Francesco Orilia - Curriculum Vitae

Personal Data

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Place and date of birth: **Palermo, 11-8-1956**
Nationality: **Italian**

Brief presentation. I studied at the University of Palermo (M.A. in philosophy, 1979) and at Indiana University (Ph.D. in Philosophy, 1986). Since 1997 I teach at the University of Macerata, where I chaired the philosophy teaching program in 2010-2013 and I was rector's delegate for research and research evaluation from 2010 to 2016. My main research interests are in these areas: logic (logical paradoxes, normativity of logic), philosophy of language (reference), philosophy of mind (mind-body problem, mental causation), philosophy of time, ontology (properties and relations, relational order, Bradley's regress).

Education

B.A. in philosophy, University of Palermo, 1979.
Ph. D. in philosophy, Indiana University, Bloomington, 1986.

Fellowships/positions

1981: Fulbright travel grant for Graduate Studies in the US.
1981-1982: First year Graduate Student Fellowship, Indiana University.
1982-1985: Associate instructor, Indiana University.
1985 (II semestre). Doctoral dissertation fellowship, Indiana University.
1985-1986: Visiting Assistant Professor, Indiana University.
1987-1994: researcher in A.I., Olivetti Research Lab, Pisa.
July 1994- July 1997: researcher/lecturer in theoretical philosophy, University of Cagliari.
August 1997- January 2001: researcher/lecturer in the philosophy of language, University of Macerata.
February 2001- December 2004: Associate professor in the philosophy of language, University of Macerata.
Since January 2005: full professor in the philosophy of language, University of Macerata.

Visiting teaching positions

Indiana University (1986), Université Paris IV (2005), University of Iowa (2006), Cambridge University (2008), Université Blaise Pascal, Clermont Ferrand (2013), Università della Svizzera Italiana – Lugano (2019).

Services

2000-2003: member of the selection committee for the E. W. Beth Dissertation Prize (for a Ph. D. dissertation in Europe in logic, language and information).

2010-2013: Director of the B.A. and Master programs in philosophy, University of Macerata.

2010-2016: Rector's delegate for research and evaluation, University of Macerata.

October 26, 2023 – October 2025: head of the philosophy and human sciences section of the Humanities Dept., University of Macerata.

Member of the editorial board of *Metaphysica*, *L&PS - Logic and Philosophy of Science, an electronic Journal* (http://www.univ.trieste.it/~episteme): *Rivista Italiana di Filosofia Analitica Junior* (http://www.rifanalitica.it); *Philosophy International Journal* (https://medwinpublishers.com/PhIJ); *OLTRE - Orizzonti di teoresi filosofica*, Mimesis, *Philosophical Analysis*, De Gruyter (https://www.degruyter.com/view/serial/PAPA-EN-B?rskey=ymlIK1&result=3).

Referee for *Noûs*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *Erkenntnis*, *dialectica*, *Studia Logica*, *Mind*, *Philosophical Studies, Philosophical Review*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Logic*, *Metaphysica*, *Analytic Philosophy*, *Philosophia*, *Studia Logica*, *Argumenta*, etc.

Funded projects

National coordinator for the project PRIN 2017, *L'immagine scientifica e l'immagine manifesta* (*the scientific image and the manifest image*) (funded by MIUR, the Italian Ministry for Education University and Research).

Local coordinator for the project PRIN 2012, Modelli e inferenze nella scienza: aspetti logici, epistemologici e cognitivi. (*Models and inferences in sciene: logical, epistemological amd cognitive aspects*) (funded by MIUR, the Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research).

National coordinator for the project PRIN 2007, *La Metafisica tra a priori e a posteriori* (*Metaphysics: a priori and a posteriori*) (funded by MIUR, the Italian Ministry for Education University and Research).

Publications

(last update: 30 October, 2025)

Books

2025. *The Identity of Fictional Characters. A Philosophical Survey* (with Michele Paolini Paoletti and Jansan Favazzo), EUM, Macerata, 2025, forthcoming.

