

Giulia Palazzolo

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Areas of specialisation

Philosophy of mind, Philosophy of language, Philosophy of science.

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of biology, Philosophy of AI, Epistemology.

Employment

- Research Fellow, Philosophy Department, University of Warwick (UKRI; 2023–).
- International scholarship, University of Rome La Sapienza (2022-2023).

Education

- PhD in Philosophy, University of Rome La Sapienza (with scholarship; 2018-2022)
Thesis title: *A unified account of animal and human communication*
Supervisors: Stefano Gensini, Ilaria Tani.
Examiners: Richard Moore, Ronald Planer, Francesco Ferretti, Luca Forgione, Marco Mazzeo.
Ottimo *cum laude* (no corrections; awarded 30/09/2022).
- Postgraduate Research Degree, Sapienza School for Advanced studies (2016-2019).
Thesis title: 'La comunicazione nelle specie non umane'.
Supervisors: Stefano Gensini, Mariano Croce.
Grade: 70/70
- Erasmus Exchange Program Visiting MA student, Freie Universität Berlin (2017-2018).
- Master's Degree in Philosophy, University of Rome La Sapienza (2016-2018).
Grade: 110 *cum laude*/110
- Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy, University of Rome La Sapienza (2013-2016).
Grade: 110 *cum laude*/110

Publications

- (2026). What is animal communication?. *Ergo: An Open Access Journal of Philosophy*.13(3): 71-95.
- (2025). A bounded hierarchy framework for the evolution of syntax. *Biology & Philosophy*. 40(26).
* this paper is the winner of the Philosophy of Animal Minds and Behavior-PAMBA essay prize 2025.
- (2024). Animal communication. *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy 2024*, (ed. E.N. Zalta). With R. Moore.
- (2024). A case for animal reference. Beyond functional reference and meaning attribution. *Synthese*. 203(59).
- (2023). Pragmatic Interpretation and the Production of Ideographic codes. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. 46(e236). With L. Berio, B. Can, K. Helming and R. Moore.
- (2020). Simbolicità e emotività negli animali non umani: un tema attuale con radici lontane. *Rivista Italiana di Filosofia del Linguaggio*. 230-241. With S. Gensini.
- (2020). L'intenzionalità. Breve storia di un concetto filosofico. *La voce e il logos*. Pisa, Edizioni ETS, pp. 451–471. (book chapter).
- (2019). Dall'accedere all'accadere. Un elogio del fare postcritico. *Le parole e le cose*. (book review).
- (2017). Marin Cureau de la Chambre: Cognition and Language in Animals. *Blityri. Studi di storia delle idee sui segni e le lingue*. 6(2), pp. 55–78.

In preparation

- A paper on methods in animal syntax research.
- A paper on non-human animal foundation models based on animal communication data (with Damián Blasi, Franziska Wedgell et al., to be submitted to *PNAS*).
- A paper on the competence/performance distinction in generative linguistics (with Mitchell Green, for *Philosophy of Linguistics*, Cambridge University Press).
- A paper on the nature of norms and norm cognition (with Lorenzo Serini).
- Book review, S. Monsó, ‘Schrödinger’s possum: How animals experience and understand death’. *Humanimalia* (invited).

Grants and Awards

- British Academy/ Leverhulme Small Research Grant SRG 2025-26, “The evolution of syntactic hierarchy” (£9360).
- Nomination for the *Vittorio Giarola Prize 2026* by the Italian Association of Cognitive Science (2026).
- UKRI Plus Funds Grant 2025, “The Groups Network” (£24,266).
- Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute (DISI) Fellowship 2025, Templeton Foundation.
- Winner of the *Philosophy of Animal Minds and Behavior Association Essay Prize* (2025).
- London School of Advanced Studies Innovation Award 2024 (£3000).
- Honorable Mention at the *Philosophy of Animal Minds and Behavior Association Essay Prize* (2023).
- Sapienza International Scholarship 2022-2023 (€11,610).
- Sapienza PhD scholarship 2018-2022 (€56000).
- Sapienza Individual Research Project grant 2021 (€4000).
- Sapienza Joint Research Project grant 2020 (€8000).
- Sapienza Foundation Award for Outstanding MA Results.
- Sapienza School for Advanced Studies PG Scholarship 2016-2018 (€6000).
- Erasmus MA scholarship (2017-2018).
- DAAD Intensive Language course scholarship (2015)

Teaching

Lecturer

- Group Mindedness: Perspectives from Economics, Philosophy and Psychology (3rd year honours course; 2025–).
- Animal Minds (York University Toronto Summer School, Roatán, Honduras; 2023).

Guest lectures

- Personal Identity (Warwick Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning – IATL; 2026).
- Intentionality (Philosophy of Language, La Sapienza University; 2020).
- Theory of Mind (Philosophy of Language, La Sapienza University; 2021).
- Grice on Meaning (Philosophy of Language, La Sapienza University; 2019).
- Speech Act Theory (Philosophy of Language, La Sapienza University; 2019).

Seminar tutor

- Mind and Cognition: Mind, Machines, and Mental Representation (2026–).
- Group Mindedness: Perspectives from Economics, Philosophy and Psychology (2025–).
- Mind and Reality (2025-2026).
- Introduction to Philosophy (2024-2025)
- Philosophy of Language (2019-2021).

