PhD Program in Philosophy  
North Western Italian Philosophy Consortium

Scientific and Didactic Relation

Name Roberto Zambiasi  
University Università degli Studi di Torino  
Name of Tutor Professor Matteo Di Giovanni  
Cycle XXXV

Suggested name of the Supervisor (IF different from the tutor)(for 1st year students)
Professor Pasquale Porro

(A) Didactics

1) List of institutional or curricular courses:
- Common Core Courses (Argumentation, Methods in Philosophy, Academic Skills and Residential Seminar)
- Aristotle’s Ontology – A Running Seminar on Metaphysics Book Zeta
- Preliminary Meeting of the History of Historiography Seminar
- FINO Graduate Conference in the History of Philosophy 2019

2) List of working papers written in those occasions:
- For the Residential Seminar: “The Relationship between the Commentaries on Aristotle’s Physics Attributed to Richard Rufus of Cornwall and to Roger Bacon: The Case of Minima Naturalia”
- For the FINO Graduate Conference in the History of Philosophy: “The Sense of Smell in Thomas Aquinas’ Commentaries on Aristotle’s De Anima and De Sensu et sensato”

3) List of other courses you have followed:
- LLC Lectures
- Mark of the Mental Events
(B) Research and diffusion

1) List of seminars and conferences you have participated to:

- “Filosofia e medicina in Italia fra Medioevo e prima età moderna (“Philosophy and Medicine in Italy between the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age”) – Societas Artistarum IV Annual Meeting (Milan, November 7th-8th 2019)
- A 2-hours seminar within Professor Carla Casagrande’s Advanced Course in History of Medieval Philosophy (Pavia, December 11th 2019)
- “Intercultural Roots of Early Scholasticism: Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Latin” – Part of the ERC-funded project “Authority and Innovation in Early Franciscan Thought (c. 1220-1245)” (London, January 23rd-24th 2020)
- “The Ontological Stakes of Physical Endurance” – Prime Matter Workshops I (Berlin, February 28th 2020)
- “Begegnungen mit Augustins in den Phänomenologien von Edmund Husserl – Max Scheler – Martin Heidegger (Encounters with Augustine in the Phenomenologies of Edmund Husserl – Max Scheler – Martin Heidegger)” – A Symposium with Professor Friedrich-Wilhelm von Herrmann (scheduled: Pavia, March 23rd 2020 – Postponed to date to be determined due to the COVID-19 crisis)
- “Virtual Colloquium” – Sponsored by the Institut d’Études Avancées de Paris (14 online seminars held weekly from March 26th 2020 to July 2nd 2020)
- “Essence and Existence in the 13th and 14th Centuries” (scheduled: Leuven, June 5th-6th 2020 – Postponed to September 11th-13th 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis and to be held online)
- “Curiositas” - 42nd Kölner Medievistentagung (Cologne, September 7th-10th 2020; to be held online due to the COVID-19 crisis)

2) List of Talks (in some of the above-mentioned conferences):

- For Professor Carla Casagrande’s Advanced Course in History of Medieval Philosophy: I sensi esterni nel processo conoscitivo umano secondo Tommaso d’Aquino (The External Senses in the Human Cognitive Process according to Thomas Aquinas) [2-hours seminar]
- For “Begegnungen mit Augustins in den Phänomenologien von Edmund Husserl – Max Scheler – Martin Heidegger (Encounters with Augustine in the Phenomenologies of Edmund Husserl – Max Scheler – Martin Heidegger)”: Temporal Attitudes and Self-Knowledge in Augustine and Husserl: A Reappraisal [conference presentation]
- For “Essence and Existence in the 13th and 14th Centuries”: Insensibilia propter Parvitatem: A Debate on the Relationship between the Essence and the Existence of Sensible Qualities in the 13th and 14th Centuries [conference presentation]
3) List of published or submitted papers:

- **Area of Specialization (AOS) – History of Medieval Philosophy:**

  **Published:**


  **Submitted:**

  - Zambiasi, R. *Qui Tollit Operationem, Tollit Essentiam*: Two Medieval Interpretations of the Essence of Sensible Qualities [awaiting the outcome of double-blind peer review].

  **In preparation:**

  - Zambiasi, R. The Relationship between the Commentaries on Aristotle’s *Physics* Attributed to Richard Rufus of Cornwall and to Roger Bacon: The Case of *Minima Naturalia*.

  - Zambiasi, R. The Sense of Smell in Thomas Aquinas’ Commentaries on Aristotle’s *De Anima* and *De Sensu et sensato*.

- **Areas of Competence (AOC) – Political Philosophy and Philosophy of Mind:**

  **Published:**


  **In preparation:**

  - Zambiasi, R. The Role of Attitudes in Theories of Phenomenal Intentionality: Brentano’s Comeback?
(C) Project of the dissertation

1) Update of the planning of your research program:

During the first year of my PhD, while confirming the general structure and idea of my research program (a theoretical and historical analysis of the issue of minima sensibilia, i.e. the limit to the divisibility according to matter of the accidental forms of sensible qualities of material substances, in 13th- and 14th-century commentaries on Aristotle’s De sensu et sensato 6, 445b3-446a19), I worked along three main axes in order to ground and to structure it.