2012. *Filosofia del Tempo. Il Dibattito contemporaneo*, Carocci, Roma, 2012 (150 pp.) ISBN: 9788843066353.

https://www.carocci.it/prodotto/filosofia-del-tempo

2010. *Singular Reference. A Descriptivist Perspective*, Springer, Dordrecht, 2010 (x+290 pp.) ISBN: 9789048133116.
http://www.springer.com/philosophy/book/978-90-481-3311-6

2006. *La Référence singulière et l'autoréférence*, eum, Macerata, 2006 (99 pp.) ISBN: 9788860560977. Free download available at
https://eum.unimc.it/it/catalogo-completo/36-la-reference-singuliere-et-lautoreference

2002. *Ulisse, il quadrato rotondo e l'attuale re di Francia*, ETS, Pisa, 2002, 2005[2], 2025[3] (pp. 257) ISBN: 9788846706382.

1999. *Predication, Analysis and Reference*, collana *Heuresis, Linguaggio, Logica, Scienza*, diretta da Alberto Pasquinelli & Giorgio Sandri, CLUEB, Bologna, 1999 (v+103 pp.) ISBN 9788849112629.

1984. *Il dibattito Meinong-Russell e l'influenza di Meinong sulla filosofia analitica contemporanea*, ILA-Palma, Palermo, 1984.

Dissertations

1986. *Natural Language Semantics and Guise Theory*, Ph.D. Thesis, Indiana University, Department of Philosophy, Bloomington, USA, 1986 (Supervisor: prof. Hector-Neri Castañeda). Published on demand by University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, MI, U.S.A., 1986 (pp. ix + 253) (DAI V47(08), SecA, pp3069. University Microfilms Order Number ADG86-28010. Philosophy)
http://dissexpress.umi.com/dxweb#results
(Abstract published in *Computational Linguistics*, 13, nn. 1-2, January-June 1987, pp. 157-158; available at http://www.aclweb.org/anthology-new/J/J87/J87-1020.pdf).

1979. *Esistenza e riferimento*, tesi di laurea, Università di Palermo, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia.

Edited

2017. *Philosophical and Scientific Perspectives on Downward Causation* (with M. Paolini Paoletti), Routledge, New York, 2017. ISBN: 9781138195059.
https://www.routledge.com/Philosophical-and-Scientific-Perspectives-on-Downward-Causation/Paolini-Paoletti-Orilia/p/book/9781138195059

2014. *Space And Time: A Priori and A Posteriori Studies* (with V. Fano and G. Macchia), De Gruyter, Berlin, 2014 (Series:Philosophische Analyse / Philosophical Analysis 54). ISBN: 9783110348927.
http://www.degruyter.com/view/product/248451?tab=comments&rskey=UrDNbO&result=6

2012. *Analytic Philosophy of Fiction*, *Revue internationale de philosophie*, 66, n. 4 (2012) (published by Assoc. R.I.P). ISSN: 0048-8143.

http://www.cairn.info/revue-internationale-de-philosophie-2012-4.htm

2008. *Tropes, Universals and the Philosophy of Mind – Essays at the boundary of Ontology and Philosophical Psychology* (with Simone Gozzano) Ontos Verlag, Frankfurt, 2008 (194 pp.) ISBN: 9783938793831.
http://www.degruyter.com/view/product/209274?rskey=NIiS4r&result=2

1998. *Thought, Language and Ontology – Essays in memory of Hector-Neri Castañeda* (with William J. Rapaport), Kluwer, Dordrecht, 1998 (vi + 386 pp.) ISBN: 9780792351975.
http://www.springer.com/philosophy/book/978-0-7923-5197-9

Articles

2025a. "Is Presentism Morally More Desirable than Eternalism? A Dialogue", Argumenta (2025): 1-14.
ISSN 2465-2334
doi: 10.14275/2465-2334/20250.ori
https://www.argumenta.org/article/is-presentism-morally-more-desirable-than-eternalism-a-dialogue/

2025b. "Presentism, Tenselessness and Dates", *Theoria*, 91(2), e12584, 2025.
https://doi.org/10.1111/theo.12584

2025c. "Fictional Characters as Story-Free Denoting Concepts", *Humanities* 2025, *14*(6), 112.
https://doi.org/10.3390/h14060112

2025d. "Properties" (with Michele Paolini Paoletti) in: E. N. Zalta, ed., *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2025 edition), https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2025/entries/properties/, 2025. (First version: Winter 2020).

