13-14 & Leuven, 17-18 September 2021.

Confirmed speakers: Tawrin Baker (University of Notre Dame), Chiara Beneduce (Radboud University, Nijmegen), Luca Burzelli (KU Leuven), Chiara Crisciani (Università di Pavia), Véronique Decaix (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), Silvia Donati (Universität Bonn), Griet Galle (KU Leuven), Christophe Grellard (EPHE Paris), Serena Masolini (University of Helsinki), Yael Raizman Kedar (Tel Hai College), Cecilia Panti (Università di Tor Vergata), Andrea Aldo Robiglio (KU Leuven), Aurélien Robert (Université de Tours), Carlos Steel (KU Leuven), Christina Thomsen Thörnqvist (University of Gothenburg), Kevin White (Catholic University of America), Roberto Zambiasi (Università di Torino).

- *Mechanical Philosophy in Context* (with Davide Cellamare), KU Leuven, 10-11 December 2021.

Confirmed speakers: Laura Georgescu (University of Groningen), Christoph Lüthy (Radboud University, Nijmegen), Sophie Roux (École Normale Supérieure), Andrea Sangiacomo (University of Groningen), Maarten van Dyck (University of Ghent), Han van Ruler (University of Rotterdam).



EDITORIAL ACTIVITY

Book Review Editor of *Physis. Journal of the Italian Society for the History of Science* (2020 – present)

AFFILIATIONS

De Wulf-Mansion Centre for Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, KU Leuven

LECTIO – KU Leuven Institute for the Study of the Transmission of Texts, Ideas and Images in Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance

Center for the History of Philosophy and Science, Radboud University, Nijmegen

Projektgruppe Frühe Neuzeit, Leopoldina – Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften

Roger Bacon Research Society

Società Italiana di Storia della Scienza

PRESENTATIONS & TALKS (selection)

“Reading Descartes through Aristotle’s *De sensu*. Libert Froidmont’s Critique of the *Discours de la méthode*”, *Aristotle’s De sensu in the Latin Tradition, 1150-1650*, Pavia & Leuven, 13-18 September 2021.

“Smuggling Optics into the Catholics’ Stronghold. Louvain, 1648-1671”, *Scientiae. Early Modern Knowledge, 1400-1800*, online, 9-12 June 2021.

“*Instituta a natura | Instituta a Deo*. Conoscenza sensibile e mente umana in Descartes”, *Societas Spinozana*, online, 20 May 2021.

“The Institution of Nature. Descartes on Human Perception”, *Ego sum / Je suis*, University of Salento and Sorbonne, Paris, online, 23-24 April 2021.

“From Truth to Ecology. Reassessing the History of the Senses, 1250-1750”, *Forschungskolloquium des Zentrums für Wissenschaftsforschung*, Leopoldina – Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften, online, 7 April 2021.

“Reading Descartes *en Physicien*. The Case of Vopiscus Fortunatus Plemp, 1632-1664”, *Medicine in the Philosophy of Descartes. Lights and Shadows*, online, 18-20 November 2020.

“A Tale of Two Images. Picturing the Human Body among Cartesians”, *Cartesian Images. Picturing Natural Philosophy in the Early Modern Age*, online, 29 October 2020.

“The Institution of Nature. Descartes on Human Perception”, Princeton – Bucharest Seminar, online, 6 October 2020.

“A War of Nerves. Descartes’ Philosophy in Louvain, 1637-1671”, *Descartes in the Classroom: Teaching Cartesian Philosophy in the Early Modern Age*, Radboud University, Nijmegen, 20-22 January 2020.

“The Institution of Nature. Descartes on Human Perception”, *Nijmegen-Groningen Colloquium*, 29 November 2019.

“Aristotle’s Theory of the Sensibles among the Perspectivists, 1021-1709”, *Platonism and Aristotelism in the History of Philosophy*, University of Pavia, 16-17 September 2019.