Supervisions

- PhD External advisor, La Sapienza University (2024–).
- MPhil Co-supervisor, University of Warwick (2024).
- MA External advisor, La Sapienza University (2023-2024).

Managerial/administrative roles

- Assistant director of The Groups Network (2025–).
Trans-disciplinary network of researchers aimed at advancing research in group behaviour and developing non-academic impact (<https://www.groupsnetwork.org/>).

Selected talks

Invited

- TBD, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina (expected May 2027).
- TBD, University of Rome La Sapienza (expected June 2026).
- TBD, Pragmasophia, University of Messina (expected May 2026).
- TBD, ECOM Spotlight Series, University of Connecticut (expected April 2026)
- “A bounded hierarchy framework for the study of the evolution of human syntax”. Psychology Department, University of Warwick (June 2025).
- “Is a maximally unified account of animal and human communication achievable and desirable?”. ARED Conference, University of Stirling (June 2025).
- “A bounded hierarchy account of the evolution of human syntax”. Universitat de València (May 2025).
- “Toward a bounded hierarchy framework for the study of the evolution of human syntax”. Keynote talk at PAMBA Conference, University of California, Santa Barbara (April 2025).
- “The evolution of human syntax: toward a bounded hierarchy account”. Roma Tre (Dec 2024).
- “What is animal communication?”. UNED Madrid (Oct 2024).
- “The evolution of syntax”. Psychology Department, University of Warwick (Oct 2024).
- “Thinking of animal and human communication together”. *Evolutionary Pragmatics Forum* (Apr 2024).

Peer reviewed

- “The evolution of syntax: toward a minimal model of hierarchical cognition” Italian Association for Cognitive Science (Sep 2024, University of Rome La Sapienza).
- “What is animal communication?” World Congress of Philosophy (Aug 2024, University of Rome La Sapienza).
- “The evolution of reference”. Evolang (May 2024, Madison, WI).
- “A maximally unified account of animal and human communication”. Animal Minds Workshop (April 2024, London School of Economics).
- “A psychological account of animal reference”. The Philosophy of Language Society Congress (Sep 2024, University of Rome La Sapienza).
- “Beyond functional reference and meaning attribution: toward an alternative framework for making sense of the continuities between animal and human communication”. Protolang (Sep 2023, Roma Tre University).

- “A case for animal reference: beyond functional reference and meaning attribution” Inaugural meeting of the Philosophy of Animal Minds and Behaviour Association (PAMBA) (Apr 2023, UNED, Madrid).
- Workshop on Embodied Creativity (2019, University of Bologna)
- The Philosophy of Language Society Congress (2019, University of Cagliari).

Public engagement

- ‘What is it like to be another animal?’ exhibition for children at the Bristol Museum & Art Gallery (November 2024). With funds from the London School of Advanced Studies Innovation Award.

Service

Conference and workshop organisation

- Philosophy of Animal Minds and Behaviour Association Biennial Meeting (expected April 2027).
- The Evolution of Syntactic Hierarchy Workshop (expected April 2027)
- The Groups Network Summer Workshop (expected June 2026).
- WMA Workshop, speaker: Dorit Bar-On (expected June 2026).
- WMA Workshop, speaker: Mitchell Green (2025).
- WMA Workshop, speaker: Paula Rubio Fernandez (2024).
- Philosophy and Evolution Workshop (2024).
- The Origins of Syntax Conference (2023).

Academic service

- Reviewer: British Journal for the Philosophy of Science (*2), Mind and Language (*5), Biology and Philosophy (*3), European Journal for Philosophy of Science (*1), Oxford University Press (*1), Journal of the Royal Society Interface (*1), Cognitive Science (*1), Interaction Studies (*1), Intercultural Pragmatics (*1), Critica (*1), Evolang (*5), ECOM Graduate conference (*3).
- Freelance Editor. Dorit Bar-On’s Oxford University Press book. Funded by the University of Connecticut (2024-2025).
- Editorial board: *Rivista Italiana di Filosofia del Linguaggio* (2019–2021).

Departmental service

- Professional Development sessions for PGs, University of Warwick (2023-2025).

Research networks

- The Communicative Mind (University of Warwick), 2023–.
- Expression, Communication and the Origins of Meaning Research group (University of Connecticut), 2021–.
- Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute (Fellow, University of St Andrews), 2025–.
- The Groups Network, 2023–.
- Warwick Mind and Action-WMA Research Centre (University of Warwick), 2023–.
- Psychology Language and Learning Group (University of Warwick), 2024–.
- Philosophy research group (University of Warwick), 2024–.
- Italian association of Philosophy of Language.
- Italian Association of Cognitive Sciences.
- BBSRC Animal Welfare Research Network UK.

References

Prof. Kristin Andrews (Philosophy, CUNY Graduate Centre).
andrewsk[at]yorku.ca

Prof. Dorit Bar-On (Philosophy, University of Connecticut)
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Prof. Stefano Gensini (Philosophy, University of Rome La Sapienza).
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Prof. Mitchell Green (Philosophy, University of Connecticut)
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Prof. Richard Moore (Philosophy, University of Warwick)
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