2025e. "Niente da capire", Philoblog, 27-7-205.
https://philoblogunimc.blogspot.com/2025/07/niente-da-capire.html

2024a "An experimental study on the ontology of relations" (with M. Paolini Paoletti), *Synthese*, 203 (art.75), pp. 1-21, 2024.
https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-024-04485-3)
https://www.academia.edu/115251252/An_experimental_study_on_the_ontology_of_relations

2024b. "On Non-Denoting", in *Realism and Antirealism in Metaphysics, Science and Language. Festschrift for Mario Alai*, in A. Angelucci, V. Fano, G. Ferretti, G. Galli, P. Graziani, and G. Tarozzi (eds.), Franco Angeli, Milano, 2024, pp. 207-216.

2024c. "Floating, Anchored and Future-Tensed Propositions", *Argumenta* 9, 2, 2024, pp. 269—276.
https://www.argumenta.org/article/floating-anchored-and-future-tensed-propositions-critical-note/

2024d. "passato, presente e futuro", Philopblog, 13-6-2024.
https://philoblogunimc.blogspot.com/2024/06/presente-passato-e-futuro.html

2023a. "Common-sense temporal ontology: an experimental study" (with E. Graziani, E. Capitani, R. Burro), *Synthese* 202, 193 (pp. 1-39) (2023).

https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-023-04323-y

2023b. "Severino as a Temporarist Static Eternalist" (with E. Graziani), *Eternity and Contradiction: Journal of Fundamental Ontology*, 5 (8), 2023, pp. 99-120.
DOI: 10.7346/e&c-08202301
https://www.emanueleseverino.it/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Eternity_Contradiction_DEC_2023.pdf

2023c. "La prospettiva della filosofia analitica e l'ontologia temporale", in C. Genna, ed., *Quale filosofia ad inizio del XXI secolo?*, Franco Angeli, Milano, 2023, pp. 27-46.

2023d. "Logical and Ontological Issues in the Manifest and the Scientific Images: An Introduction [Special Issue]" (with M. A. Alai and E. Graziani), *Argumenta* 8, 2, 2023, pp. 323-325.
10.14275/2465-2334/202316.int
https://www.argumenta.org/article/logical-and-ontological-issues-in-the-manifest-and-the-scientific-images-an-introduction-special-issue/

2023e. "Cohabiting with the Logical Paradoxes: A Negative Assessment and a Proposal" (with R. Bruni), *Argumenta* 8, 2, 2023, pp. 357-371.
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2023f. "In Defense of Irreducible Relations" (with M. Paolini Paoletti), *Argumenta* 8, 2, 2023, pp. 387-405.
10.14275/2465-2334/202316.ori
https://www.argumenta.org/article/in-defense-of-irreducible-relations-special-issue/

2023g. "Epistemological Issues in the Manifest and the Scientific Images: An Introduction [Special Issue]" (with M. A. Alai), *Argumenta* 9, 1 (2023), pp. 9-25.
https://www.argumenta.org/article/epistemological-issues-in-the-manifest-and-the-scientific-images-an-introduction-special-issue/

2023h. "Castañeda's Moral Theory as Point of Departure: Moral Codes, Moral Ideal, Political Communities, Global Community" in G. De Anna and M. Dozzi (eds.), *Political Identity and the Metaphysics of Polities*, Routledge, New York, 2023, pp. 25-40
DOI: 10.4324/9781003255185-3

2022a. "Converse Relations and the Sparse-Abundant Distinction", forthcoming in *Dialectica*, 76(2), 2022, pp. 135-162. Currently available at
https://www.philosophie.ch/orilia-2022

2022b "Non-symmetric Relation Names" (with Fraser MacBride), forthcoming in *Dialectica*, 76(2), 2002, pp. 325-343. Currently available at
https://www.philosophie.ch/macbride-orilia-2022

2022c. "Il tempo: aspetti ontologici ed etico-esistenziali", *Quaderno di storia del penale e della giustizia*, n. 4 (2022), pp. 51-65.
http://dx.doi.org/10.13138/2704-7148/3317

2022d. "A New Bridge Principle for the Normativity of Logic", *Theoria*, 88, 2022, pp. 1274-1292.
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/theo.12439

2022e. "Agostino e il presentismo" in C. Danani, D. Pagliacci and S. Pierosara (eds.) *Nel segno della cura del bene. Scritti in onore di Luigi Alici*, EUM, Macerata, 2022, pp. 169-176.