“Descartes’ Man Under Construction. The Circulatory Statue of Salomon Reisel, 1680”, *8<sup>th</sup> Gewina Conference – Belgisch-Nederlands Genootschap voor Wetenschaps- en Universiteitsgeschiedenis*, Utrecht, 21-22 June 2019.

“Sehen denken. Beobachtung und Theorie in der Anatomie der Frühen Neuzeit“, *Wissenschaftshistorisches Seminar*, Leopoldina – Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften, Halle (Saale), 2 April 2019.

“On the Authorship and Dating of Descartes’ *Annotationes*”, *Potentia/Potestas*, University of Salento, Lecce, 18-19 March 2019.

“«The Only Sense with a Science of Its Own»: Roger Bacon on perspectiva”, *From Quadrivium to Natural Sciences: New Impulses in the Traditional Framework*, University of Ostrava, 15-16 November 2018.

“Are the Optical Nerves Truly Hollow? Challenging Anatomical Authorities in the Early Modern Age”, *Mitteldeutschen Konferenz für Medizin- und Wissenschaftsgeschichte*, University of Halle-Wittenberg, Halle (Saale), 10 October 2018.

“The Role of Optics in Descartes’ Metaphysics”, HOPOS 2018, University of Groningen, 9-12 July 2018.

“Descartes on Human Nature and the Arbitrariness of Psycho-Physiological Laws”, *Norm und Natur: XXIV Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Philosophie*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 24-29 September 2017.

“*Sensus spoliatus*: The Perspectivists’ Distinction between Proper and Common Sensibles”, *Theories of Sense Perception in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries*, TOPOI - Berlin, 6-7 April 2017.

“Colour Transmission from the Perspectivists to Descartes”, *Research Colloquium in the History of Science*, TU Berlin, 1 June 2016.

“Descartes on Secondary Qualities”, *New York – New Jersey Early Modern Research Seminar*, CUNY, 3 March 2016.

“The Will Makes the Difference: Descartes on Factitious, Innate and Adventitious Ideas”, *HU-Princeton Workshop on Cognition and Causality*, Princeton University, 26-27 February 2016.

“Descartes on Factitious, Innate and Adventitious Ideas”, *Seminar of the Centre for the History of Philosophy and Science*, Radboud University, Nijmegen, 19 February 2016.

“The Role of Optics in Descartes’ Metaphysics”, *Princeton/Penn./John Hopkins/Columbia Graduate Seminar in the History of Philosophy*, Princeton University, 21 February 2015.

“Primary and secondary *ideas* in Descartes”, *Secondary qualities: the transition from quality to quantity*, University of Ghent, 2-3 October 2014.

“From epistemology to dissections: Descartes’ two-step argument for a distinction between primary and secondary qualities”, HOPOS 2014, University of Ghent, 3-5 July 2014 & *Fourth Annual Princeton-Humboldt Graduate Conference in Philosophy*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 13-15 August 2014.

“The Organ and the Extension of the Soul in Descartes”, *Transformationen des Geistes. Philosophische Psychologie 1500-1750*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 10 October 2013.

STEACHING

- 09–12.2021 “The Clash of the Senses. Problems in Sense Perception from Aristotle to Berkeley”  
Radboud University, Nijmegen (with Dr. Chiara Beneduce)  
MA course, first and second year
- 09–12. 2020 “Ideas, Words, Truth. Locke and Leibniz on Human Understanding”  
Radboud University, Nijmegen  
BA course, third year
- 02–06.2020 “The Senses and the World. Early Modern Theories of Perception”  
Radboud University, Nijmegen  
MA advanced course (Research Master Seminar), second year
- 05.2019 “Facoltà ignote e idealismo radicale nelle *Meditazioni*”  
Università del Salento, Lecce  
BA course (lecture), first & second year
- 04–07.2017 “Wahrnehmungstheorien der frühen Neuzeit”  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (with Dr. Hannes Ole Matthiessen)  
BA course, Proseminar, first & second year
- 04.2016 “Determinism and the Laws of Nature. A Seventeenth-Century Story”  
Utrecht University  
MA course, History and Philosophy of Science Program (lecture), first year