First of all, during the first months of my research (November 2019-January 2020), I catalogued as extensively and precisely as possible the main primary sources relevant to my thesis (together with the appropriate secondary literature). Thus, I prepared a catalogue of Latin De sensu commentaries (mainly from the 13th and 14th centuries, but with an eye also to the 15th and 16th centuries), dividing them in critically edited, edited and preserved into manuscripts (in the latter case, I traced all the digital reproductions of manuscripts available). This work allowed me, among other things, to get in contact with the research group now working on the critical edition of Walter Burley’s De sensu commentary at the University of Łódź, under the supervision of Professor Marek Gensler, and to obtain a preliminary version of the text of the critical edition for private study. I also prepared a catalogue of relevant Latin Physics and De generatione commentaries following the same working principles. More than that, I prepared a third catalogue including all the relevant sources (translations and commentaries on the De sensu, Physics and De generatione) for all the other main traditions of the Late Ancient and Medieval intellectual space, i.e. the Greek, Arabic and Hebrew ones. Nevertheless, differently from what initially envisaged in my research project, I now plan to devote the vast majority of the thesis to an in-depth study of the already extremely rich and varied Latin debate on minima sensibilia (and to focus almost exclusively on the 13th and the 14th centuries), albeit with an eye to the other traditions that influenced and informed Latin understandings of the issue.

Secondly, between February and May 2020, I set the stage for my research by looking at the wider context in which the debate on minima sensibilia was located by 13th- and 14th-century authors, i.e. the context of the so-called problem of minima naturalia, i.e. the limit to the divisibility according to matter of substantial forms in material substances, as discussed in Medieval commentaries on the Physics and on the De generatione et corruptione especially, an issue to which I chose to devote the first chapter of my thesis. Indeed, given that the forms of sensible qualities are accidental ones, and as such necessarily inhere in a material substance endowed with its own substantial form, it is not possible (neither theoretically nor historically), for any author studied, to consider the issue of the divisibility according to matter of the forms of sensible qualities without having previously determined his relevant position on the issue of the divisibility according to matter of substantial forms themselves. While on the latter issue (unlike on the former) some authoritative studies by 20th-century scholars exist, the opportunity to improve them thanks to the availability of new critical editions of Physics and De generatione commentaries makes the pursuit...
certainly worthwhile. Indeed, among other findings, I was able to better assess the importance of early English *Physics* commentaries, such as the one attributed to Richard Rufus of Cornwall, in framing the Latin debate on *minima naturalia*, an issue at the center of the paper that I presented during the Residential Seminar that concluded the Common Core teaching for the first year of the FINO PhD program. Moreover, an updated analysis of the debate concerning *minima naturalia* in the 13th and 14th centuries has allowed me to demonstrate the hitherto unnoticed relevance of the passage concerning *minima sensibilia*, i.e. *De sensu et sensato* 6 445b3-446a19, in the debate concerning *minima naturalia*.

Thirdly and finally, during the last few months (June-August 2020), I started to explore the presence of the issues of *minima naturalia* and *minima sensibilia* outside the commentaries on Aristotle’s treatises. This first exploration allowed me to recognize the pervasive presence of these two issues in 13th- and 14th-century theological works, especially *Sentences* commentaries and *Quodlibeta*. This finding, to which I plan to devote an appendix of my thesis, is extremely interesting not only for my research, but even for the light that it sheds on the widespread – albeit scattered - presence of elements of natural philosophy in Scholastic theological works, an aspect which has not yet been adequately scrutinized, and to which I hope to devote further and more systematic explorations after the completion of my PhD.

For what concerns my planning for the two remaining years of the program, I am now working on the draft of the first chapter of the thesis, dedicated, as mentioned above, to *minima naturalia*. The chapter should be ready by October. Afterwards, I plan to write the two central chapters of the thesis, devoted to the divisibility of sensible qualities (one, the second, concerning the divisibility *per accidens*, according to matter, and the other, the third, the divisibility *per se*, into species). The two chapters should be ready by June 2021 at the latest. Afterwards, I will dedicate the remaining months of the PhD to the writing of a fourth chapter, resuming the main theoretical and historical outcomes of the analysis conducted in the thesis, and later I will focus on drafting its introduction and its conclusion. As a result, the main body of the work should be ready by March 2022 at the latest, thus leaving some months for the writing of the above-mentioned appendix dedicated to theological writings, which, hopefully, will be followed by a second one devoted to the transcription of manuscript passages dealing with the topic of *minima sensibilia* and with related issues.

I also take the opportunity to point out that, throughout the next year (November 2020 - October 2021), I will be working at the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris under the supervision of Professor Christophe Grellard in the framework of an international agreement of joint-supervision (*cotutelle*). Moreover, the work that I am conducting on *De sensu* commentaries will also find expression in two international conferences that I am helping to organize together with Professor Carla Casagrande and Professor Gabriella Zuccolin from the Università degli Studi di Pavia and Professor Andrea Aldo Robiglio and Doctor Mattia Mantovani from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. The two conferences are currently scheduled for June and September 2021 respectively.