2022f. "L'infinito prima e dopo l'infinito", in A. Folin (ed.), *Interminati Spazi. Leopardi e L'infinito*, Donzelli, Roma, 2021, pp. 23-32.

2021a. "Temporal Ontology: Tenselessness and Quantification" (with E. Graziani), *Synthese*, 198 (2021), pp. 2821–2847.
https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-019-02248-z

2021b. "Presentism and Moderate Presentism: Motivations and Objections", in Declos, A. and Tiercelin, C. (Eds.), *La métaphysique du temps: perspectives contemporaines*, Collège de France, Paris, 2021, pp. 151-167. DOI: 10.4000/books.cdf.10664.
http://books.openedition.org/cdf/10534

2021c. "Il tempo: una prospettiva filosofica" in *Tempi della società, tempi della vita*, *Il Faro*, *supplemento settimanale* di *Atlante*, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, 10 Gennaio 2021.
https://www.treccani.it/magazine/atlante/cultura/Il_tempo_una_prospettiva_filosofica.html

2021d. "Accoglienza, rispetto e armonia", in Rosa Marisa Borraccini, Grazia Galli, Andrzej Zuczkowski (eds.), *Grazie Anna. Testimonianze per Anna Arfelli Galli* ***(1933-2019)***, EUM, Macerata, 2021.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.13138/bgz_60567369

2020a. "Presentism and the Micro-Structure of Time", *Philosophy Kitchen*, n. 13 (2020), *Il tempo e il continuo*, pp. 99-109.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.13135/2385-1945/5176

2020b. "La normatività della logica: una proposta", in Vinicio Busacchi, Pietro Salis, Simonluca Pinna (eds.), *Prassi, cultura, realtà. Saggi in onore di Pier Luigi Lecis*, Mimesis, Milano-Udine, 2020, pp. 139-153.

2020c. "Castañeda's Moral Theory and Globalization", *Frontiers of Philosophy in China*, 15 (1), 2020, pp. 122-142.

http://journal.hep.com.cn/fpc/EN/10.3868/s030-009-020-0008-6

2020d. "Properties" (with Chris Swoyer), *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Summer 2020 Edition), E. N. Zalta, ed., URL:
https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2020/entries/properties/
(last update of original version published in the Fall 2011 edition:
https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2011/entries/properties/).

2019a. "Van Inwagen's Approach to Relations and the Theory of O-Roles", in M. Szatkowski (ed.), *Quo Vadis Metaphysics? Essays in Honor of Peter Van Inwagen*, De Gruyter, Berlin, 2019, pp. 279-296.

2019b. "Relations, O-Roles and Applied Ontology", *Philosophical Inquiries*, 7, n. 1, 2019, pp. 115-131.
https://www.philinq.it/index.php/ philinq

2019c. "Truth, Predication and a Family of Contingent Paradoxes" (with Gregory Landini), in *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, 48, 2019, pp. 113-136.
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10992-018-9480-3.

2019d. "Comments on 'Logical analysis of the psychophysical (L-R) scheme' " (with M. Paolini Paoletti), in I. Bianchi & R. Davies, *Paolo Bozzi's Experimental Psychology*, Routledge, New York, 2019, pp. 150-154. ISBN 9780815378464.
https://www.academia.edu/38160744/Comments_on_Logical_analysis_of_the_psychophysical_L-R_scheme_

2019e. "Value Judgements and the Moral Ideal", *Philosophy International Journal* (ISSN: 2641-9130), 2019, 2(1): 000113,
DOI: 10.23880/phij-16000113
https://medwinpublishers.com/PhIJ/PhIJ16000113.pdf

2018a. "Time, Modality, and Moral Desirability", *Hermeneutica – Annuario di filosofia e teologia*, *Tempo e Salvezza*, 2018, pp. 137-254. (ISSN: 1590-6833).
http://www.morcelliana.net/hermeneutica/3537-tempo-e-salvezza-9788837232283.html?search_query=hermeneutica&results=12

2018b. "The Moral Desirability of Presentism", in M. Szatkowski (ed.), *God, Time, Infinity*, De Gruyter, Berlin, 2018, pp. 147-162. ISBN 978-3-11-059193-4.
https://www.academia.edu/38160824/The_Moral_Desirability_of_Presentism

2018c. "Russell's Descriptivism about Proper Names and Indexicals: Reconstruction and Defense", in L. D. C. Elkind and G. Landini, editors, *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism. A Centenary Reappraisal*, Palgrave MacMillan, New York, 2018, pp. 245-260. ISBN 978-3-319-94363-3.
https://www.academia.edu/38160700/Russell_s_Descriptivism_about_Proper_Names_and_Indexicals_Reconstruction_and_Defense

2017a. "Downward Causation: An Opinionated Introduction" (with M. Paolini Paoletti), in M. Paolini Paoletti and F. Orilia (eds.), *Philosophical and Scientific Perspectives on Downward Causation*, Routledge, New York, 2017, pp. 1-21. ISBN: 9781138195059.
https://www.academia.edu/29071836/Downward_Causation_An_Opinionated_Introduction

2017b. "Three Grades of Downward Causation" (with M. Paolini Paoletti). in M. Paolini Paoletti and F. Orilia (eds.), *Philosophical and Scientific Perspectives on Downward Causation*, Routledge, New York, pp. 25-41. ISBN: 9781138195059.
https://www.academia.edu/38160668/Three_Grades_of_Downward_Causation

2016a. "On the Existential Side of the Eternalism-Presentism Dispute", *Manuscrito: revista internacional de filosofía*, 39, n. 4, 2016, pp. 225- 254.
(Link to the whole issue:
http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_issuetoc&pid=0100-604520160004&lng=en&nrm=iso).

2016b. "Moderate Presentism", *Philosophical Studies*, 173, 2016, pp. 589–607. DOI 10.1007/s11098-015-0508z

2016c. "Il presentismo moderato: precisazioni ontologiche e proposizioni sul futuro", *Rivista Italiana di Filosofia del Linguaggio*, vol. RIFL-SFL(2015), pp. 121-133, 2016.
http://www.rifl.unical.it/index.php/rifl/article/view/355
https://www.academia.edu/38160630/Moderate_Presentism

2015a. "Armstrong's Supervenience and Ontological Dependence", in F. F. Calemi, ed., *Metaphysics and Scientific Realism*, De Gruyter, Berlin, 2015, pp. 233-251. ISBN: 978-3-11-045461-1.
https://www.academia.edu/38160457/Armstrong_s_Supervenience_and_Ontological_Dependence

2015b. "Do We Really Need A New B-Theory of Time?" (with L. N. Oaklander), *Topoi*, 34, 2015, pp. 157-170 (Springer Netherlands, ISI, SCOPUS, DOI 10.1007/s11245-013-9179-6). ISSN: 0167-7411. Online ISSN: 1572-8749.
https://www.academia.edu/7230370/Do_We_Really_Need_a_New_B-Theory_of_Time

2015c. "Verità e Proposizioni sul passato", in P. L. Lecis, V. Busacchi and P. Salis (eds.), *Realtà, verità, rappresentazione*, Franco Angeli, Milano, 2015, pp. 205-215. ISBN 978-88-917-1411-4.

2014a. "Two Metaphysical Perspectives on the Duration of the Present", in L. N. Oaklander, ed., *Debates in the Metaphysics of Time*, Bloomsbury, London, 2014, pp. 51-70. ISBN: 9781780934907. Link to preprint archived with permission by publisher:
https://upad.unimc.it/retrieve/handle/11393/195288/57777/preprint%20orilia%20two%20metaph%20persp.pdf

2014b. "Metaphysical Realism and Castañeda's Minimal Transcendental Realism", in A. Palma (ed.), *Castañeda and His Guises. Essays on the Work of Hector-Neri Castañeda*, De Gruyter, Berlin, 2014, pp. 97-106.

ISBN 978-1614517702. Also published in G. Bonino. G. Jesson, J. Cumpa, *Defending Realism. Ontological and Epistemological Investigations*, De Gruyter, Berlin, 2014, pp. 235-246.
https://www.academia.edu/38156604/Metaphysical_realism_and_Casta%C3%B1edas_Minimal_Transcendental_Realism

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https://www.academia.edu/6876297/Degrees_of_Validity_and_the_Logical_Paradoxes

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2014i. "Presentismo e Realismo" in C. Danani, B. Giovanola, M. L. Perri, D. Verducci, eds., *L'essere che è, l'essere che accade. Percorsi teoretici in filosofia morale in onore di Francesco Totaro*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2014, pp. 53-60. ISBN: 9788834324479.
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